

## HASSOCKS PARISH COUNCIL

### Minutes of the meeting held on 14 October 2014 at 7.30 pm in the Parish Centre, Adastra Park, Hassocks.

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

Clerk: Linda Baker

Also present were County Councillor Andy Petch and thirteen members of the public.

**14/85 Apologies for Absence.** Apologies for absence were received from Jane Baker, who was abroad, and Paul King, who was unwell. Apologies were also received from District Councillor Gordon Marples, who had a speaking engagement, and PCSO Sarah Macnamara.

**14/86 Declarations of Interest.** Darryl Sinclair declared an interest in item 10 as Chair of the Light Up Hassocks committee.

*Public Participation.* There were no questions or comments from the public regarding matters on the agenda.

**14/87 Presentation by the Hurstpierpoint, Keymer and Ditchling Energy Group.** Darren Burman and Chris Handel, directors of HKD Energy, gave a presentation on the Downlands School solar PV project, which would be launched at an event at the school at 2.30 pm on 8 November 2014.

**14/88 Minutes of the Meeting held on 9 September 2014.** The minutes were taken as read, agreed by the meeting, and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

#### **14/89 Reports.**

**(a) Police Report.** The crime statistics for September were noted.

**(b) District Councillors' Report.** Gordon Marples had submitted a report on the Community Awards event, which had been very successful, and that the draft MSDC District Plan would be subject to the scrutiny process on 14 October 2014, and would then go to public consultation. Sue Hatton reported that Grace Fry had attended the Community awards event as her nominee.

**(c) County Councillor's Report.** Andy Petch reported on:

- A CLC grant of £5,000 had been made for the Spitalford Bridge project.
- A meeting had taken place with WSCC officers in Hassocks on 10 October 2014 to look at the infrastructure project in

Hassocks, parking, speeding etc. Proposals would be put forward for public consultation.

- Discussions were ongoing with WSCC and MSDC regarding improvements to the footway from Stonepound to the Jack & Jill.
- Problems had been experienced reporting an emergency fault in the Keymer Road during a weekend. The correct procedure was to report a fault to the police, who would contact an emergency number for Balfour Beatty.

**(d) Planning Committee Meetings 15 September and 6 October 2014.**

The minutes were noted.

**(e) Grounds Committee Meeting 24 September 2014.** The minutes were noted. After discussion it was RESOLVED that:

- (i) A quotation in the sum of £1,980 would be accepted for a new gate and path to the north of the Children's Play Area in Adastra Park, the cost to be met from the Grounds contingency budget,
- (ii) Quotations totalling £2,164 would be accepted for a second memorial wall in the Hassocks Burial Ground as the existing wall was nearly full of inscriptions, the cost to be met from the burial ground capital budget
- (iii) A quotation in the sum of £2,625 would be accepted for the installation of a root barrier behind the line of white poplar trees to the south west of Talbot Field, the cost to be taken from reserves,
- (iv) A quotation in the sum of £1,802 would be accepted for tree surgery to the oak to the north of Talbot Field, and the planting of two new oak trees, the cost to be taken from the tree maintenance reserve budget, and
- (v) Darryl Sinclair would be co-opted as a member of the Grounds Committee.

**(f) Neighbourhood Plan Working Group Meeting 25 September 2014.**

The minutes of the meeting were noted. It was RESOLVED that Virginia Pullen and Frances Gaudencio would be co-opted as members of the Group.

**(g) Rail Matters.** There were no matters to report.

**(h) Report from Councillors on Meetings of Outside Bodies.** Ian Weir had attended a Chairman's Networking Day and had circulated a report on the discussions.

**14/90 Chairman's Report.**

**(a) United Reform Church.** David Cumberland reported that he had attended the service for the induction of the new URC minister.

**(b) MSDC Community Awards.** David Cumberland and his wife had attended the event.

**14/91 Clerk's Report.** There were no issues to report.

C

C

C

C

C

**14/92 Financial Report.** The Financial report and list of cheques presented were approved and the Chairman was authorised to sign them.

**14/93 Tractor/Mower.** It was RESOLVED that an Iseki SXG 326 Rotary Mower should be purchased from Ernest Doe at a cost of £9,100 to replace the existing machine which was now beyond economic repair.

**14/94 Light Up Hassocks: Road Closure.** The council considered the application for a road closure for Light Up Hassocks on 28 November 2014. The council commented that it would be advisable to have parking restrictions in Chancellors Park for the period of the rod closure to ensure a smooth traffic flow.

**14/95 Councillor Vacancy.** RESOLVED that a panel should be convened consisting of the Parish Council Chairman and Chairmen of the sub-committees to consider the applications for the vacancy, and make a recommendation to the next meeting of the council.

**14/96 Remembrance Day Parade, 9 November 2014.** RESOLVED that Jane Baker would represent the council at the Clayton wreath laying, and Ian Weir would represent the council at Keymer. Leslie Campbell would also attend the wreath laying at Keymer if possible.

**14/97 2013/14 Annual Accounts and Return.** It was NOTED that the external auditor had signed off the 2013/14 Annual Return, and a notice of conclusion of the audit and right to inspect had been displayed. The auditors had confirmed that relevant legislation and regulatory requirements had been met. The comments regarding the annual precept figure and the treatment of the petty cash float were noted, and would be addressed in the preparation of the 2014/15 annual return.

The audit fee of £720 was APPROVED for payment.

**14/98 Correspondence.** The letter dated 7 October 2014 from WSCC regarding faster broadband was noted.

C
C
JB IW/LC
C

There being no other business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.35 pm.

Chairman.....

Date.....