

HASSOCKS PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Environment Committee Meeting held on 8 November 2012 at 7.30 pm in the Parish Centre, Adastra Park, Hassocks.

Present: Phil Mead (Chairman) Sue Hatton
Leslie Campbell Peter Gibbons
Alan Berry Ian Weir
David Cumberland Frank Rylance

Clerk: Linda Baker

1. **Apologies for Absence.** None.
2. **Declarations of Interest.** None.
3. **Minutes of the Meeting held on 6 September 2012.** The minutes were taken as read, agreed by the meeting, with the deletion of "Stonepound Road", in paragraph 4, line 2, and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.
4. **Tree Planting Update.** Phil Mead reported that WSCC had invoiced the council for tree planting in 2011/12 and 2012/13. The oak tree to celebrate the Queen's Jubilee had been planted adjacent to the Dale Avenue car park by Mavis Flowers on 7 November 2012. Letters of thanks would be sent to Mavis Flowers and Rupert Browning at MSDC. Penny Wadsworth would be asked to include the event on the Parish Council's Facebook account. The question of a plaque for the tree would be reconsidered in six months, once the tree had established.
5. **Village Planting Ideas.**
 - a) **Grand Avenue.** It was suggested that two planters could be installed at the southern end of Grand Avenue, with trees planted in them, similar to the ones on the island opposite Budgens. The cost would be around £1,300 each, including the tree. It was suggested that one could be planted in the current financial year, and one next. It was agreed that permission would be sought from WSCC to site one on the east side, near the HSBC Bank, and costs obtained, for consideration at the next meeting.
 - b) **Hassocks Sorting Office.** It was suggested that the cobbled area outside the Hassocks Sorting Office in Keymer Road could be filled with soil, and planted with a ground cover plant like Vinca. It was agreed that the managing agents would be contacted for permission.
6. **Report from the Parking Working Group.** A meeting had been held on 8 November 2012, and the notes would be circulated. Proposals would be put to the next meeting of the Environment Committee for

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two surveys, one of businesses and one of residents in the village, on parking issues. The survey of businesses would be done using in house resources, and councillors and office staff would deliver and collect the questionnaires, but there would be delivery costs in surveying residents, which would need to be approved. Residents would be advised that the council was considering a survey in the January 2013 Talk About Parish Council news item.

- 7. Village Approach Signs.** It was noted that, following a meeting with WSCC on 20 September 2012, WSCC had confirmed that their Engineering Team had no funding for the scheme. The council would reconsider the provision of new village approach signs in six months time with a view to budgeting for the cost in 2014/15.
- 8. Finger Post at the Junction of Ockley Lane and Keymer Road.** The sign was leaning slightly, and needed some repainting. It was agreed that the Monday group would be asked if they could do the work.
- 9. Footpaths.** Leslie Campbell reported that WSCC had issued a temporary closure notice for the Friars Oak Lane footpath to enable work to be carried out to improve surface drainage. A survey of footpaths in the parish would be carried out in February 2013.
- 10. Sign Outside the Parish Centre.** The committee considered an estimate of the cost of refurbishing the sign outside the parish office. To refurbish the sign and metal surround would cost in the region of £1,650, but this would not include the cost of removing the sign from the post for the refurbishment, or straightening and refixing the post, which was at an angle. The sign said "George V and Queen Elizabeth, Keymer Parish Council, 1910-1977", so it was presumed it had been erected for the Queens Silver Jubilee, but it had not been possible to establish the significance of the reference to George V or 1910, and Keymer Parish Council had been disbanded in 2000. Members questioned the justification for spending a significant sum on refurbishing a sign which did not have relevance to Hassocks Parish Council, and it was agreed to reconsider the issue of a sign in six months time.
- 11. Proposal for a Litter Bin outside Budgens.** Downlands had offered to fund half the cost of a litter bin on the island outside Budgens. It was agreed that the council would accept the offer and fund the remainder, subject to WSCC approving the siting of a bin in this location.
- 12. Additional Cycle Stands in the Village.** The committee considered a proposal from the Parking Working Group for a set of 3 cycle stands in Chancellors Park, either outside Barclays Bank or outside Hassocks Infants School, and for 4 cycle stands outside 22-24 Keymer Road as part of the retail development. There was no support for additional

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cycle stands in Chancellors park as the committee believed there were more than sufficient stands in the village. The cycle stands outside 22-24 Keymer Road would be required as a planning condition for development on the site, so MSDC would be enforcing this condition.

13.Improvements to the Rights of Way into the South Downs

National Park. Ian Weir reported that he wanted to approach the SDNP to see if improvements could be made to the surface of some of the access routes to the South Downs National Park, such as the Cinder Track. The committee approved the approach in principle, but Ian Weir would talk to Leslie Campbell before approaching the SDNP.

14.Meeting Dates 2013. The following meeting dates were approved:

- 5 February
- 2 April
- 25 June
- 3 September
- 18 November

15.Date of Next Meeting. 5 February 2013 at 7.30 pm.

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There being no other business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.45 pm.

Chairman.....

Date.....