

HASSOCKS PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 8 July 2014 at 7.30 pm in the Parish Centre, Adastra Park, Hassocks.

Present: David Cumberland (Chairman) Bill Hatton
Jane Baker Paul King
Chris Bere Darryl Sinclair
Steven Ecroyd Frank Rylance
Peter Gibbons Ian Weir
Sue Hatton Penny Wadsworth

Clerk: Linda Baker

Also present were District Councillor Gordon Marples and one member of the public.

14/63 Apologies for Absence. Apologies for absence were received from Leslie Campbell, who was away, and Judith Foot. County Councillor Andy Petch sent his apologies as he was unwell.

14/64 Declarations of Interest. None.

The meeting was adjourned for public participation. A note of the comments from the public is attached at attachment 1.

14/65 Minutes of the Meeting held on 10 June 2014. The minutes were taken as read, agreed by the meeting, and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

14/66 Minutes and Reports.

a) **Police Report.** There was no report.

b) **District Councillors' Report.**

Gordon Marples reported on :

- Travellers. Travellers had been active in the District, but the police were taking a more pro-active approach, and work was progressing on permanent and transit sites. MSDC had a surplus of £100,000 from prudent financial management and this would be used partly for protecting against traveller incursions on MSDC facilities.
- Public Sector Strike, 10 July 2014. It was not known what impact this might have but management were putting contingencies in place.

Sue Hatton reported that she had attended a meeting of the MSDC Air Quality Management Working Group on 8 July 2014, when measures to mitigate the air quality issues at Stonepound Crossroads had been discussed. Various options were being pursued, and the group would meet again in December 2014.

c) **County Councillor's Report.** There was no report.

- d) **Planning Committee Meeting 23 June 2014.** The minutes were noted.
- e) **Grounds Committee Meeting 4 June 2014.** The minutes were noted.
- f) **Environment Committee Meeting 30 June 2014.** The minutes were noted.

WSCC Communities Issues List

It was RESOLVED that the following items would be put forward to the WSCC Communities Issues List as priorities for Hassocks:

- Improvements to the footway along the north side of Keymer Road from the mini roundabout at Station Approach East to Stonepound Crossroads,
- Traffic Calming along Keymer Road from Budgens eastward to The Crescent
- A footway along Lodge Lane south of Dale Avenue to New Road, and
- Improvements to the footway west of the South Downs Garden Centre along the A273 to the Jack and Jill pub

Parklands Copse

Ian Weir reported that a working group of members of the Grounds and Environment Committees had carried out a site visit, and discussed the possibility of improving the path through Parklands Copse, which was not a public right of way. As a first step it was proposed to investigate the permissive access in the field adjoining the copse and to have an ecological survey carried out.

I It was RESOLVED that, with regard to the informal path through Parklands Copse,

- It would be established if there was still a permissive path round the adjoining field, as it appeared that this may have lapsed in 2010, and whether the permissive access would remain for at least another 5 years,
- The landowner of the adjoining field would be approached to seek his views on any proposal to improve the path through Parklands Copse and the increased footfall this could generate, and
- If the permissive path was being retained and the landowner had no comments, a report would be commissioned from a CIEEM Ecologist, at a cost of no more than £750, the cost to be met from reserves.

g) **Rail Matters.** There was nothing to report.

h) **Report from Councillors on Meetings of Outside Bodies.**

Green Crescent. Bill Hatton had attended a walk to see the work which had been carried. This was a very impressive MSDC project, and had created a high quality environment.

14/67 Chairman's Remarks. There were no issues to raise.

14/68 Clerk's Report. There were no issues to raise.

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14/69 Councillor Resignation. It was noted that Alan Berry had resigned from the parish council. It was RESOLVED to declare a vacancy, which would be advertised in accordance with the Local Government Act 1972.

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14/70 Grounds Committee. It was RESOLVED that Paul King and Leslie Campbell are appointed as members of the Grounds Committee.

14/71 Financial Report. The Financial Report and list of cheques presented for June 2014 were approved and the Chairman was authorised to sign them.

14/72 Parish Office Computers. The parish office computers were six years old, and ran on Windows XP and Outlook Express, which were no longer supported, so there was a need to upgrade the equipment. A quotation for a replacement system was considered. The work would need to be done in August 2014 as this was the only month in which the office could be closed to enable the installation to take place without affecting the work of the parish council. After discussion it was RESOLVED:

- that the existing equipment should be replaced at a cost of not more than £6,000, the cost to be met from reserves
- that a second quotation would be obtained, and
- that the Chairman and Frank Rylance, in consultation with the Clerk, would decide on the best value quotation, with the installation to take place in August 2014.

DC/FR/C

14/73 MSDC Community Service Awards. RESOLVED that the Parish Council would nominate Mavis Flowers and Michelle Binks for 2014.

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14/74 Age Concern Minibus. RESOLVED that the council would like the Windmills logo and the name of the Parish Council to be included on the bus in recognition of the grant contribution.

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14/75 Correspondence: Airports Commission Discussion Paper.

RESOLVED that the council would respond to the email from MSDC dated 3 July 2014 favouring the second option, that any proposal should be dealt with through the Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects procedure.

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

Chairman.....

Date.....

HASSOCKS PARISH COUNCIL, 8 JULY 2014.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.

Shaun Phillips commented, on Parklands Copse, items 4 (m) & (n) on the agenda, that she could not understand why the council were proposing to spend money on an ecological survey when there were people locally who could do this. The permitted access on the adjoining field ended in September 2010 according to the sign displayed there, so there was no point in putting in a pathway to a dead end. There was only one plant of any ecological merit in Parklands Copse, the golden saxifrage.