

HASSOCKS PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held on 13 October 2015 at 7.30 pm in the Parish Centre, Adastra Park, Hassocks.

Present:	Ian Weir (Chairman)	Sue Hatton
	Leslie Campbell	Bill Hatton
	Ian Credland	Nick Owens
	Justine Fisher	Darryl Sinclair
	Frances Gaudencio	Peter Gibbons

Clerk: Linda Baker

Also present were District Councillor Gordon Marples, County Councillor Andy Petch (for item 4 (c)), and two members of the public.

15/105 Apologies for Absence. Apologies for absence were received from Jane Baker, who was unwell, and Carol Wise who was having an operation. Absent without apology, Victoria Standfast.

15/106. Declarations of Interest. Sue Hatton and Darryl Sinclair declared an interest in item 11 as members of the Hassocks WI.

The meeting was adjourned for public participation, but there were no questions from the public.

15/107 Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 8 September 2015 and the Extra-Ordinary Meeting held on 22 September 2015. The minutes were taken as read, agreed by the meeting, and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

15/108 Reports.

(a) Police Report. There was no police report.

(b) District Councillor's Report. District Councillor Gordon Marples reported on:

- **District Plan.** MSDC had appointed a very experienced planning barrister to assist with the District Plan, and his advice was that MSDC needed to revisit the housing numbers to be included as the current figure of 656 dwellings per year in the plan period was unlikely to be accepted as sufficient by a planning inspector. It was too early to say what impact a higher figure would have on existing and developing Neighbourhood Plans. It was hoped that a revised figure could be put to the District Council in November 2015 for approval, and that the change would not affect the current timetable.
- **Triangle, Flumes.** The water rides at the Triangle Leisure Centre were 14-15 years old and had developed problems. They had been taken out of commission while engineers assessed the situation, and negotiations were underway with contractors as to how they could be replaced.

- **Car, Lodge Lane.** A resident had complained about a car parked in Lodge Lane in an inappropriate place, but the car was taxed and insured and there was little which could be done about it.
- **Meals on Wheels.** The service had been withdrawn in Hassocks which would have a detrimental impact on older residents.

(c) County Councillor's Report. County Councillor Andy Petch reported on:

- **Windmills School.** He had attended the opening of the refurbished classrooms.
- **Merging of Services.** WSCC were discussing the proposal from the Police and Crime Commissioner to merge the fire police and ambulance services, at a meeting on 16 October 2015, but were unlikely to support the proposal.
- **Fire Service.** He had written to WSCC to express concern regarding fire coverage in Mid Sussex.
- **Budget.** WSCC were holding an extra ordinary meeting on 30 October 2015 to discuss the budget for 2016/17 and council approval was likely to be sought to borrow to meet a shortfall in funding.
- **CLC Meeting.** The Hassocks traffic and parking scheme had been discussed, and while WSCC had confirmed that it was funded, it was not being given priority and had not yet been included in the WSCC Infrastructure Priority scheme with a start date. Andy hoped that local residents would attend the next CLC meeting to continue to put pressure on WSCC to bring this scheme forward.
- **Hassocks Infants.** Andy was pursuing a case of a local resident who could not get funding for travel for a 4 year old child who could not get a place at Hassocks Infants. On the question of school places, County Councillor Jeremy Hunt wished to meet the parish council to discuss the possible location of a new infant school. Councillor Ian Credland reported that he had been in correspondence with WSCC in the last few days regarding school provision and the matter would be discussed at the Neighbourhood Plan Working Group meeting on 15 October 2015, which Andy Petch was encouraged to attend.
- **TRO Dale Avenue.** It was reported that the TRO for Dale Avenue had not been published. Andy would take this up with WSCC Highways.

d) Planning Committee Meetings 7 and 28 September 2015.

The minutes were noted.

e) Grounds Committee Meeting 21 September 2015. The minutes were noted.

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(i) Skatepark. The Committee had discussed refurbishing or replacing the skatepark in Adastra Park following representations by local young people and councillors had visited the facility in Henfield which was well used by a range of ages as an example of what could be provided. The issue of gender balance was raised as it was suggested that a skatepark might not be the type of facility favoured by girls, and it was also suggested that other facilities might be incorporated in any new facility, like the Level leisure area in Brighton which incorporated a café, paddling pool etc and had become a centre of activity.

It was RESOLVED that the Grounds Committee should look at the possibility of refurbishing or replacing the skatepark in Adastra Park and put proposals to the parish council, taking account of the comments made in discussion, and that the council would look at other initiatives for facilities for young people as they came forward.

(ii) Trees Adastra Park. RESOLVED that the quotation from James Wilson in the sum of £2,200 for work on the trees in Adastra Park should be accepted.

f) Neighbourhood Plan Working Group Meetings 3 and 10 September and 1 October 2015. The minutes were noted. The Chairman expressed his thanks to the Group for all the work they had done on the Neighbourhood Plan.

g) Environment Committee Meeting 14 September 2015. The minutes were noted.

h) Rail Matters. Leslie Campbell reported that the Rail Group were hoping to arrange a meeting in October/November 2015 as the management of the new franchisee was now in place.

i) Meetings of Outside Bodies where the Parish Council is represented. None.

j) Report from the South Downs National Park Exhibition 12 September 2015. The report was noted.

15/109 Chairman's Remarks. The Chairman reported that a presentation would be made to the Clerk at 2.00 pm on Wednesday 28 October 2015, and all councillors were invited to attend. A Policy, Resources and Communications Committee Meeting was being held on 14 October 2015 at 7.30 pm, and an Extra-Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council would be held on 22 October at 7.30 pm to consider the appointment of a new Clerk and interim arrangements.

15/110. Clerk's Report. There were no issues to raise.

15/111. Financial Report. The financial report and list of cheques presented for September 2015 were approved and the Chairman was authorised to sign them.

15/112. Annual Return. It was noted that the External Auditor had signed off the Annual Return and Accounts for 2014/15, and the audit fee of £720 was approved for payment.

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