

## HASSOCKS PARISH COUNCIL

### Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday 11 September 2012 at 7.30 pm in the Parish Centre, Adastra Park, Hassocks.

Present: Bill Hatton (Chairman) Paul King  
Jane Baker Phil Mead  
Leslie Campbell Frank Rylance  
Judith Foot Ian Weir  
Penny Wadsworth (for items 1- 10)  
Peter Gibbons  
Sue Hatton (for items 4 (i) – 14)

Clerk: Linda Baker

Also present were District Councillor Gordon Marples, County Councillor Colin Wilsdon PC John Miles and four members of the public.

**12/91 Apologies for Absence.** Apologies for absence were received from Chris Bere, who was unwell, Alan Berry, who had a work commitment, and David Cumberland, who was abroad.

**12/92 Declarations of Interest.** Bill Hatton and Peter Gibbons declared an interest in item 13 as they volunteered for 4Sight.

*The meeting was adjourned for public participation. A note of the comments from the public is attached at attachment 1.*

**12/93 Minutes of the Meeting held on 10 July 2012.** The minutes were taken as read, agreed by the meeting, and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

#### **12/94 Reports.**

- a) **Police Report.** PC Miles reported on crime statistics for the last month. CID were investigating the ram raid at Barclays, which may have been the work of an organised gang. The murder in Belmont Close had involved two individuals who knew each other, and therefore did not pose a threat to the community. Two teenagers had been arrested being found on the roof of the Infant school. With regard to the travellers on Clayton Green, the police had received a number of calls from the public, were patrolling the area, and were working in co-operation with MSDC to have them removed.
- b) **District Councillor's Report.** Gordon Marples reported that the travellers on Clayton Green were a group who had been evicted from a site in Brighton. MSDC had done welfare checks on the site, and were taking legal steps to have the travellers removed. There had been criminal damage at the Clayton pavilion, some burglary and theft in the vicinity, and a sheep had been savaged by a dog belonging to

the travellers. Local residents were concerned by the effect the presence of the travellers had on their lives, and Jane Baker reported that bookings for the Clayton Church hall had been cancelled, further jeopardising the future of the hall. Gordon Marples said that local authorities and the police appeared ineffective to the public in dealing with the situation, but they were constrained by the existing law in making arrangements to have travellers removed. In the long term a permanent solution had to be found to deal with the problem of traveller incursions on public and private land.

- c) County Councillor's Report.** Colin Wilsdon reported that the licence had not yet been signed to allow Kangaroos to lease the Beacon Centre, and there were some legal issues still being worked on. He had met Gulu Sibanda of WSCC Gatwick Diamond Team, with Peter Griffiths, County Councillor for Hurstpierpoint, to discuss the possibility of a cycle route from Hurst to Hassocks, possibly using S106 funding which would not now be needed for Hassocks Station. WSCC had also been asked to investigate a cycle route in the new housing development at the Weald. A school crossing patrol had been set up in Grand Avenue, but the parish council had not been consulted or notified of this by WSCC.
- d) Planning Committee Meetings 16 July, 6 and 28 August 2012.**  
The minutes were noted.
- e) Policy, Resources and Communications Meeting 4 July 2012.** The minutes were noted.
- f) Grounds Committee, 25 July 2012.** The minutes were noted.  
RESOLVED that:
- g) Burial Ground.** The Burial Ground fees would be increased as recommended, with immediate effect.
- h) Parklands Road Allotment Rents.** The rent per plot would be increased from £25 to £26 per annum with effect from 1 October 2012.
- i) Rail Matters.** Leslie Campbell reported on a meeting of the Hassocks Rail Group on 7 September 2012. The station rebuild was scheduled to start on 29 October 2012. Details of the timetable, plans and publicity, circulated at the meeting, will be available in the Parish Office.
- j) Report on Meetings of Outside Bodies. :**  
**Hurst and Hassocks Community Bus.** Peter Gibbons reported that MSDC had agreed a licence fee of £50 for the bus to use the Dale Avenue car park, with a one off legal fee of £150.

**12/95 Chairman's Remarks.**

- a) Policing.** Bill Hatton, Sue Hatton and Frank Rylance had attended a meeting with Sgt Rachael Mundy, who was now based in Burgess Hill, to discuss policing in Hassocks. Police resources are stretched and

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the police are having to deal with social problems like the mentally ill, which is outside their normal remit.

- b) MSALC Conference 20 July 2012.** The conference had not been well supported by parishes, but had been interesting. Among other topics the future of the South East Plan, which had not yet been withdrawn by the government, had been discussed.

**12/96 Clerk's Report.** There were no issues to report.

**12/97 Financial Report.** The financial reports and lists of cheques presented for July and August 2012 were approved, and the Chairman was authorised to sign them.

**12/98 Resignation of Kristian Berggreen.** It was noted that Kristian Berggreen had resigned as a councillor for Keymer North ward.

RESOLVED that the vacancy for a councillor for Keymer North ward is declared and will be publicly notified in accordance with the Local Government Act 1972.

It was agreed that a letter would be sent to Kristian Berggreen thanking him for his work as a parish councillor and as Chairman of the council's Planning Committee.

**12/99 Annual Return 31 March 2012.**

- a) External Audit.** It was noted that the external auditor had completed the audit of the annual return for the year ended 31 March 2012. There were no matters which the auditor wished to report giving concern that relevant legislation and statutory requirements had not been met.

- b) External Audit Fee.** The invoice for professional fees to Mazars dated 21 August 2012 was approved for payment.

**12/100 Purchase of a Mower for Adastral Park.** The mower used by the Groundsman was now beyond economic repair. Two quotations had been obtained and it was RESOLVED that the quotation from R A Palmer for a Hayter Harrier 56 Pro was accepted.

**12/101 Adastral Bowling Club.**

- a) Revised Agreement with the Adastral Bowling Club.** The Agreement which had been circulated was APPROVED and the Chairman was authorised to sign it on behalf of the council. It was noted that the Agreement would not be executed unless the Adastral Bowling Club agreed to transfer to the Parish Council the fund it was holding for the replacement of the bowling green, the fund to be held in an earmarked reserve with the council's fund for the green replacement.

- b) Fees for 2012.** It was noted that the Adastral Bowling Club had now paid the outstanding fees for use of the green and rent for 2012.

- c) Request from the Adastral Bowling Club for Payment for Materials.** A letter dated 28 August 2012 from the Adastral Bowling Club requesting payment of £1,101.90 for materials purchased for

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2011/12, requesting further materials totalling £491.50, and asking for a further meeting to discuss the Agreement was considered.

RESOLVED that the Grounds Committee should consider the Adastra Bowling Club's requests at its next meeting.

**12/102 Easement for the Water Supply for the Parklands Road**

**Allotments.** It was noted that legal fees for the execution of the easement had now been paid, totalling £290. This brought the total cost of providing the supply to £9,321 of which £2,470 had been budgeted and £6,851 taken from reserves.

**12/103 Grants for 2012.** RESOLVED that the following grants were agreed for 2012:

4 Sight	£400
St Catherine's Hospice	£200
Victim Support	£100
Adastra Hall	£750

**12/104 Equipment for the Council Chamber.** A proposal by Peter Gibbons for a projector, screen and laptop for the council chamber was considered (minute 12/89 (b) refers). RESOLVED that the following should be purchased:

- A Dell Inspiron 17R SE laptop computer package
- A PJD 6531w projector and spare bulb
- A 4:3 pull down screen.

**12/105 Parish Council Website.** It was noted that proposals for a new website have been deferred to the 9 October 2012 parish council meeting (minute 12/89 (a) refers) as three quotations were not currently available. It was noted that Tony Chaitow had withdrawn from managing the Parish council's existing site, and that uploading minutes and agendas was now being done by the parish office pending the introduction of a new website. It was RESOLVED that a letter would be sent to Tony Chaitow thanking him for setting up the council's website, and for all his work over a number of years in maintaining the site.

**12/106 Correspondence.**

- a) Local Broadband Plan.** The letter dated 26 July 2012 from WSCC was noted.
- b) Beacon Centre.** The letter dated 17 July 2012 from WSCC was noted.
- c) Future of WSCC Gypsy and Traveller Sites.** The letter dated 15 August 2012 from WSCC was noted.
- d) Library Service Restructure and Introduction of Volunteers.** The letter dated 4 September 2011/12 from WSCC was noted. Councillors would be informed if the local library manager for Hassocks contacted the parish council regarding recruiting volunteers.

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There being no other business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.45 pm.

Chairman.....

Date.....