

HASSOCKS PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Grounds Committee Meeting held on 5 March 2014 at 7.30 pm in the Parish Centre, Adastra Park, Hassocks.

Present: Steven Ecroyd (Chairman) David Cumberland
 Bill Hatton Murray Thomson
 Alan Berry

Clerk: Linda Baker

Also present were Richard Higgs, Groundsman, and two members of the public.

1. **Apologies for Absence.** Apologies for absence were received from Chris Bere, who was unwell, Paul King, who had a work commitment, and Sue Hatton, who had a family commitment. In the absence of Chris Bere, Steven Ecroyd was appointed to chair the meeting.
2. **Declarations of Interest.** None.
3. **Minutes of the Meeting held on 18 September 2013.** The minutes were taken as read, agreed by the meeting, and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.
4. **Adastra Park.**
 - a) **Children's Play Area.** It was noted that the wetpour surfacing under the Kompan play equipment had been repaired, and the result was satisfactory.
 - b) **Cricket Balls.** The response from Zurich Insurance was noted. The hire terms for the Adastra Park would be reviewed to include reference to hirers needing to assess any potential risks to the public arising from their activities, and to minimise those risks.
 - c) **Conditions for Use of Adastra Park.** The conditions were APPROVED.
 - d) **Zurich Inspection Report.** The report was noted. The equipment defects had been dealt with. With regard to the adult fitness equipment, the suppliers would be asked to confirm if there was any risk of trapping hazards.
 - e) **Hedge Cutter.** The purchase of a new hedge cutter for the Groundsman was noted..
 - f) **Junior Football Pitches.** Steven Ecroyd expressed concern regarding over use of the mini pitches in Adastra Park by the Junior Football Club, which would lead to deterioration in the playing surface. The problem this winter had been mitigated by the very wet weather, which had led to the cancellation of a majority of

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matches, but this would be a recurring problem. It was
RESOLVED:

- (i) To ask MSDC if there could be a mini pitch at Belmont to take some of the games, and
 - (ii) That use of the pitches at Adastra would be reviewed by the committee at the end of the football season
- g) **Hassocks Croquet Club.** The request from the club to move lawn two next to the eastern boundary of the south field was APPROVED.
- h) **Adastra Bowling Club.** A letter dated 12 November 2013 from the Adastra Bowling Club regarding the east footpath was considered. Three quotations had been obtained by the parish council for replacing the footpath. RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND that the quotation from Simon Weller to replace the path should be accepted, and that the Bowling Club would be asked to contribute half the cost, the remainder to be taken from council reserves.
- i) **North Field Drainage.** Building work was expected to commence shortly at the Stafford House site, which would release the £20,837 agreed by the developers for improvement works to the north field in Adastra Park. Two indicative quotations had been received for drainage work in 2012.
RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND that the proposal from Bourne Amenity for drainage to the north field should be accepted. The company would be asked to update their quotation with a current price.
The committee would consider what, if anything, could be done to improve drainage in the south field as a separate exercise.
5. **Adastra Park Memorial Garden.** Proposals for refurbishing the Adastra Park Memorial Garden to mark the hundredth anniversary of the commencement of World War 1 were considered. It was RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND that;
- a) The council set aside a budget of £10,000 from reserves for the replanting and renovation of the Memorial Garden,
 - b) The quotation from Rooted Garden Services for renovation, clearance and replanting, in the sum of approximately £6,000 , be accepted,
 - c) The council set up a committee to oversee the project, and
 - d) That the council seeks to involve local schools to give pupils an understanding of the significance of the Memorial Garden and the events it commemorates.
6. **Hassocks Burial Ground.**
- (a) **Remedial Work on the Memorial Garden.** This had been carried out and the garden looked much tidier. Regular ongoing

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maintenance would be carried out by Rooted Garden Services as previously agreed.

(b) **Wood Mulch.** RESOLVED that the quotation to replenish the wood mulch in the Memorial Garden, in the sum of £447, would be accepted.

(c) **Memorial Wall.** It was noted that the Memorial Wall was almost full with inscriptions. RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND that a second wall should be installed, the cost to be met from the Burial Ground capital budget. It was agreed that committee members would visit the site before the next meeting to assess a suitable location and dimensions for a second wall before quotations were obtained, bearing in mind that there was space for at least 500 cremated remains to the north of the garden.

7. Parklands Road Allotments. Murray Thomson reported:

- A new Haha committee had been appointed, and he remained as Chairman for a further year,
- A Clear Up day had been held
- Plastic plates had been installed in the car parking area, and these would be grass seeded
- There had been some storm damage to sheds on the site
- There had been a problem with the main gates not closing, but the Parish office had arranged for repairs, which had been carried out satisfactorily
- The first inspection of the year would be carried out in April 2014, and Murray Thomson would contact Chris Bere to ask him to attend on behalf of the council.

8. Date of Next Meeting. 14 May 2014 at 7.30 pm.

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

Chairman.....

Date.....