

HASSOCKS PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Grounds Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 18 September 2013 at 7.30 pm in the Parish Centre, Adastra Park, Hassocks.

Present: Chris Bere (Chairman) Paul King
Bill Hatton Steven Ecroyd
Sue Hatton Murray Thomson
David Cumberland

Also present were three members of the public.

Clerk: Linda Baker

1. **Apologies for Absence.** An apology for absence was received from Alan Berry.
2. **Declarations of Interest.** Chris Bere declared an interest in item 4 (b) as a sponsor of the Adastra Bowling Club, and Murray Thomson declared an interest in item 6 (a) as an allotment tenant.
3. **Minutes of the Meeting held on 24 July 2013.** The minutes were taken as read, agreed by the meeting, and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.
4. **Adastra Park.**
 - a) **Kompan Play Equipment Safety Surfacing.** The safety surfacing under the three pieces of Kompan play equipment installed in 2011 was breaking up. Kompan had been informed, but the supplier had indicated that the wetpour carries a one year guarantee, and that this was not a defect. However, Kompan had carried out a site visit, and agreed that it was not acceptable, and were escalating the matter with the supplier. It was hoped to have a resolution very shortly.
 - b) **Bowling Green.** RESOLVED to approve a request for fertiliser totalling £78.
 - c) **Tennis Court Netting.** A quotation for reinforcing the netting was still awaited.
 - d) **Complaint from a local resident regarding cricket balls.** A complaint had been received from a resident in Parkside regarding cricket balls being hit into their garden, and a ball damaging French doors. The resident was pursuing the question of damages with the KHCC. Chris Bere had spoken to the resident. While the KHCC had public liability insurance, the council's insurers would be asked to clarify the council's position when the pitch was hired

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out, and whether the council should take any measures to reduce any possible liability arising from sports club's use of the park.

- e) **Football and Cricket Seasons.** The junior football club had used the Adastra park for friendly games during August 2013, while the summer sports were still taking place in the park. It was AGREED that for the future, the football pitches would not be marked out, and the goal posts erected until the second week in September, when the senior football season started. The junior club would be informed of the decision.

It was AGREED that Steve Ecroyd would be responsible for checking the football pitches in Adastra Park before weekend use, in the event of bad weather, and would notify the football clubs if the pitches were not playable. If Steve was not available, Chris Bere, or David Cumberland would carry out the inspections.

- f) **Croquet Club Request for a Storage Shed.** A request from the Croquet Club for a storage shed in the north east corner of the south field was considered. The request was not supported because it was thought that a shed would be obtrusive, could be subject to vandalism, and the Community Pavilion already provided adequate storage space for sports activities in the park.
- g) **Bollards.** It was noted that retractable bollards had been installed in front of the north and south gates of the Adastra Park, on the advice of the police, as a protection against traveller incursion into the Adastra Park. The cost of £1,735, plus VAT, had been authorised by the Chairman as an emergency measure, and would be met from the Grounds Contingency budget.

5. Burial Ground.

- a) **Maintenance Contract for the Memorial Garden.** It was agreed that the standard of maintenance of the garden had not been satisfactory, and it was therefore RESOLVED not to renew the contract with Kingston Landscapes at the end of September 2013. RESOLVED that the quotations dated 9 September 2013 from Rooted Garden Services should be accepted for bringing the garden up to standard, and for year round maintenance.
- b) **Burial Fees 2013/14.** A draft paper was considered. RESOLVED to increase the burial fees in line with RPI, with immediate effect.

6. Allotments.

- a) **Allotment Rents 2013/14.** RESOLVED to increase the annual allotment rents to £28.50 for a half plot, and £14.25 for a quarter plot with effect from 1 October 2013. The council had not yet received an account for water used during the year, and might review the charges when the water cost was known.
- b) **Report from the Haha.** Murray Thomson reported that following the August plot inspections, two warning letters had been sent,

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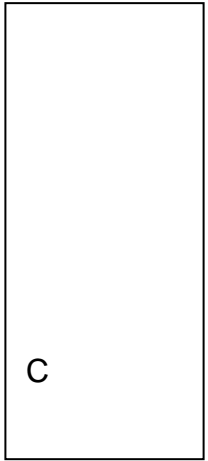
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and one tenancy had been terminated. A clear up day was being held in November 2013, and some plastic plating was being put down to improve vehicular access in wet weather. Chris Bere thanked Murray and the HAA on behalf of the council for the work being done to improve the allotments.

7. Draft Budget 2014/15. The draft budget was approved, for incorporation into the draft precept for 2014/15, with the addition of a sum to refurbish the war memorial in the Memorial Garden in Adastra Park, as 2014 would be the centenary of the outbreak of the First World War.

8. Date of Next Meeting. 27 November 2013 at 7.30 pm.



There being no other business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.25 pm.

Chairman.....

Date.....