

HASSOCKS PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the Environment Committee held on Tuesday 5 February 2013 at 7.30 pm in the Parish Centre, Adastra Park, Hassocks.

Present: David Cumberland (Chairman) Ian Weir
Peter Gibbons Frank Rylance

Clerk: Linda Baker

- 1. Apologies for Absence.** Apologies for absence were received from Phil Mead and Bill Hatton. Absent without apology, Leslie Campbell, Alan Berry, and Sue Hatton. In the absence of Phil Mead, David Cumberland was appointed to chair the meeting.
- 2. Declarations of Interest.** None.
- 3. Minutes of the Meeting held on 8 November 2012.** The minutes were taken as read, agreed by the meeting, and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.
- 4. Tree Planting.** In the absence of Phil Mead there was no report.
- 5. Parking Working Group.** Ian Weir reported that a meeting had been held on 24 January 2013. The business survey was underway, the residents survey had been finalised, and the questionnaires would be circulated to every household in Hassocks at the beginning of March 2013, with a return deadline of 23 March 2013. It was suggested that illegal parking was an issue as well as inconsiderate parking. There was no specific question on illegal parking in the questionnaire, but respondents would be asked if there were any other parking issues they thought needed addressing, where the question of illegal parking could be raised.
- 6. Grand Avenue Planters.** WSCC had advised that the parish council would have to provide a map showing the proposed location of the planters, and that there would then be a formal consultation process, involving any frontagers that could be affected, and MSDC planning department.
- 7. Hassocks Sorting Office, Cobbled Area.** A response was awaited from the managing agents regarding the proposal to plant the area.
- 8. Finger Post, Ockley Lane/Keymer Road.** The Monday Group had advised that they were unable to carry out repairs to the finger post as they did not have the relevant insurance for highway working. It was agreed to investigate whether insurance could be obtained at a reasonable cost to cover the Monday Group for this work.
- 9. Footpaths.** In the absence of Leslie Campbell there was no report.

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10. Litter Bin Outside Budgens. WSCC had advised that WSCC can grant permission for litter bins, but that responsibility for maintenance etc would lie with the parish council. The parish council would have to provide a map of the location, and agreement would be required from MSDC to empty the bin.

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11. Access to the South Downs National Park. Ian Weir reported that he and Leslie Campbell had met SDNP representatives in January 2013. There was a possibility of creating a cycle path from the Weald to Misty Bridge, and possibly further to the A273 by the Jack & Jill pub. WSCC, MSDC, and SDNP were looking into this and the SDNP had some grant funding for cycle access to the park. There might also be some funding for improvements to the Cinder Track. WSCC were also looking into the problem of flooding on the footpath 27/1C at Woodbine Cottage.

12. Light Up Hassocks 2012. The committee discussed the event, and agreed to comment to the organisers regarding:

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- Signage. Advance warning of the road closure had been confusing and inadequate. The signage in the village had displayed different times for the road closure. There had been no advance warning at Stonepound Crossroads that the B2116 would be closed from Station approach west, so vehicles were travelling east during the closure and having to turn round at the station.
- It was suggested that the length of the road closure could be reduced, leaving access to Downsview Road open, which would reduce the inconvenience to local residents.
- It was suggested that it would be useful for the organisers to meet representatives of the parish council ahead of the event in 2013.

13. WSCC Consultation on Highways and Transport Draft Works Programmes. The programme was considered, and it was agreed to comment that with regard to the proposed carriage surface dressing at Keymer Road, Hassocks (ref CWY3187), the road was in a poor state of repair, was heavily used by large vehicles and that therefore surface dressing would not be adequate to address the problems, the road needed resurfacing. The area under the railway bridge was frequently flooded, and the state of the drains in this area also needed addressing.

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The pavement by the A273 London Road on the west side from the new pedestrian crossing to Pavilion Close also needed improvement.

14. Letter from WSCC on Burgess Hill/Hassocks/Hurstpierpoint Footpaths and Bridleways. It was noted that Leslie Campbell had commented on behalf of Hassocks Parish Council that the council is

basically supportive of this proposal to formally dedicate a number of existing paths to formal rights of way status. As regards upgrading the permissive footpaths to bridleway status, the council would like an assurance that those footpaths to be upgraded that are not already surfaced with suitable stone are brought up to the same standard. This will ensure that they are usable by pedestrians all year round. Bearing in mind Hassocks is on wealden clay, the surfaces will soon deteriorate following increased usage by cyclists and equestrians, as occurs on bridleways elsewhere in the area. Ian Weir suggested that a traffic island or similar was required where footpath 19b, near Clayton Priory, crossed the A273, as this was a dangerous road crossing.

15. Listing the Beacon Centre as a Community Asset. The committee considered whether to request MSDC to list the Beacon Centre as a Community Asset. The listing would not oblige the parish council to take any action, but if the site was listed, the community would have six months to try to acquire it if it was put up for sale. It was agreed to approach MSDC to request District to consider listing the Beacon Centre as a community asset.

16. Date of Next Meeting. 2 April 2013 at 7.30 pm.

There being no other business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.20 pm.

Chairman.....

Date.....

