

**HASSOCKS PARISH COUNCIL****Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday 11 March 2014 at 7.30 pm in the Parish Centre, Adastra Park, Hassocks.**

Present: David Cumberland (Chairman) Sue Hatton  
Jane Baker Bill Hatton  
Chris Bere Darryl Sinclair  
Leslie Campbell Penny Wadsworth  
Steven Ecroyd Ian Weir  
Judith Foot

Clerk: Linda Baker

Also present were District Councillor Gordon Marples and one member of the public.

**14/20 Apologies for Absence.** Apologies for absence were received from Alan Berry and Paul King, who had work commitments, Peter Gibbons who was abroad, and Frank Rylance.

**14/21 Declarations of interest.** None.

*Public Participation.* There were no questions from the public.

**14/22 Minutes of the Meeting held on 11 February 2014.** The minutes were taken as read, agreed by the meeting, and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

**14/23 Reports.**

a) **Police Report.** There was no police report. The crime statistics for the year for Hassocks, previously circulated, were noted.

b) **District Councillor's Report.** District Councillor Gordon Marples reported on:

- The MSDC budget for 2014/15 had been approved with a nil increase in council tax for the fourth year in succession.
- The outcome of the review of the operation of leisure facilities, and the award of the contract would be announced on 14 March 2014.
- Land Parcel at London Road. Submissions were still awaited from WSCC, so the application for development would not be considered by the MSDC Planning Committee in April 2014.

c) **County Councillor's Report.** County Councillor Andy Petch sent his apologies as he was recovering from an operation, and had submitted details of recent activity:

- Land Parcel at London Road. A meeting with the WSCC highways planning officer had been held on 21 February 2014.



Leslie Campbell and Frank Rylance had attended as observers on behalf of the parish council, and Ian Credland and Philip Weir had attended and presented their own transport report prepared by a consultant working on behalf of residents opposed to the development, which WSCC agreed to look at.

- A meeting had been arranged with Robert Sue of Network Rail on 20 March 2014, which Ian Weir would attend to discuss parking.
- A meeting had been arranged with Roland Plumb and Richard Wells of WSCC on 24 April 2014 to discuss the Hassocks traffic and parking report.
- Flooding in Parklands Road. Residents had been in contact regarding a balancing pond to the south of Parklands Road. WSCC and the parish council had no responsibility with regard to flooding. MSDC were the land drainage authority, but while MSDC had permissive powers, there was no duty on MSDC to take action. A balancing pond had been built on the western boundary of the village in the mid 1990s, which had been effective in preventing flooding in that area. MSDC had investigated the possibility of a second balancing pond to the south, but landowners in that area were not willing to release land so the proposals had been dropped.

**d) Planning Committee Meeting 17 February 2014.** The minutes were noted.

**e) Neighbourhood Plan Working Group Meeting 26 February 2014.** The minutes were noted.

RESOLVED that the council should take out a subscription to Survey Monkey at a cost of £299, plus VAT per year. This would be used to assist in gathering comments on the Neighbourhood Plan, and for other issues where the council wished to engage with residents.

RESOLVED that the Clerk can authorise additional hours to be worked by the Parish Office staff in support of the Neighbourhood Plan, with the approval of the Chairman. The preparation of the Neighbourhood Plan would involve considerable administrative work, which could not be absorbed in the routine working hours with all the other functions the staff were responsible for.

**f) Rail Matters.** Work on the station was nearly complete, and an Opening Day would be held on 2 May 2014. The cycle hire facility would be moved into the station using additional grant funding.

**g) Meetings of Outside Bodies.** None.

**14/24 Chairman's Remarks. Meeting with Hurstpierpoint & Sayers Common Parish Council.** The Chairman reported that he and the Vice-Chairman were holding periodic informal meetings with the Chairman and

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Vice-Chairman of Hurstpierpoint & Sayers Common Parish Council to discuss matters of mutual interest. Hurst had now submitted their Submission Version of the Hurst Neighbourhood Plan, which had been copied to the council's Neighbourhood Plan Working Group for information. Hurst was more advanced in its Neighbourhood Plan preparation than Hassocks, but Hassocks was learning from Hurst's experience of the process.

**14/25 Clerk's Report.** There were no matters to report.

**14/26 Financial Report.** The Financial Report and list of cheques presented for February 2014 were approved and the Chairman was authorised to sign them.

**14/27 MSDC Town & Parish Gatwick Airport Liaison Group.** The letter dated 26 February 2014 from Councillor Gary Marsh was considered. RESOLVED that the council wished to be represented on a town and parish liaison group. Sue Hatton would attend the first meeting on 4 April 2014. Representation at future meetings would be decided in due course.

**14/28 Annual Parish Meeting.** RESOLVED that the Annual Parish Meeting would be held on Tuesday 27 May 2014 at 7.30 pm in the Parish Centre.

**14/29 Correspondence.** None.

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There being no other business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.12 pm.

Chairman.....

Date.....