HASSOCKS PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held on 14 April 2015 at 7.30 pm in the Parish Centre, Adastra Park, Hassocks.

Present: David Cumberland (Chairman) Jane Baker Chris Bere Leslie Campbell Ian Credland Steven Ecroyd

Judith Foot Peter Gibbons Sue Hatton **Bill Hatton** Darryl Sinclair Ian Weir

Clerk: Linda Baker

Also present were District Councillor Gordon Marples and three members of the public.

15/19 Apologies for Absence. Apologies for absence were received from Frank Rylance and Penny Wadsworth. Absent without apology, Paul King. County Councillor Andy Petch had also sent apologies.

15/20 Declarations of Interest. Ian Weir declared an interest in item 9 as one of the quotations for work on the copse was from his son-in-law, of MD Garden Contracting.

Public Participation. There were no questions from the public.

15/21 Minutes of the Meetings held on 10 February and 10 March 2015. The minutes were taken as read, agreed by the meeting, and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

15/22 Reports.

- a) Police Report. There was no police report. An email dated 8 April 2015 from Jane Baker had been circulated reporting on the 19 March 2015 Police Panel Meeting. Changes brought about by budget cuts would affect local policing, and it was likely that the Police Panel Meetings would be discontinued, but the picture should be clearer at the next panel meeting on 21 May 2015.
- b) District Councillors' Report. The last MSDC meeting before the election would be held on 15 April 2015, when the West Hoathly Neighbourhood Plan would be submitted for approval having passed a referendum. Christopher Snowling was retiring after over 40 years' service as an elected member of MSDC and its predecessor authority, although he was continuing as a parish councillor for Lindfield.
- c) County Councillor's Report. A report had been circulated and was noted.
- d) Planning Committee Meeting 23 March 2015. The minutes were noted.
- e) Grounds Committee Meeting 11 March 2015. The minutes were noted.

- f) Policy, Resources and Communications Meeting 17 March 2015. The minutes were noted.
- g) Neighbourhood Plan Working Group Meetings 16 and 26 March 2015. The minutes were noted.
- h) Rail Matters. Peter Gibbons had been to a meeting with Southern Rail earlier in the day with regard to the timetable changes coming into force in May 2015. There were further cuts in service on the Brighton line, but these did not affect Hassocks, but there had been some revision to the timing of some services.
- i) Meetings of Outside Bodies. The Chairman had met Fred Maillardet of the HAA, at his request, to discuss the problem of the lack of volunteers coming forward to support community groups and others in the village. The parish council members for May 2015 onwards had been elected in an uncontested election and no members of the public had attended the open sessions held for prospective councillors, so the issue was one for the parish council as well. Members discussed causes and possible solutions, but it was accepted that this was a national problem, partly brought about by social change, and that therefore it was not an issue the parish council could resolve. It was suggested that the U3A which was active in the village might be able to provide some volunteers, and that the HAA might consider organising a volunteering event. The

Chairman would write to Fred Maillardet outlining the discussion. **15/23 Chairman's Remarks.** The Chairman wished to thank council members for their work over the last four years as this was the last full meeting of the present council before the 7 May 2015 elections. He paid tribute to those councillors who were standing down, Chris Bere who joined the council in 2008 and had chaired the Grounds Committee, Frank Rylance who also joined in 2008 and had been a particular support on IT and the website, Paul King who joined in 2011 and chaired the Neighbourhood Plan Working Group, Penny Wadsworth, who joined in 2011 and had written the monthly TalkAbout column, and Steven Ecroyd, who joined in 2013 and was chair of the Grounds Committee. He congratulated those councillors who had been re-elected to serve for a further four years.

15/24 Clerk's Report. The Clerk reported that Pat Elliott would be retiring on 21 April 2015 as an office assistant, and that councillors were welcome to attend the Parish Office at 12.00 noon on that day to mark the event.

15/25 Financial Report. The financial report and list of cheques presented were approved and the Chairman was authorised to sign them.

15/26 Neighbourhood Plan Funding and Administration. A proposal for further funding and administrative support for the preparation of the Neighbourhood Plan was considered. It was RESOLVED that ;

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a) a further £15,000 would be set aside from reserves, in addition to the	
£25,500 already budgeted for the production of the Neighbourhood	с
Plan, and	•
b) that consideration would be given to using a self-employed	
administrative assistant for approximately one day per week, extra	
administrative assistance from DowsettMayhew, and overtime	
working by parish office staff when available, or a combination of	
these resources, to support the Neighbourhood Plan. The Chairman	
of the Parish Council and the Chairman of the Neighbourhood Plan	
Working Group would agree what resources would be used, and the	DC/IC
cost.	
15/27 Parklands Copse. Ian Weir introduced a proposal from the	
Environment and Grounds Committees for the creation of an all-weather	
path through Parklands Copse. Three quotations had been obtained for	
tree clearance and work on the path. After discussion it was	
RESOLVED that:	
a) the quotation from Roots Upwards for tree clearance in the sum of	
£1,520 excluding VAT should be accepted,	
b) the quotation from MD Garden Contracting for the path in the sum of	
£5,670 should be accepted, provided it was clarified that this covered	C
the whole length of the path 1.2m wide, to the same specification as	
the other quotations	
c) the Monday Group to be asked to construct the bridges and	
boardwalk at a cost of up to £5,000 for materials, and	
d) advice would be sought from the Sussex Wildlife Trust on the timing	C
of the tree clearance to minimise the impact on wildlife.	
15/28 Financial Regulations. The Financial Regulations had been	
reviewed by the Policy, Resources and Communications Committee.	
RESOLVED that the Financial Regulations, as revised were adopted.	C
15/29 Code of Conduct. It was proposed to revise the Code of Conduct	
to bring it into line with the Code for District and County Councillors.	
RESOLVED that the revised Code, as previously circulated, was	С
adopted.	
15/30 Correspondence.	
a) Land Parcel at London Road, Hassocks. The response from the	
Secretary of State declining to call in application AP/14/0052 was	
noted.	
b) MSDC Young Volunteer of the Year Award 2015. The details from	
MSDC were noted.	

There being no other business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.40 pm.

Chairman	Date