

## HASSOCKS PARISH COUNCIL

### Minutes of the Grounds Committee Meeting held on 4 June 2014 at 7.30 pm in the Parish Centre, Adastra Park, Hassocks.

Present: Steven Ecroyd (Chairman) Sue Hatton  
Chris Bere Bill Hatton  
Murray Thomson

In attendance: Leslie Campbell, Ian Weir, and two members of the public.

Clerk: Linda Baker

1. **Apologies for Absence.** There were no apologies for absence. Absent without apology, David Cumberland.
2. **Appointment of Chairman.** Steven Ecroyd was appointed Chairman for 2014/15.
3. **Declarations of Interest.** Chris Bere declared an interest in item 5 (f) as a sponsor of the Adastra Bowling Club.
4. **Minutes of the Meeting held on 5 March 2014.** The minutes were taken as read, agreed by the meeting, and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.
5. **Adastra Park.**
  - a) **Junior Football Pitches: Charging and Use in Summer.** It was noted that the Hassocks Junior Football Club had not been notifying the council of use of the pitches in the Adastra Park for training sessions during the winter, and were continuing to train through the summer. It was RESOLVED that the club would be charged the normal fee for use of the pitch, currently £26.40, for each training session, and these should be booked in advance through the Parish Office. The club would not be permitted to use the south field in the summer, and would not be able to use the north field while the drainage work was being carried out.
  - b) **Review of Use of Pitches at Adastra Park.** The wet winter weather had meant that the football pitches in the south field had suffered heavy wear, and it was therefore agreed that for next season an additional mini pitch should be put in next to the current pitch, near the pavilion, running north-south, and that play should be rotated between the two.
  - c) **Children's Play Area: Entrance.** The present entrance to the children's play area, by the double gates on the west side, becomes very muddy in winter. It was very difficult to find a suitable drainage solution to the problem, so it was agreed that quotations would be obtained for putting a second entrance on the north side, with a

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single gate, wide enough for a double buggy, with a child proof latch, and tarmac path to the footpath. These would be considered at the next meeting. If two entrances were created, the west entrance would be padlocked shut in winter, and the north entrance would be padlocked shut in summer for safety reasons.

- d) **Memorial Bench.** The request for a memorial bench was agreed, the bench to be sited at the corner of the bowls club hedge, where a previous bench had been removed.
  - e) **Trees, Outside Children's Play Area.** The committee discussed various options regarding the plaques under the trees in the children's play area. The Burgess Hill maintenance team would be contacted again to ask whether it would be possible to cut through the concrete plinths at ground level, and what this would cost.
  - f) **Adastra Bowling Club.** It was noted that the meeting on 29 May 2014 had been cancelled. The Bowling Club had suggested two alternative dates in July 2014 for a meeting, and members' availability would be canvassed.
  - g) **Adult Fitness Equipment.** The response from SMP was noted, and it was noted that a sign had now been erected making it clear that the equipment should not be used by children.
  - h) **Drainage Works, North Field.** It was noted that the drainage works would be carried out after 8 June 2014.
  - i) **Hassocks Croquet Club.** The letter dated 12 April 2014 from the Hassocks Croquet Club was considered, together with associated correspondence. It was agreed that the charges levied by the parish council for the two croquet lawns and use of the pavilion were very reasonable, and compared very favourably with the fees paid by other sports clubs who used the Adastra Park. It was RESOLVED that the charges notified to the club in a letter dated 24 April 2014 were confirmed, and that the club would be notified of the decision.
6. **Burial Ground.**
- a) **Second Memorial Wall.** It was RESOLVED that quotations would be obtained for a second memorial wall, the same dimensions as the existing wall, with marble for inscriptions on both sides, to be sited parallel to the existing wall, approximately two metres away, so that both sides of the wall could be use for memorials.
  - b) **Request for an Additional Path.** The email from a resident requesting additional paths in the burial ground was considered. It was agreed that, as the burial ground was in a rural location, and the concept had been to keep it as a natural looking space, in keeping with its surroundings, it would not be appropriate to add additional paths.
  - c) **Pre-Purchase of Cremation Space.** It was agreed that refunds on pre-purchased grave spaces, or cremated ashes plots, would be

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made, on request, if the spaces were unused, but that an administration charge would be made, in accordance with the administrative charge currently levied for alterations to deeds etc.

**7. Allotments.**

**a) Report from the HAHA.** Murray Thomson reported on:

- Allotment inspections. Letters had been sent to allotment holders who were not maintaining their plots, and one plot holder had been given notice, but in general the standard was high.
- A dangerous tree had been removed as an emergency, on the authorisation of the Committee Chairman. Two quotations had been obtained, and the cheapest had been accepted.
- The padlock on the gate had been vandalised on 2 June 2014, but it appeared that nothing had been taken from the site. The matter had been reported to the police and a new padlock had been fitted.
- There had been some complaints from local residents regarding bonfire smoke, but on investigation it appeared that this had not come from the allotment site. It was agreed that any future complaints should be rebutted if the allotment holders were not involved.
- Water Charges. The HAHA would like some indication of water charges for the year. The council were having some difficulty with the water companies getting up to date bills, but would notify the HAHA as soon as possible when accurate billing had been obtained.

**b) Parklands Copse.** The Environment Committee had discussed the possibility of clearing the path through the Parklands Copse, which was not a public right of way. It was agreed that a small working group would be set up to look at the legal, environmental, health and safety and cost implications of any work on the path.

RESOLVED that Chris Bere and Bill Hatton would represent the Grounds Committee on the working group.

**8. Date of Next Meeting. 24 September 2014 at 7.30 pm.**

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There being no other business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.25 pm.

Chairman.....

Date.....