

HASSOCKS PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday 8 January 2013 at 7.30 pm in the Parish Centre, Adastra Park, Hassocks.

Present:	Bill Hatton (Chairman)	Judith Foot
	Jane Baker	Peter Gibbons
	Chris Bere	Sue Hatton
	Leslie Campbell	Paul King
	David Cumberland	Penny Wadsworth
	Ian Weir	

Clerk: Linda Baker

Also present were District Councillor Gordon Marples, County Councillor Colin Wilsdon and three members of the public.

13/1 Apologies for Absence. Apologies for absence were received from Alan Berry, who had a work commitment, and Phil Mead and Frank Rylance, who were unwell. PC Miles apologised for being unable to send a police representative.

13/2 Declarations of Interest. None.

The meeting was adjourned for public participation, but there were no questions from the public.

13/3 Minutes of the Meeting held on 11 December 2013. The minutes were taken as read, agreed by the meeting, and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

13/4 Reports.

- a) **Police Report.** A note of crime statistics for Hassocks for December had been circulated.
- b) **District Councillor's Report.** Gordon Marples reported on:
 - (i) **Budget 2013/14.** MSDC were finalising the budget for 2013/14 and it was expected that there would be no increase in council tax for the third year running, in spite of a poor government settlement. MSDC had already made significant savings without any reduction in services, so finding further savings was becoming increasingly difficult.
 - (ii) **Council Tax Audit.** Capita were carrying out an audit across the district of properties where residents received a discount for single occupancy. This was an exercise which was carried out periodically to ensure that MSDC records were correct.
- c) **County Councillor's Report.** Colin Wilsdon reported that:
 - (i) the next CLC meeting would be held on 17 January 2013 at 7.30 pm at London Meed school, Burgess Hill.

- (ii) **Beacon Centre.** There was nothing further to report with regard to the Kangaroos use of the building. He understood that WSCC had carried out £12,000 of refurbishment work on the building and that it would now be mothballed..
- d) **Planning Committee Meeting, 10 December 2012.** The minutes were noted.
- e) **Rail Matters.** The next meeting of the Rail Group would be held on 25 January 2013. The Hassocks station building had been demolished and work was progressing on the new station. Signage to the temporary ticket office had been improved.
- f) **Report from Councillors on Meetings of Outside Bodies.**
 - (i) **MSDC Transport Study Briefing.** Ian Weir had attended the briefing on 20 December 2012. MSDC's proposals to deal with the transport generated by new development in the next 20 years would be published shortly. Parishes represented at the meeting had highlighted the current infrastructure deficits in terms of transport, but MSDC were only looking at future development and had indicated that the existing problems needed to be taken up elsewhere.
 - (ii) **Access to the South Downs National Park.** Ian Weir and Leslie Campbell had met SDNP representatives on 7 January 2013. The SDNP are keen to improve links to and from public transport to the Park, and were supportive of improvements to the Cinder Path in Hassocks. HPC had raised safety concerns where footpaths ended on a road.

13/5 Chairman's Remarks. None.

13/6 Clerk's Report. None.

13/7 Financial Report. The financial report and list of cheques presented for December 2012 were approved, and the Chairman was authorised to sign them.

13/8 WSCC Highways Partnership Agreement. The new agreement which would come into force on 1 April 2013, was noted. The council supported an informal agreement with Burgess Hill Town Council to continue the current working practices although the parish council would not be party to the new agreement between WSCC and BHTC.

13/9 Tax Base Changes. The letter dated 14 December 2012 from MSDC Councillor Jonathan Ash-Edwards regarding the tax base calculation was noted. This would not affect the precept set by the council for 2013/14.

13/10 Correspondence. None.

There being no other business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.10 pm.

Chairman..... Date.....