

HASSOCKS PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Environment Committee Meeting held on 2 April 2013 at 7.30 pm in the Parish Centre, Adastra Park, Hassocks.

Present: Leslie Campbell (Chairman) Peter Gibbons
Frank Rylance Phil Mead
David Cumberland Ian Weir
Bill Hatton

Clerk: Linda Baker

- 1. Apologies for Absence.** An apology for absence was received from Sue Hatton. Absent without apology, Alan Berry
- 2. Chairman.** Leslie Campbell was appointed as Chairman.
- 3. Declarations of Interest.** None.
- 4. Minutes of the Meeting held on 5 February 2013.** The minutes were taken as read, agreed by the meeting, and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.
- 5. Tree Planting.** Phil Mead reported that Marcus Brook, the WSCC Arboriculturalist, had now left, and WSCC were in the process of appointing a replacement. Gulu Sibanda would let the parish know who the new arboriculturalist was and the parish would then make contact. Trees For Hassocks would be making a street collection on 27 April 2013 to raise funds for tree planting. Street trees would be planted in some of the Avenues in Hassocks this year. The HAA had indicated that Windmills Junior School wanted to do some planting in the tubs outside Budgens. The Parish Council had planted cherry trees in the planters and did not want any other planting which could compromise the trees. A response would be sent supporting the initiative for planting in the village, but confirming that the council did not want any additional planting in the tubs. Phil Mead referred to all the tree diseases attacking a range of species and the need to protect mature trees as far as possible.
- 6. Report from the Parking Working Group.** Ian Weir reported that the residents' survey had been circulated and nearly 700 responses had been received, which was a very good response rate. The responses were being analysed, and he thanked Tracy Bates for her assistance with inputting the data. Preliminary results were circulated, but these would be further refined, and the comments would be summarised, with the results presented to the Parking Working Group at a meeting on 18 April 2013.

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It was agreed that the results and the working group's recommendations would be presented to a special meeting of the Environment Committee on 20 May 2013, with a report going to the 11 June 2013 Parish Council meeting.

The committee gave a vote of thanks to Ian Weir for all the work he had done in organising the parking surveys, and analysing the responses.

- 7. Grand Avenue Planters.** The response from WSCC was considered and in view of the question over ownership of the land on the western side of Grand Avenue, it was agreed to progress a planter on the eastern side with WSCC.

- 8. Litter Bin Outside Budgens.** RESOLVED to purchase and install a Glasdon Guppy litter bin in Orion Parade, outside Budgens, at a cost of approximately £350, half the cost to be met by Downlands Community School.

- 9. Hanging Baskets.** Garden Pride in Ditchling were not sponsoring the hanging baskets in the village, having kindly funded them since 2007. It had proved difficult to find a local nursery willing to plant the baskets, but Annies Baskets in Albourne were willing to quote. It was agreed that a quotation would be obtained, and emailed to committee members for consideration, as the baskets would have to be planted very soon. It was also agreed that the HAA would be invited to contribute to the cost as the Association were keen to encourage planting in the village.

- 10. Finger Post at the Junction of Ockley Lane and Keymer Road.**

Two quotations for replacing the finger post were considered, and it was RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND that the quotation from Heritage Signs, in the sum of £979, plus VAT, should be accepted, the cost to be met from the unspent finger post budget from 2012/13, and the remainder from reserves. It was suggested the north facing arm should read Oldland Mill as well as Burgess Hill.

- 11. Light Up Hassocks.** The response from Light Up Hassocks dated 4 March 2013 was noted. It was agreed that representatives of Light Up Hassocks would be invited to attend the 25 June or 3 September 2013 Environment Committee meetings to discuss the 2013 event.

- 12. Footpaths.** Leslie Campbell reported that he had completed the February 2013 survey of footpaths in the parish, and sent his findings to WSCC, identifying some items which needed attention. Leslie Campbell was meeting residents in South Bank on 10 April 2013, at their request, to discuss the path from the Weald to Misty Bridge, where access had been closed for safety reasons by contractors working at the Weald. Residents hoped that some way could be found to put access on a permanent footing. Ian Weir would also attend the meeting.

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Ian Weir reported that discussions were taking place with WSCC, MSDC and SDNP to try to create a new footpath parallel to the railway line.

13. Listing the Beacon Centre as a Community Asset. A Community Right to Bid Application Form had been obtained from MSDC. Ian Weir would work with Judith Foot to draft a response to section 3, the supporting information for nomination, and report back to the next meeting.

14. Date of Next Meeting. The next full meeting would be on 25 June 2013 at 7.30 pm. A meeting to discuss the Residents Parking Survey would be held on 20 May 2013 at 7.30 pm.

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There being no other business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.40 pm.

Chairman.....

Date.....