

HASSOCKS PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Grounds Committee Meeting held on 27 March 2013 at 7.30 pm in the Parish Centre, Adastra Park, Hassocks.

Present: Chris Bere (Chairman)
Paul King
Frank Rylance
Murray Thomson

In attendance: Richard Higgs

Clerk: Linda Baker

Also present were two members of the public for items 1-4 (a)

1. **Apologies for Absence.** Apologies for absence were received from Alan Berry and Bill Hatton.
2. **Declarations of Interest.** None.
3. **Minutes of the Grounds Committee Meeting held on 30 January 2013.** The minutes were taken as read, agreed by the meeting, and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.
4. **Adastra Park.**
 - (a) **Positioning of Sports Pitches in Adastra Park.** The council had received a request from the Croquet Club to relocate their croquet pitches in front of the Community Pavilion. The junior football club had their pitches in the same location, and reported that the current arrangements were working very well, but that for next season they would like the mini pitch to be five yards wider. As the croquet season ran from April to the end of October, and football from September to April, it would not be possible to locate both clubs in the same place. The Keymer and Hassocks Cricket Club had expressed concern about the impact that the football pitches were having on the cricket outfield.

It was agreed that the Adastra Park was a public park, and while the council would do its best to accommodate all the sports users, they had to accept that it was a shared facility. It was agreed that representatives of the Grounds Committee and the Groundsman would arrange a meeting with the junior football club to discuss the positioning of pitches, and would respond to the Hassocks Croquet Club once this meeting had taken place.
 - (b) **Adastra Tennis Courts, Moss.** The email dated 17 February 2013 from Jeremy Crooks regarding the removal of moss from the Adastra tennis courts was considered. The Groundsman removed moss on a

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- regular basis, and would continue to do so. The committee did not agree that pressure washing the courts would be an economic or effective solution, but had no objection if the Adastra Tennis Club wished to fund pressure washing.
- (c) Family Funfair.** The committee agreed a booking for a Family Funfair from 17-19 May 2013 in the north field of Adastra Park, on the same terms as 2012.
- (d) Trees to the east of Adastra Park.** A letter dated 31 January 2013, which had been sent to Phil Mead, regarding the removal of trees to the east of Adastra Park was considered. It was agreed that the council did not wish any work to be carried out on the trees. The Tree Warden would be asked to look at the trees to check they were in a healthy condition, and a response would be sent indicating that the council did not want the trees pruned.
- (e) Memorial Garden Camelia.** The committee approved the planting of a camellia in the Memorial garden, provided it was of a suitable size.
- (f) Adastra Park Car Park.** The resurfacing had been carried out, but was not satisfactory as the surface was breaking up. The contractors would be asked to redo the work.
- 5. Adastra Park Community Pavilion: Legionella Testing.** Frank Rylance had reviewed the HSE Approved Code of Practice and Guidance on the control of legionella bacteria in water systems. The council had appointed TSS to carry out regular testing, but it was unclear what other mechanisms the council needed to put in place to be compliant. It was RESOLVED that the council should subscribe to the Zurich Municipal Insurance Local Council Advisory Service at a cost of £145, plus VAT, per annum, to obtain professional advice on meeting the requirements.
- 6. Talbot Field.**
- (a) Fencing to the West.** It was noted that this had been replaced.
- (b) Signage.** It was agreed that consideration of signage regarding the management of the field should be deferred.
- (c) Westwards.** A letter dated 14 February 2013 from Ufton Associates, Loss Adjusters, was considered. It was RESOLVED that the proposal for the owner of Westwards to remove a section of the hedge on the east of the field, at their cost, along the length of the flank wall, plus an additional 2 m either end of this section, should be approved. The council would permit access to the hedge from Talbot Field, provided that the council was informed in advance of when the work would be carried out, and that the area was properly landscaped after the work was carried out. The council did not favour a six foot tall, close boarded fence being erected once the hedge was removed, and would request Uftons to negotiate a less intrusive fencing of a lower height, and of a

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colour to blend in with the rural location. The council would arrange for the removal of the acer in Talbot Field, closest to Westwards.

7. Allotments. Murray Thomson reported that:

- The earth toilet had now been completed
- The first inspection would be carried out in April 2013
- Water supply. Edburton had indicated that they were not going to repair the damaged stop cock as they had promised in December 2012. The council had written to Edburton indicating that it was their responsibility to repair or replace the stop cock as it was not fit for purpose, and would pursue the question of the malfunctioning tap. The council would pursue this with Edburton as a matter of urgency and take legal advice if necessary.

8. Date of Next Meeting. 29 May 2013 at 7.30 pm.

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There being no other business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.50 pm.

Chairman.....

Date.....