

HASSOCKS PARISH COUNCIL

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

Present:	Ian Weir (Chairman)	Peter Gibbons
	Jane Baker	Sue Hatton
	Chris Bere	Bill Hatton
	Leslie Campbell	Paul King
	Steven Ecroyd	Frank Rylance.
	Judith Foot	

Also present were District Councillor Gordon Marples, PC John Miles, and one member of the public.

Clerk: Linda Baker

13/92 Apologies for Absence. Apologies for absence were received from David Cumberland, Darryl Sinclair and Alan Berry, who were all away. Absent without apology, Penny Wadsworth. County Councillor Andy Petch also apologised for absence as he was attending a CLC meeting. PC John Miles apologised for being called away on an emergency before discussion of item 6 (a), the Police Report. In the absence of the Chairman, the Vice Chairman chaired the meeting.

13/93 Declarations of Interest. Judith Foot declared an interest in item 17, Jane Baker, Chris Bere, Leslie Campbell, Sue Hatton, Bill Hatton and Peter Gibbons declared an interest in item 10 as members of the HAA, and Peter Gibbons, Sue Hatton and Bill Hatton declared an interest in item 10 as supporters of 4 Sight.

James Stobart, Road Safety/ASD Co-ordinator, Sussex Police, gave a presentation on Operation Crackdown and the redesigned website where members of the public could report anti-social driving, or abandoned vehicles more easily. Details can be found on www.operationcrackdown.org.

Rachael Whitfield, RSPB Community Engagement Officer, gave a presentation on Futurescapes, the RSPB initiative to promote landscape-scale conservation through collective action and partnership. This was particularly important in the South Downs National Park because of its range of habitats and diverse species. Details can be found on www.rspb.org.uk/futurescapes
The meeting was adjourned for public participation. There were no questions from the public.

13/94 Minutes of the Meeting held on 9 July 2013. The minutes were taken as read, agreed by the meeting, and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

13/95 Reports.

- a) **Police Report.** The crime statistics for Hassocks for July and August 2013 had been circulated and it was noted that there had been a sharp rise in thefts and burglaries. RESOLVED that a letter should be sent to Chief Inspector John Hull, copied to the Police Crime Commissioner and Nick Herbert MP, expressing concerns about the rise in crime in the village, and the lack of visible policing. Jane Baker would produce a poster, and submit an article to Talk About, warning local residents to be on their guard against theft and burglary.
- b) **District Councillor's Report.** Gordon Marples reported on:
- **Fracking Protests at Balcombe.** MSDC were working with the police to ensure that normal council services were maintained.
 - **Possible Development in London Road, Hassocks.** A pre-application meeting had been held with planning officers at MSDC.
 - **Community Service Awards.** Four local residents would be attending from Hassocks.
 - **District Plan.** This was going through the inspection process. The Inspector had arranged a meeting to discuss the Duty To Co-operate after some representations from neighbouring authorities, but MSDC believed it had carried out a comprehensive consultation process.
- c) **County Councillor's Report.** The report had been circulated and was noted.
- d) **Planning Committee Meetings 8 and 29 July and 19 August 2013.** The minutes were noted.
- e) **Grounds Committee Meeting 24 July 2013.** The minutes were noted. RESOLVED to accept the quotation dated 12 July 2013 from Wickstead Leisure Limited for a Netscape Tarantula Spider for the Children's Play area, and a Rockscape Henge, to be sited near the skatepark in Adastra Park, in the sum of £34,645, plus VAT, provided that the grant application to MSDC for £28,145 is successful, the remainder of the cost to be met from the play equipment budget and reserves.
- f) **Environment Committee Meeting 3 September 2013.** The minutes were noted. RESOLVED that the quotation from Littlethorpe for a new bus shelter to replace the damaged shelter in Hurst Road, west of Stonepound Crossroads, in the sum of £6,226, plus VAT, would be accepted, and that a replacement refuse bin would be installed to replace the existing bin at a cost of approximately £370.
- g) **Rail Matters.** It was reported that Peter Gibbons had taken over responsibility for the Rail Group on a temporary basis while Catherine Cassidy had other commitments. The Access For All work was proceeding on schedule, and it was understood that additional rolling

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stock would be provided to alleviate the overcrowding on the Thameslink line.

h) **Meetings of Outside Bodies.**

- **Hurst & Hassocks Community Bus.** Peter Gibbons reported that the bus was not operating as it had not been possible to obtain breakdown cover. He was pursuing the matter with the insurers. There was also a question over long term finance for the bus.

13/96 Chairman's Remarks.

- a) **Michael Pryke.** The Chairman reported that Michael Pryke, a long serving former member of the Parish Council, had died recently. The council observed a minutes silence in his memory.
- b) **Beacon Centre.** The Chairman reported that the community engagement exercise on the future of the Beacon Centre had been delayed, and would now be held on 12 October 2013. It had been suggested that the lease might be transferred to a local group, and WSCC had been asked to consider a suitable package of support which could make a transfer viable.

13/97 Clerk's Report. There were no matters to report.

13/98 Financial Report. The Financial Report and list of cheques presented for July and August 2013 were approved and the Chairman was authorised to sign them.

13/99 Grants to Community Organisations. Nine requests for grant funding were considered. RESOLVED that:

A grant of £500 would be given to the Adastra Hall for refurbishments to the hall.

A grant of £250 would be given to the Hassocks Netball Club, conditional on the grant being used to fund a level 1 coach to obtain a level 2 qualification to enable the Club to start a junior section.

A grant of £500 would be given to the Hassocks Amenity Association towards the cost of repairs and planting for the raised beds in Keymer Road.

13/100 Environment Committee. RESOLVED that Darryl Sinclair was appointed as a member of the Environment Committee.

13/101 Community Governance Order for Hassocks. It was noted that MSDC had agreed to merge the three council wards of Keymer North, Keymer South and Stonepound into one ward known as Hassocks Ward, with 14 members. Clayton would remain as Clayton Ward with one member.

13/102. 2012/13 Accounts, External Audit and Annual Return. It was NOTED that the external auditor, Littlejohn, had signed off the Annual Return, and that there were no matters the auditor wished to bring to the attention of the council. It was NOTED that the external audit fee for the year was £720. The Clerk was thanked for the work carried out in preparing the annual accounts and supporting information required for the Annual Return.

13/103 Correspondence. None.

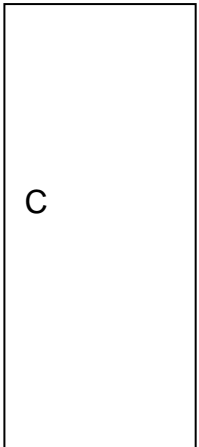
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13/104 Village Facilities. RESOLVED that the matters to be discussed regarding the possible provision of additional village facilities in conjunction with new development should be discussed at an Extra-Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council, which would be open to the public. The Clerk would arrange a suitable date when the Chairman of the Parish Council was available.

13/105 RESOLVED that, in view of the nature of the business about to be transacted under item 16 on the agenda, it is in the public interest that the item be treated as confidential and the public is invited to withdraw.

The member of the public present withdrew from the meeting.

13/106 Staff Matters.



There being no other business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 10.10 pm.

Chairman.....

Date.....