

## HASSOCKS PARISH COUNCIL

### Minutes of the Meeting of the Environment Committee held on 28 April 2014 at 7.30 pm in the Parish Centre, Adastra Park, Hassocks.

Present:     Ian Weir (Chairman)                     Peter Gibbons  
              Leslie Campbell                         Darryl Sinclair  
              Sue Hatton                                 Phil Mead

Clerk: Linda Baker

1. **Apology for Absence.** An apology for absence was received from Alan Berry.
2. **Declarations of Interest.** Darryl Sinclair declared a personal interest in item 9 as chair of the Light Up Hassocks Committee.
3. **Minutes of the Meeting held on 18 March 2014.** The minutes were taken as read, agreed by the meeting, and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.
4. **Priority Issues for the WSCC Communities Issues List.** It was agreed that the Hassocks Parking plan should take priority, and other items which could be included where:  
widening of the footway from Station Approach West to Stonepound, and from Stonepound to Clayton  
Traffic calming in Keymer Road  
Lodge Lane footpath for access to the South Downs  
Councillors would be asked for any other issues, and the committee would review the list at the next meeting, to establish a priority list to be submitted to the CLC.
5. **Tree Planting.** Phil Mead reported that there had been a very good response from residents this year wanting street trees, and a list of locations and tree varieties was being finalised which would be forwarded to WSCC. 41 trees would be planted at a cost of just over £6,000, from the three year budget of £10,000 allocated by the parish council. If the scheme continued to prove so popular, the council might be asked to review the level of funding.
6. **Parking Working Group.** Ian Weir had met County Councillor Andy Petch and two WSCC traffic engineers to go through the parking recommendations which fell within WSCC's remit, and WSCC would be putting recommendations out to consultation among residents. There would probably be an exhibition or display of some kind on the recommendations.  
A meeting had also taken place with Network Rail, who were looking at the possibility of creating additional parking at Hassocks Station.

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Ian Weir and District Councillor Gordon Marples had met with MSDC to discuss the layout of the Orion and Dale Avenue car parks to see if extra spaces could be added. There would be a further site meeting with Mark Hayler of MSDC at 10.30 am on 6 May 2014 to look at the proposals. MSDC had been very helpful in trying to implement the proposals developed from the parking survey.

7. **Finger Post Ockley Lane.** The contractor had confirmed on 25 April 2014 that the post should be installed in the next ten days.
8. **Village Centre Street Scene.** Members of the HAA had made various suggestions for planting in the village centre:
  - Keymer Road, outside the Sorting Office. The HAA would like to plant the pebbled area. The parish council had identified the management company responsible for this area on behalf of Royal Mail, and details would be passed to the HAA so they could contact the management company to obtain permission for their proposals.
  - West Side of Grand Avenue, outside Mansell McTaggart. The HAA were in negotiations with Mansell McTaggart and a landscape gardener regarding floral displays in this area, and had asked for the relocation of the concrete pots currently in situ. These planters had been relocated by WSCC when the new planters had been installed outside Budgens. It was agreed that a response would be sent saying that the parish council had no objection to the pots being moved by the HAA to the east side of the road, provided permission for relocating them was obtained from WSCC, the highway authority. The HAA would be asked for details of their proposed planting plant for the area outside Mansell McTaggart.
  - Circular raised bed around the finger post at the junction of Ockley Lane and Keymer Road. The committee were concerned that a raised bed around the post could rot the wood, so the HAA would be asked for more detail on what they were proposing.
9. **Light Up Hassocks.** The committee considered a report from LUH requesting funding to cover the cost of purchasing the lighting displays for LUH, or to cover the running costs for 2014. The committee were supportive of the LUH event, but concluded that insufficient detail had been provided on how the event would be run this year, the cost and other implications of buying or hiring the lights, and the predicted income and expenditure for the event in 2014, to enable the committee to make a recommendation to the parish council on funding. It was agreed that a meeting would be held on 21 May 2014 between Ian Weir, Sue Hatton and Darryl Sinclair, to discuss the

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event, when further detail would be provided, and the committee would reconsider the matter at its next meeting.

10. **Public Rights of Way.** Leslie Campbell reported that work on footpath 12k would commence shortly.
11. **Waste Bins.** Ian Weir had emailed MSDC on 11 April 2014 regarding the emptying of waste bins, and the fact that they were not being locked after emptying, and a response was awaited. It was agreed that it would be preferable to undertake a programme of replacing the bins in the village with a sturdy design that could be closed firmly without locking, and it was noted that proposals would be put to the committee later in the year, before the budget for 2015/16 was finalised.
12. **Parklands Copse.** A letter dated 10 April 2014 from the HAA regarding clearing the path through Parklands Copse was considered. It was noted that this was not a public right of way, and that there were a number of legal, cost and environmental issues to be considered before any decision was taken regarding clearing a pathway. As this was parish council land, Parklands Copse came within the responsibility of the Grounds Committee, so it was agreed that the issue would be raised at the next Grounds Committee meeting, with the proposal that a small working group should be formed to look at the issues involved before a recommendation was made to council.
13. **Date of Next Meeting.** 30 June 2014 at 7.30 pm.

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There being no other business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.15 pm.

Chairman.....

Date.....