

HASSOCKS PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday 10 December 2013 at 7.30 pm in the Parish Centre, Adastra Park, Hassocks.

Present:	David Cumberland (Chairman)	Sue Hatton
	Jane Baker	Bill Hatton
	Chris Bere	Darryl Sinclair
	Leslie Campbell	Frank Rylance
	Steven Ecroyd	Penny Wadsworth
	Judith Foot	Ian Weir.

Clerk: Linda Baker

Also present were 5 members of the public.

13/128 Apologies for Absence. Apologies for absence were received from Peter Gibbons and Paul King. Apologies were also received from County Councillor Andy Petch, who was in Australia, and District Councillor Gordon Marples, who was attending a MSDC function. Absent without apology, Alan Berry.

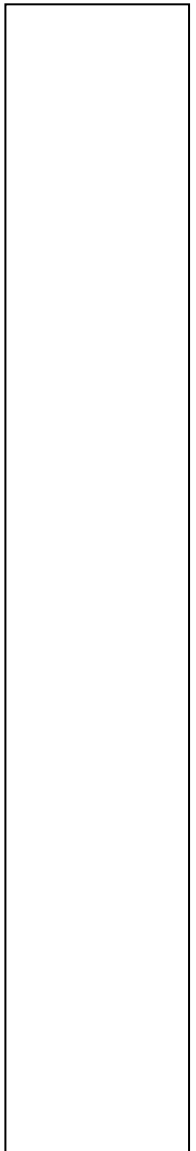
13/129 Declarations of Interest. None.

Public Participation. The Chairman adjourned the meeting for public participation. A note of the comments from the public is attached at attachment 1.

13/130 Minutes of the Meeting held on 12 November 2013. The minutes were taken as read, agreed by the meeting, and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

13/131 Reports.

- a) **Police Report.** The police were not represented, and there was no police report. Jane Baker and Frank Rylance had attended a Neighbourhood Watch meeting recently, and understood that PC Adam Duly was on sick leave for some weeks. Attempts were being made to appoint a Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator for Hassocks, and the Chair of Neighbourhood Watch in Sussex wanted to discuss the possibility of putting Neighbourhood Watch information on the HPC website. This would need to be discussed by the Policy, Resources and Communications Committee.
- b) **District Councillor's Report.** Sue Hatton reported that the Inspector had concluded that MSDC had not fulfilled its Duty to Cooperate on the District Plan, and that therefore MSDC would have to undertake further work with neighbouring councils. This would delay the completion of the District Plan.



- c) **County Councillor's Report.** The report, which had been circulated, was noted. It was noted that WSCC had highways objections to the proposed development in London Road, Hassocks.
- d) **Planning Committee Meetings, 11 November and 2 December 2013.** The minutes were noted.
- e) **Environment Committee Meeting, 18 November 2013.** The minutes were noted. The outcome of the community engagement exercise on the Beacon Centre, and the formation of a voluntary management committee to take the project forward in consultation with WSCC and Aspreys, was noted.
- f) **Policy, Resources and Communications Committee Meeting 19 November 2013.** The minutes were noted. RESOLVED that the council should purchase a flat bed scanner and OCR software package for the parish office at a cost of approximately £200.
- g) **Rail Matters.** There was nothing to report.
- h) **Meetings of Outside Bodies where the Council is Represented.** Sue Hatton had attended a meeting of the CVS in Burgess Hill. A number of youth services were being withdrawn by WSCC, and there was concern regarding how volunteers could fill the gap.

13/132 Chairman's Remarks.

- a) **Light Up Hassocks.** The Chairman had emailed the organisers of LUH to congratulate them on a very successful event. As they were resigning, there was concern regarding who would organise the event for 2014.
- b) **Hassocks Amenity Association.** The Chairman was very concerned about recent negative comments by members of the HAA regarding the contribution made by parish councillors, and the rate of progress on the Neighbourhood Plan. Parish Councillors worked extremely hard on behalf of the parish, on a voluntary basis, and made a significant contribution to the village. The Parish Council was also making good progress in developing a Neighbourhood Plan, in a measured and thorough way.
- c) **Youth Work.** The Chairman suggested it would be useful for the council to contact the newly appointed Church of England youth worker who was covering the parishes of Hassocks and Ditchling. It was agreed that Father Christopher Powell would be approached to suggest that the youth worker attend a council meeting to outline his role.

13/133 Clerk's Report. There were no issues to raise.

13/134 Financial Report. The Financial Report and list of cheques presented for November 2013 were approved and the Chairman was authorised to sign them.

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13/135 Renovation of the Memorial Garden in Adastra Park.

A proposal to renovate the Memorial Garden in Adastra Park, to mark the anniversary of World War 1 in 2014 was considered. The concept was supported and it was RESOLVED that the Grounds Committee would be asked to look at the proposals and make recommendations to council.

13/136 Precept 2014/15. A draft was considered, which had been compiled incorporating the budgets agreed by the council sub committees. After discussion it was RESOLVED that the precept for 2014/15 would be set at £157,634, and MSDC would be informed accordingly. It was RESOLVED that £10,000 from free reserves would be put into ear marked reserves for street tree planting for three years from 2014.

It was expected that with cuts to county and district services, more demands would be placed on town and parish councils in future, not only for one off capital contributions, but in terms of ongoing revenue support for services, but this was a wide issue which would need careful consideration, and was outside the scope of budget setting for 2014/15.

13/137 Correspondence.

- a) **Hassocks Traders' Association.** A letter from the retiring president of the Hassocks Traders Association was considered. It was agreed that the Environment Committee would consider the suggestion that traders should be invited to a meeting of the parish council. Councillors with any ideas for encouraging traders to become involved in an association were invited to attend the Environment Committee.

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There being no other business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.47 pm.

Chairman.....

Date.....

HASSOCKS PARISH COUNCIL, 10 December 2013

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.

Paul Bowley raised the question of the Light Up Hassocks event on 29 November 2013, and asked why the west end of Keymer Road had not been scheduled to be closed, so traders at that end of the village could open for the evening and take part in LUH, when the police had closed the road on the night on health and safety grounds.

David Cumberland said that he believed that the road had been left open following complaints in 2013 that the longer closure had inconvenienced too many people, but that MSDC was responsible for the road closure, in consultation with the police, and that therefore the police would be speaking to MSDC regarding lessons from the event. Representatives of LUH would be attending the next parish council Environment Committee meeting to discuss the event, and what could be done to secure the event for 2014.

Shaun Phillips complained about the amount of litter left after the event, and thought that the organisers should be responsible for clearing up after LUH, and ensuring that no rubbish was left behind.

Shaun Philips asked if the public would be involved in any plans for refurbishing the Memorial Garden in Adastral Park, and asked that the public have a say in what was done. The matter was discussed under item 8 on the agenda.