

HASSOCKS PARISH COUNCIL

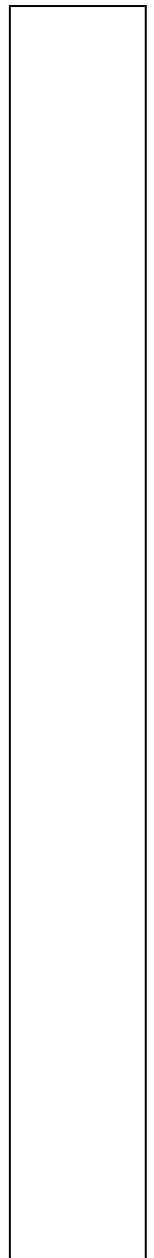
Minutes of the Environment Committee Meeting held on 25 June 2013 at 7.30 pm in the Parish Centre, Adastra Park, Hassocks.

Present: Ian Weir (Chairman) Peter Gibbons
Leslie Campbell Phil Mead
Sue Hatton

Assistant: Tracy Bates

In attendance: Michelle Binks and Kate Bailey from Light Up Hassocks for
Item 4

1. **Apologies for Absence.** An apology for absence was received from Alan Berry
2. **Declarations of Interest.** None.
3. **Minutes of the Meeting held on 20 May 2013.** The minutes were taken as read, agreed by the meeting, and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.
4. **Light Up Hassocks: to consider arrangements for 2013.** Michelle Binks and Kate Bailey reported that the group felt last year's event had been very successful and thanked HPC for their support on the road closures. The LUH group acknowledged the comments from HPC and these have been considered in the arrangements for this year.
 - **Policing.** Michelle Binks reported that communication had been poor within the force due to a restructure which had caused some of the difficulties experienced last year. However this year the group have been assured of full support and back-up from the Police Force.
 - **Public Information.** Concerns over last year's signs have been addressed resulting in completely new signs. General feeling was that the signs used by Hurstpierpoint were more effective and this has been taken on board. As far as the budget will allow, the new signs will have more information and will be on a white background, they may have the LUH logo to give more authority. The Police will be asked to approve the signs with regard to road safety. There will be a sign at each of the four junctions at Stonepound Crossroads, the sign on Keymer Road by the Park may be placed nearer to Keymer. Other signs will be placed at the same points as last year. Banners will go up again outside the Infant School.
 - **Road Closures.** Following comments from HPC the full road closure time is to be reduced. Keymer Road will be closed



between 4pm and 8pm from Chancellors Park to Orion Parade (Budgen's Car Park entrance) and round into Dale Avenue stopping at the Corner Cafe. Additionally the stretch of Keymer Road from Downs View Road up to Woodland Road will also be closed from around 4.15pm - 5.15pm to allow for the parade to take place safely. Michelle reported that the traders in this stretch of road are very supportive of LUH and are unhappy as they feel this limited closure alienates them from the event. For the full closure the only road with access blocked would be Wilmington Close, Michelle agreed that it would be possible to consider a way to allow access. Peter Gibbons suggested a sign at the Mackie Avenue roundabout to allow traffic coming into the village via Grand Ave to turn around.

- **Staging.** The stage this year will be on the National Tyres forecourt. There will be a loud speaker system organised by Mid Downs Radio which means the event will be heard around the village. This will end at 7.30pm.
- **Bus Services.** Will be notified. Michelle reported that they were very co-operative last year.
- **Lamp posts.** LUH made a request for the lamp post outside Profiles to be replaced when the lighting is being replaced in Hassocks. She reported that Profiles supported the event and it was a shame that Christmas lighting could not be attached to the lamp outside their premises due to a damaged post.
- **Burgess Hill Youth Band.** To give the Parade more impact Burgess Hill Youth Band has been asked to take part. This has cost an extra £250, and LUH asked whether HPC would consider covering the cost the band. The committee agreed in support of this and asked Michelle to submit a request to be considered at the full Council Meeting on 9 July 2013. This request is to be in addition to the £300 donation already agreed.

The committee RESOLVED TO SUPPORT the arrangements for LUH. Concern was raised over the effects of the limited road closure on the traders at the west end of Keymer Road, and it was suggested that the lay-bys could be closed with barriers which would extend the pedestrian area. HPC would support this. LUH to explore this option. Michelle thanked the Parish Council for their support.

5. **Tree Planting.** Phil Mead reported that Judith Foot, Steve Richards (Hassocks Tree Group) and himself had a successful meeting with the new WSCC Arboriculturalist, Jim Mellor. Agreed streets for planting are Mackie Avenue, Clayton Avenue and Farm Close and letters have

gone out to residents in these roads. The deadline for the public to register their interest is the end of July. It is anticipated that funds will allow for 26 trees to be planted. There has been an approximate loss of 3% of planted trees so far which is much better than predicted. Ian thanked Phil for his efforts and asked him to pass on the committee's thanks to all members of the Tree Group.

- 6. Parking Working Group.** Ian Weir reported that the Parking Report had been agreed by Full Council with the exception of one recommendation which has been amended accordingly. The current action is for letters to be written to three groups – WSCC, MSDC and Network Rail focussing on the recommendations relevant to each group and requesting meetings to discuss these. This is likely to take some time but will be pursued. Ian also reported that there will be a short article in the Mid Sussex Times this week and a longer article next week about the Parking Survey and Report. Sue Hatton drew attention to the draft action plan by MSDC regarding reducing air pollution at Stonepound Crossroads. The committee noted that any proposals to reduce traffic might have an impact on parking/station usage.

- 7. Grand Avenue Planters.** Ian Weir distributed photographs showing current planting in Hassocks and areas of need. It was RESOLVED that no planting should be considered at the Grand Avenue site until a decision has made regarding redesigning the junction.

Following a discussion with Amanda Kenhard of HAA, Ian reported that HAA are proposing the Guides will plant up the raised bed outside Corals on Keymer Road. HAA would also like to plant on the end of the raised bed outside of the Pet Shop and Steve Edginton has agreed to this. The Committee support the HAA in their project to plant these beds. Amanda Kenhard had asked about the cobbled area outside of the Post Office. The Environment Committee have previously considered filling this with soil and planting with vinca, and permission has been sought from Royal Mail to do so. To date, no response has been received. Various other options for planting in that area were discussed; however permission from Royal Mail is needed for any work. Office to follow up. Ian Weir to contact Amanda Kenhard to explain the current situation.

- 8. Footpaths.** Leslie Campbell reported that the footpath which runs from the Weald Tennis Club along to Misty Bridge is now open although it is necessary to walk through the tennis courts at present. Some light clearance is needed on this path, the Monday Group will undertake this. The footpath from Misty Bridge, through the Clayton Wood Burial Ground is very overgrown and again the Monday Group will clear it.

TB
IW

Misty Bridge has shrubs and trees growing out of it and needs urgent attention by Network Rail. Network Rail to be informed of this – Bridge Number VTB3167

Leslie reported that Network Rail are starting to look at footpaths on railway lines with a view to either close or divert them due to safety concerns. This could affect the footpath 5K. This is part of an important footpath link between Hurstpierpoint and Ditchling and Leslie asked for his concern about the risk of closure to be noted.

Ian Weir noted that many of the footpaths and bridleways in this area are geared to the South Downs. Very few run northwards. He proposed that a list of footpaths should be compiled and assessed in terms of condition, leading to the formation of a plan for upgrading. It was RESOLVED that a programme of work for Rights of Way improvements should be drawn up.

9. Listing the Beacon Centre as a Community Asset. Nothing to report. To remain an agenda item.

10. Finger Posts: to note the signage on the existing finger posts and to consider any changes when posts are refurbished/replaced.

Ian thanked the committee for helping to reach a decision on improving the wording on the new fingerpost. It was RESOLVED that all new fingerposts would have mileage shown for each destination and that wording for individual signs would be considered if/when replacement was necessary. It was RESOLVED that replacement should be considered as an option instead of ongoing repair in future.

Orchard Lane Footpath Sign. The damaged sign at the Grand Avenue end of Orchard Lane has been put into the ground next to the broken post. This was reported to WSCC by the office in May. Leslie Campbell to see if the Monday Group can deal with this.

11. To note the letter from HAA dated 21 May 2013. Noted

12. Date of Next Meeting. 7.30pm on 3 September 2013

TB

LC

There being no other business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.30pm

Chairman.....

Date.....