**HASSOCKS PARISH COUNCIL**

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 8 November 2011 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

Kristian Berggreen Paul King

Alan BerryFrank Rylance

Leslie Campbell Penny Wadsworth

Ian Weir

Clerk: Linda Baker

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

**11/125 Apologies for Absence.** Apologies for absence were received from David Cumberland, who was abroad, and Phil Mead, who had another commitment. An apology for absence was also received from PCSO Emma Collett.

The Chairman welcomed Frank Rylance to his first meeting since his co-option as a councillor for Stonepound ward.

**11/126 Declarations of Interest.** None.

**11/127 Presentation by Students from Downlands School on a visit to the European Parliament.** Mathieu Verniol and Bleuen Boivin, Modern Foreign Language Teachers, and Jo Amey, Rebecca Brown, Magdalena Bullivant, Tom Mellor, Rhiannon Mileman, and Harry Wickes, students from Downlands Community School, gave a presentation on their visit to the European Parliament, and their campaigning on behalf of the Born Free Foundation to improve the welfare of animals in zoos across Europe. The Chairman thanked them for a very interesting and informative presentation.

*The meeting was adjourned for public participation. A note of the questions and answers is attached at Attachment 1.*

**11/128 Minutes of the Meeting held on 11 October 2011.** The minutes were taken as read, agreed by the meeting, and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

**11/129 Reports.**

1. **Police Report** A report was received from PCSO Emma Collett on ongoing enquiries into the fatal hit and run, vehicle stolen from Sussex Retro Cars, work to prevent shoplifting in the village, Speedwatch, and the new 101 emergency telephone number.
2. **District Councillors’ Report.** Gordon Marples reported on;

* The District Plan which was now out for consultation
* Budget for 2012/13

All

All

* Air Quality Management; it was hoped that Hassocks Parish councillors would attend the meeting on 13 December 2011
* The Olympic Torch route would include Mid Sussex
* Local government workers being balloted for strike action on 30 November: contingency plans were being put in place
* Standards regime and complaints against local councillors

Sue Hatton reported on;

* Neighbourhood Planning workshop on 18 November 2011: it was hoped that Hassocks parish councillors would attend
* MSDC Big Society Working Group

1. **County Councillor’s Report.** WSCC were phasing in cuts to youth services over four years rather than three, and WSCC and the CCHF were still in negotiations with Kangaroos regarding the Beacon Centre.
2. **Planning Committee Meeting, 17 October 2011.** The minutes were accepted by the council.
3. **Rail Matters.** Chris Bere and Leslie Campbell reported on a meeting of the Hassocks Rail Group on 8 November 2011. Plans for the new station were going ahead, and work should commence in 2012 with completion by the autumn. A public launch of the scheme would take place in February/March 2012. Tribute was paid to the hard work of the rail group in achieving such a good scheme for Hassocks, which was one of only eight new stations being built.
4. **Report from Councillors on Meetings of outside Bodies.**
5. **South Downs National Park: Planning.** Bill Hatton and Leslie Campbell had attended a meeting on 17 October 2011 to discuss planning in the National park. Contact had been made with the Planning Link Officer, Roy Little, who had been asked to assist the Parish Council in its efforts to have Jack windmill repaired.
6. **Councillor Training.** Peter Gibbons, Judith Foot and Ian Weir had attended the SALC councillor training on 28/29 October 2011.
7. **Ditchling Parish Council Public Meeting, 7 November 2011.** Frank Rylance and Ian Weir had attended the meeting to discuss the Lewes District Council Local development Framework. The main concern expressed at the meeting had been the local transport network, which could not cope with increased traffic arising from further development.

**11/130 Chairman’s Remarks.**

1. **SALC/AIRS AGM.** Bill Hatton had attended: the main topics for discussion were the Localism Bill and Neighbourhood Planning.
2. **Downlands.** A meeting had been held on 19 October 2011 to discuss issue of mutual interest.

BH/JB

All

1. **Remembrance Sunday, 13 November 2011.** Bill Hatton would be laying a wreath at Keymer, and Jane Baker would lay a wreath at Clayton on behalf of the Parish Council.

**11/131 Clerk’s Report.** There were no issues to report.

**11/132 Financial Report.** The financial report and list of cheques presented for October 2011 were approved, and the Chairman was authorised to sign them.

**11/133 Committee Membership.** RESOLVED that Frank Rylance should be appointed as a member of the Planning, Environment and Policy, Resources and Communications Committees.

**11/134 Local Youth Services.**

1. **Beacon Centre.** The Beacon Centre Management Team had been disbanded on 31 October 2011. WSCC and CCHF were in negotiations with Kangaroos to take over the lease. If WSCC did not continue with youth services n the site, they would be in breach of the lease. The fabric of the building was in poor condition, and the running costs were in the region of £10,000 – £25,000 per year.
2. **Options for Youth Services in Hassocks.** AIRS had put forward a proposal to provide one sessional youth worker to provide a two hour session for 38 weeks a year, at a total cost of £3,500 per worker per year. The council was supportive of the Kangaroo bid, which could provide for continuing youth provision at the Beacon Centre. It was agreed that if the Kangaroo’s bid was unsuccessful, the provision of youth services in alternative locations should be explored, and it was agreed that the council would consider making a provision of £3,500 in the budget for 2012/13 to fund a part time youth worker. Local businesses would also be approached to fund youth work in the village.

**11/135 MSDC Draft Taxi Licensing Policy.** The proposed policy was supported, with the proposal that that there should be training for taxi drivers who carried disabled passengers.

**11/136 Correspondence.**

1. **Queens Diamond Jubilee Beacons.** The letter dated 30 September 2011 was noted.
2. **Merger of Central Sussex CAB and Adur and Worthing CAB.** The letter from the CAB regarding the merger was noted.

There being no other business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.25 pm.

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