

HASSOCKS PARISH COUNCIL

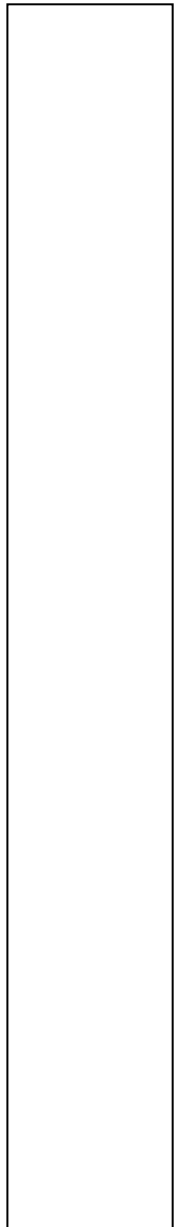
Minutes of the Environment Committee Meeting held on 3 February 2014 in the Parish Centre, Adastra Park, Hassocks.

Present: Ian Weir (Chairman for items 1-4, and 6-11)
Sue Hatton (Chairman for item 5)
Leslie Campbell
Peter Gibbons
Darryl Sinclair

Clerk: Linda Baker

Also present was one member of the public.

1. **Apologies for Absence.** Apologies for absence were received from Alan Berry, Phil Mead and David Cumberland.
2. **Declarations of Interest.** Darryl Sinclair declared an interest in item 4 as Chair of the Light Up Hassocks Committee. Ian Weir declared an interest in item 5 as a member of the Beacon Centre Committee.
3. **Minutes of the Meeting held on 18 November 2013.** The minutes were taken as read, agreed by the meeting, and signed by the Chairman as a correct record, with the addition under item 4 of a sentence "The main reason for the closure of the centre was the withdrawal of funding by WSCC".
4. **Light Up Hassocks.** Michelle Binks and Kate Bailey from Light Up Hassocks (LUH), and Catherine Cassidy from the Hassocks Community Partnership, joined the meeting for this item. The committee noted the report from the Chair of the LUH Committee and the Event Report on LUH on 29 November 2013, which had been circulated. The event had been very successful, and the committee expressed thanks to Michelle and Kate for their hard work in organising it. They were both stepping down from LUH, and Darryl Sinclair had taken over as Chair of LUH.
SSE Contracting Lighting Services, who were replacing the street lights in the village under a PFI contract, had confirmed that the attachments for the Christmas lights on the street lights in Keymer Road would be replaced on the new columns at no cost.
The LUH committee had accumulated a small surplus of approximately £3,300, but had difficulty each year in raising funding to pay for the lights. The Village Lottery would be making a contribution to the cost of the lights for 2014.
There were two aspects to LUH, funding the Christmas lights, and running the LUH evening event, which took a great deal of organisation.



The new LUH committee would be meeting on 24 February 2014 to discuss how the event could be taken forward in 2014. At the present time it was not clear how the event would be organised, or what funding would be required. It was agreed that the LUH Committee would come back to the Environment Committee when they had a clearer idea of how the event would be organised for 2014, and what funding would be required.

LUH

5. **Beacon Centre.** Bob Kenhard, Georgia Cheshire, Emma Weller and Ian Credland of the Beacon Centre Management Committee joined the meeting for this item. Sue Hatton took the chair as Ian Weir had declared an interest.

A Business Plan for 3 years from April 2014 had been circulated. The Open Day held on 12 October 2013 had been well supported, and a wide range of groups and organisations had expressed an interest in using the centre. There were currently a number of assumptions, and unknowns in the financial projections, and the centre would need to be financially viable to have a realistic future. It was clear that the centre could not be run by volunteers alone, some paid staff would be required, and the heating system also needed replacing. The success of the project would depend on a suitable licence being granted by WSCC, and this would also depend on the co-operation of the developer. Fund raising would also be a major issue.

The committee noted the progress being made by the Beacon Centre Management Committee in developing a business plan, and
RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND that the Parish Council support the project in principle.

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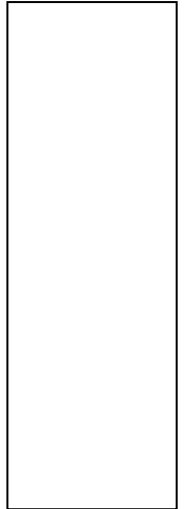
6. **Tree Planting.** There was nothing to report.
7. **Parking Working Group.** Ian Weir reported that a response had been received from Network Rail regarding car parking on the western side of the station, but their proposals needed further discussion. WSCC required some further details before taking the council's recommendations forward, and it was proving difficult to arrange a suitable meeting date with MSDC, but it was hoped to schedule a meeting shortly.
8. **Finger Post Ockley Lane.** Installation had been delayed by the weather, but it was hoped that the new post would be installed in February 2014.
9. **Public Rights of Way.** Leslie Campbell reported that:
- (i) **Footpath 12K.** WSCC had appointed contractors, and work should be carried out to improve the surface in April/May 2014.
 - (ii) **Footpath 5K.** This had been blocked following the storms on 24 December 2013. It appeared that some clearance had taken place, but had stopped, so the matter was being taken up with the WSCC Access Ranger.

IW

LC

10. Hassocks Traders' Association. The Parish Council, at its meeting on 10 December 2013 (minute 13/137 (a) refers) had asked the committee to consider a letter from the retiring president of the disbanded Hassocks Traders Association (HTA) suggesting that the council should invite the traders to a meeting. As none of the traders in the village had come forward to support the HTA, it was not thought that they were likely to attend a meeting organised by HPC to re-form a traders' association. It was agreed that the council would wait until the LUH committee had discussed the arrangements for LUH 2014 to see how the traders might be involved before considering approaching the traders.

11. Date of Next Meeting. 18 March 2014 at 7.30 pm.



There being no other business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.05 pm.

Chairman.....

Date.....