

## HASSOCKS PARISH COUNCIL

### Minutes of the Environment Committee Meeting held on 18 March 2014 at 7.34 pm in the Parish Centre, Adastra Park, Hassocks.

Present: Ian Weir (Chairman) Sue Hatton  
Leslie Campbell David Cumberland  
Darryl Sinclair Phil Mead (for items 1-9)

Clerk: Linda Baker

- 1. Apologies for Absence.** An apology for absence was received from Peter Gibbons. Absent without apology, Alan Berry.
- 2. Declarations of Interest.** None.
- 3. Minutes of the Meeting held on 3 February 2014.** The minutes were taken as read, agreed by the meeting, and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.
- 4. Community Energy Plan for Hassocks.** The Neighbourhood Plan Working Group, at its meeting on 26 February 2014 (minute 6 refers) agreed to ask the Environment Committee to consider proposals for a Community Energy Plan for Hassocks, and produce one for the village if appropriate. A report from the Hassocks, Hurstpierpoint, Keymer & Ditchling (HKD) Transition Group on energy in Hassocks had been circulated. The committee welcomed any initiatives to reduce energy consumption but noted that there would be difficulties in implementing some of the measures proposed by the HKD Transition Group, for example in relation to house building, where stringent energy efficiency measures were not mandatory on builders. The committee discussed the production of a Community Energy Plan, but agreed that the parish council did not have the powers, expertise or resources to develop an energy plan for the village. Councillors were all volunteers and the council was focussing on a number of issues like the Neighbourhood Plan, which were taking up considerable time and effort, and could not take on any other major projects at the moment.
- 5. Priority Issues for the WSCC Communities Issues List.** The Parish Council, at its meeting on 14 January 2014 (minute 14/4c refers) agreed that the Environment Committee should consider priority issues for the WSCC Communities Issues List, and put proposals to full council before September 2014 so that these could be taken up at the CLC by the County Councillor: It was RESOLVED that members would consider priorities for discussion at the next meeting, and that all councillors would be asked to submit ideas for priority issues for discussion.

All

6. **Tree Planting.** Phil Mead reported that 225 street trees had been planted since the initiative began in 2008, and a further 25 trees would be planted in 2014/15 in Friars Oak Road, Little Copse Road, Priory Road and Abbots Close, and planting in Mackie Avenue would be finished off. Letters had been sent out to residents by WSCC regarding the scheme. The price per tree, including planting, had increased to £150, but as the council had agreed a three year budget, this allowed more flexibility over the number of trees planted each year. Funding was also raised through donations from the public and collection boxes.
7. **Parking Working Group.** A meeting had been held on 27 February 2014 to review the recommendations made to WSCC , and County Councillor Andy Petch would be meeting the WSCC implementation team and representatives from the Parking Working Group on 23 April 2014. A meeting had been arranged with Robert Sue of Network Rail 20 March 2014 (since re-arranged to 27 March) to discuss parking at Hassocks Station, and Margaret Ford of the HAA Rail Group would be invited to attend. A meeting had been arranged for 20 March with Sue Rees and District Councillor Gary Marsh to discuss the MSDC aspects of the parking report.
8. **Finger Post Ockley Lane.** Installation had been delayed by the very wet winter, but it was hoped that the new post would be installed shortly.
9. **Public Rights of Way.** Leslie Campbell reported that work on footpath 12 K would be carried out within the next two months. Ian Weir suggested that there was a need to improve footpaths to allow all weather use, and that WSCC and landowners could play a part in this. He would discuss drawing up a possible list with Leslie Campbell.
10. **Street Furniture.** Ian Weir drew attention to the condition of the waste bin at the junction of Chancellors Park and Keymer Road. It was agreed that proposals for a replacement would be put to the next meeting,
11. **Date of Next Meeting.** 28 April 2014 at 7.30 pm.

IW

IW/LC

There being no other business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.37 pm

Chairman.....

Date.....