

## HASSOCKS PARISH COUNCIL

### Minutes of the Grounds Committee Meeting held on 24 September 2014 at 7.30 pm in the Parish Centre, Adastra Park, Hassocks.

Present: Steven Ecroyd (Chairman) Bill Hatton  
Chris Bere David Cumberland  
Leslie Campbell Paul King  
Murray Thomson

In attendance: Richard Higgs

Also present were two members members of the public.

Clerk: Linda Baker

1. **Apologies for Absence.** An apology for absence was received from Sue Hatton.
2. **Declarations of Interest.** Murray Thomson declared an interest in 7 (b) as an allotment holder, and Chris Bere declared an interest in item 4 (f) as he sponsored the Adastra Bowling Club.
3. **Minutes of the meeting held on 4 June 2014.** The minutes were taken as read, agreed by the meeting, and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.
4. **Adastra Park.**
  - a) **Community Pavilion.**
    - i) **Compliance with Hire Conditions.** The Committee discussed the unsatisfactory state the community pavilion was being left in by some hirers and the fact that damage was going unreported. It was RESOLVED that with effect from the 2015 season, all regular hirers of the pavilion would be charged a deposit of £300, payable before the commencement of the hire, which would be used to defray the costs of any damage or additional cleaning, or returned at the conclusion of the hire if the hire conditions had been met, and the pavilion left in a satisfactory state after each hiring.
    - ii) **Water to the Cricket Square.** It was RESOLVED that from the 2015 season, the cricket club would be charged for the water used on the cricket square, which could be calculated accurately from the internal meter installed for this purpose when the pavilion was built. The club would be informed of the decision.
  - b) **Relocation of the Entrance to the Children's Play Area.**  
RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND that the quotation from Simon Weller for new gates and a tarmac path, in the sum of £1,980 should be accepted, the cost to be met from the Grounds' contingency budget.

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- c) **Memorial Bench.** It was noted that the memorial bench for Jack Groves had been installed near the Adastra Bowling green.
  - d) **Plaques Under the Trees outside the Children's Play Area.** It was agreed that a notice would be placed near the trees, and that advice would be sought on the wording.
  - e) **Drainage Works, North Field.** It was noted that the work had been completed and a sign off meeting had been held on 8 September 2014. A claim would be made to MSDC in respect of grant funding for the work. MSDC had been asked to confirm what would happen to the balance of the developer funding allocated for this work. The advice from Bourne Amenity on follow up sand spreading and vertidrainng was noted. It was agreed that an alternative quotation would be obtained from Barcombe Landscapes for consideration at the next meeting.
  - f) **Adastra Bowling Club.** Correspondence from the Adastra Bowling Club regarding the east footpath, some sand and seed injection treatment a mower, and the irrigation system was considered. It was RESOLVED that the parish council would fund:  
 The cost of replacing the east path, in the sum of £1,820  
 Materials for the sand and seed injection treatment in the sum of £808  
 A contribution towards the cost of a new mower in the sum of £1,550.  
 The costs of the above to be met from the fees received from the Club. If any further funding was required by the Club in the current financial year, which exceeded the fees paid, the council would reduce the contribution for members' work, in accordance with the terms of the Agreement for Use of the Bowling Green.  
 The committee noted that the Adastra Bowling Club were looking into the possibility of replacing the irrigation system (letter dated 15 July 2014 refers).
  - g) **Play Equipment.** The engineering inspection report was noted. Remedial work was being carried out on the items identified.
  - h) **Memorial Garden.** The email from Penny Worth regarding the inscriptions in the garden was considered. It was agreed that rather than trying to restore the Memorial Garden as it had been in 1924, given the significant changes which had occurred since, it would be preferable to add some contemporary memorial which would be more durable. It was agreed that Downlands would be asked if their pupils could be involved in a design project, and Penny Worth would be asked if she would like to be involved, and whether the material she had collected could be used to inform the pupils of the background to the Memorial Garden and its significance.
5. **Hassocks Burial Ground.** RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND that the quotation from John Grisdale for the brickwork, in the sum of £380, and the quotation from Tilleys Stonemasons for the marble, in the sum of

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£1,784 for the marble, should be accepted, the cost to be met from the Burial Ground capital budget.

**6. Talbot Field.**

- a) **White Poplars.** RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND that the quotation from Bartletts Tree Experts for the installation of a root barrier along the hedge line with Honeywood, in the sum of £2,625, should be accepted, the cost to be taken from reserves.
- b) **Oak Tree.** RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND that the quotation from Bartlett's Tree Experts for surgery to the oak tree in the northern hedge line, and for planting two new oak trees, in the sum of £1,802 should be accepted, the cost to be taken from the tree maintenance reserve.

**7. Allotments.**

- a) **Splitting Half Plots.** Three requests from plot holders with half plots had been received to split their plots into quarters. After discussion it was RESOLVED that plot holders with half plots would be given the opportunity, at the tenancy renewal in October 2014, to give up half their plot, to be re-let as a quarter plot. No further splitting of plots would be permitted after October 2014, but the situation would be reviewed after a year or so, to keep a balance of plot sizes available.
- b) **Allotment Rent 2014/15.** RESOLVED that from 1 October 2014 the annual rental for a half plot would be £34, and for a quarter plot, £17. The charges (rounded up to the nearest pound) were calculated on the basis of:
  - £10 towards the capital cost of water installation
  - £5 towards water usage charges
  - £18.50 rent.
- c) **Report from the Hassocks Allotment Holders' Association.** Murray Thomson reported that in general the plots were maintained to a high standard, although two plot holders had had their tenancies terminated. An annual clear up day would be held, and consideration would be given to extending the hard standing for car parking, depending on the effectiveness of the plastic matting which had recently been installed. Murray Thomson and the HAHA were thanked for all their hard work, which had seen a dramatic improvement in the state of the allotments over recent years.

**8. Draft Budget 2015/16.** The draft budget for 2015/16 was approved for incorporation into the draft budget to be considered by full council, with the addition of £10,000 for the Adastra Memorial Garden, £10,000 for skatepark redevelopment, and £1,000 for the Adastra Bowling Green, to be taken from reserves.

**9. Date of Next Meeting** 12 November 2014 at 7.30 pm.

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There being no other business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.20 pm.

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