

## HASSOCKS PARISH COUNCIL

### Minutes of the Meeting of the Environment Committee held on Thursday 6 September 2012 at 7.30 pm in the Parish Centre, Adastral Park, Hassocks

Present: Phil Mead (Chairman)                      Frank Rylance  
          Alan Berry                                         Peter Gibbons  
          Bill Hatton                                        Leslie Campbell  
          Sue Hatton

Clerk: Linda Baker

1. **Apologies for Absence.** Apologies for absence were received from David Cumberland, who was abroad, and Ian Weir, who was unwell.
2. **Declarations of Interest.** None.
3. **Minutes of the Meeting held on 21 June 2012.** The minutes were taken as read, agreed by the meeting, and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.
4. **Tree Planting.** Phil Mead reported that 26 trees would be planted in the winter, in Stonepound Road, Semley Road, and Stafford Way. WSCC had not yet invoiced the council for the planting in 2011/12, but had been reminded to do so. A few trees in Grand Avenue had died, and these would be replanted. Tree planting in the avenues in Hassocks to ensure continuity would be considered for the next round of planting. There was a location map of trees in the parish from 2010, and this would be updated.
5. **Report from the Parking Working Group.** Sue Hatton gave an oral report of the meeting held on 6 September 2012. The notes of the meeting would be circulated.
6. **Light up Hassocks.** The committee considered the proposals from the Light Up Hassocks group for a road closure on 30 November 2012 in the centre of the village from 15.30 to 19.30. The committee **RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND** that the council support the road closure, but expressed concerns about some health and safety issues which MSDC should be asked to look at in considering the application:
  - a) Access for emergency vehicles
  - b) Consultation with all the bus companies whose routes and timetabling will be affected
  - c) Arrangements for a police presence and adequate training for marshals to avoid any conflict with drivers who may not observe the road closure

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- d) Adequate prior advice to drivers regarding the road closure, particularly for those who may use on street parking while at work, and be unable to move their vehicles during the closure
- e) A police presence at the junction of the B2112 and A273, where traffic will be diverted, to direct traffic and ensure the safety of vehicles using this alternative route as it is a difficult junction, particularly for vehicles turning right.
- f) Consideration for carers, nursing staff etc who may need access to elderly or infirm residents in roads which will be blocked off for four hours

7. **Village Approach Signs.** The committee discussed ideas for signage ahead of the meeting with Gulu Sibanda of WSCC on 20 September 2012. It was agreed that:

- The sign opposite Budgens in Keymer Road saying Keymer should be removed
- The sign on the B2116 east should say Hassocks, Keymer Village
- The sign on the A273 London Road should say Hassocks, Gateway to the South Downs and be relocated to the parish boundary
- The sign on the A273 Brighton Road should say Hassocks, Clayton Hamlet, and be relocated opposite the Jack and Jill pub
- The twinning signs would be left in situ
- HPC would make a contribution to the cost of the new signs from the £3,000 in reserves for a village sign.
- An estimate would be obtained for refurbishing the sign saying Parish of Keymer outside the parish office.

8. **Spitalford Bridge: Report of a Meeting with WSCC on 19 July 2012.** A note of the meeting had been circulated. WSCC would be looking at funding to have the vegetation cut back on the north side of the bridge, and structural engineers would be looking at the cracking in the wall to the east of the bridge.

9. **Footpaths.** Leslie Campbell reported that repair work had been carried out to the bank on footpath 19K, the path between Grand Avenue and Clayton Mills, and the Monday Group would be clearing footpath 12K, which had become overgrown.

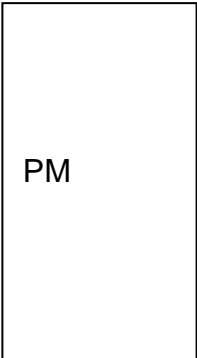
10. **Wildflower Planting.** The committee considered a proposal by Judith Foot that areas of the village should be planted with wild flowers. While the idea was attractive, wildflower areas needed a lot of work to establish and maintain them and the council did not have the resources to do this. It was also questioned whether wildflower planting was appropriate in a semi urban area. It was therefore agreed

that wildflower planting would not be suitable for the centre of the village.

The general planting around the village in small areas had not been particularly successful, and it was agreed that the committee would review the planting in the village at the next meeting.

**11. Draft Budget 2013/14.** The draft budget was approved, with the addition of £500 for planting, £1,000 to refurbish the sign outside the parish office, and a revision to the funding for tree planting to £2,500.

**12. Date of Next Meeting.** 8 November 2012 at 7.30 pm.



There being no other business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.05 pm.

Chairman.....

Date.....