

HASSOCKS PARISH COUNCIL**Minutes of the Meeting held on 14 July 2015 at 7.30 pm in the Parish Centre, Adastra Park, Hassocks.**

Present: Ian Weir (Chairman for items 1-4 (g) and 4 (i) – 19)
Bill Hatton (Chairman for item (4 (h))
Jane Baker
Leslie Campbell
Ian Credland
Justine Fisher
Judith Foot
Frances Gaudencio
Peter Gibbons
Sue Hatton
Darryl Sinclair
Victoria Standfast (For items 4-19)
Carol Wise.

Clerk; Linda Baker

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

15/49. Apologies for Absence. An apology for absence was received from David Cumberland, who had a work commitment. In his absence the Vice-Chairman, Ian Weir, chaired the meeting. Absent without apology, Nick Owens. An apology was also received from District Councillor Kevin Burke.

15/50. Declarations of Interest. Ian Weir declared a personal interest in item 4 (h), Parklands Copse path, as one of the quotations for consideration had been submitted by his son-in-law.

Public Participation. The meeting was adjourned for public participation. A note of the comments and questions is attached at attachment 1.

15/51. Minutes of the Meeting held on 9 June 2015. The minutes were taken as read, agreed by the meeting, and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

15/52. Reports.

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

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

- A new MSDC Head of Service for Information Technology had been appointed and MSDC were spending over £1m in modernising their IT systems.
- MSDC would be considering a paper on the Community Infrastructure Levy at the meeting on 22 July 2015. Details were available on the MSDC website.

- MSDC's reserves had improved, and the district were considering investing £4m of reserves into an infrastructure fund with a 5% yield, as it needed to develop income from other sources as government grant was being reduced.
 - It was likely that arrangements will have been made by the end of the year to extend the dog bin waste collection service which would enable parishes to provide additional bins if they wanted to.
- (c) County Councillor's Report.** There was no County Councillor's report.
- (d) Planning Committee Meetings 15 June and 6 July 2015.** The minutes were noted.
- (e) Neighbourhood Plan Working Group Meetings 11 and 25 June 2015.** It was pointed out that the minutes of the 11 June 2015 meeting, item 3 refers, indicated that the minutes of the 28 May 2015 meeting had been marked up for amendment to be signed at the 25 June 2015 meeting. The amended minutes had not been circulated. The Chairman of the Neighbourhood Plan Working Group confirmed that a signed copy of the revised minutes of the 28 May 2015 had been given to the Clerk just prior to the council meeting. It was also suggested that as the minutes were a matter of public record, the use of jargon and initials, as an example SIC, should be avoided as they might not be familiar to readers. It was agreed that in future any technical terms etc would be spelt out in full in the text for clarity. The minutes were noted.
- (f) Environment Committee Meeting 30 June 2015.** The minutes were noted.
- (g) Litter Bins.** It was RESOLVED that two new litter bins would be purchased and installed at a cost of £988 plus VAT to complete the replacement of the bins in the village.
- (h) Parklands Copse Path.** Ian Weir left the council chamber for consideration of this item and Bill Hatton took the chair. Revised quotations for work on the path had been obtained as the quotations considered at the 14 April 2015 parish council meeting (minute 15/27 (b) refers) had not been prepared on a like-for-like basis, and it had also subsequently transpired that further levelling work would be required to enable the Monday Group to construct a boardwalk. After consideration it was RESOLVED that the revised quotation from MD Contracting, in the sum of £8,830, should be accepted for footpath remediation in Parklands Copse, the cost to include some levelling of the middle section prior to work being carried out by the Monday Group, the cost to be taken from reserves.
- (i) Rail Matters.** There were no matters to report as the rail group had not had a meeting.
- (j) Meetings of Outside Bodies where the parish council is represented. Green Circle.** Leslie Campbell had been unable to attend the walk about at Bedelands Nature Reserve due to an

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accident, but he had a copy of the minutes of the last meeting if members wanted to read them.

15/53 Chairman's Remarks.

(a) Neighbourhood Plan Consultation Event, 10 & 11 July 2015.

Councillors and Neighbourhood Plan Working Group members involved in the event were thanked for their efforts, and both sessions had gone very well. The Department for Communities and Local Government Notes on Neighbourhood Planning, July 2015 edition, which had been circulated to councillors, reported that 75 Neighbourhood Plan referendums had now taken place. As there were approximately 10,500 town and parish councils in England, this represented less than 1%, so Hassocks was comparatively well advanced in the preparation of a Neighbourhood Plan.

(b) Queen's 90th Birthday. Plans had been announced for a street party in London on 12 June 2016 as the culmination of a week of events to mark the Queen's 90th birthday, and it was suggested that thought should be given as to whether Hassocks wished to do anything as a parish to mark the occasion.

(c) Standing Orders. The Chairman and Vice-Chairman had agreed that a copy of the Standing Orders should be re-issued to all councillors, which had been done, as a reminder of the rules governing the conduct of business. Councillors could refer to them when they wanted to bring forward any items for consideration.

(d) Operation Watershed. WSCC had given grant funding to the Hassocks Amenity Association to meet the cost of flooding alleviation measures which were currently being considered.

15/54 Clerk's Report. There were no items to raise.

15/55 Financial Report. The financial report and list of cheques presented for June 2015 were approved and the Chairman was authorised to sign them.

15/56 Parish Office Lighting. Three quotations were considered and it was RESOLVED that the quotation from Advanced Electrical in the sum of £655 plus VAT should be accepted to replace the parish office lighting with LED light fittings.

15/57 Neighbourhood Plan Consultation Event, 10 & 11 July 2015. The events had been successful, the level of attendance at 444 had been good, the closing date for response forms was 17 July 2015, and analysis of the forms had commenced. Some councillors expressed concern that while the Chairman and the Vice-Chairman had attended the 10 July event, neither had been able to be present on 11 July as the consultation had coincided with the Hassocks Amenity Association's (HAA) Spitalford Bridge event, and it was suggested that the Neighbourhood Plan should have taken priority in support of the Working Group. The Vice-Chairman explained that the invitation to the HAA event had been accepted before the date had been agreed for the consultation events, and that he had been asked to speak at the former.

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15/58 Extra-ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council to agree Site Selection for the Neighbourhood Plan.

A date and venue for the meeting was discussed. The Neighbourhood Plan Working Group (NPWG) had recommended that an extra-ordinary meeting of the parish council should be convened to decide on site allocation as it would not be possible to consider this adequately in a routine monthly meeting. It was suggested that October 2015 would be too late to make the site selection, but that holding the meeting on 15 September 2015 might not allow sufficient time for all the information to be assembled and considered and recommendations made by the NPWG, given that some members were away during the summer. It was suggested that the Adastra Hall would be the preferable venue, but the main hall was not available on Tuesdays including the 15 September 2015.

It was RESOLVED that an Extra-Ordinary meeting of the parish council would be convened for Tuesday 22 September 2015 at 7.30 pm in the main hall at Downlands, if it was available, and, if not, the provisional booking for Downlands for 15 September 2015 at 7.30 pm would be confirmed.

It was agreed that it was very important to have an informed debate on the site selection at the meeting, and that councillors would need to study all the material and recommendations thoroughly in advance of the meeting. It was suggested that councillors should also ensure that they visited every site under consideration so that they had a full understanding of the geography and issues arising on each site.

Dale Mayhew had given guidance to the NPWG on site selection, and a copy would be sent to the Clerk for circulation to all councillors.

15/59. Application DM/15/0626, Local Community Infrastructure. An email dated 1 July 2015 from MSDC regarding application DM/15/0626/ Land at Friars Oak, London Road, Hassocks, and the local community infrastructure payment was considered. The types of projects which could be considered were listed in the Development and Infrastructure Supplementary Planning Document and included allotments, burial grounds, cycle tracks, or enhancements of the public realm, and there needed to be a clear link between the development and the infrastructure requests. RESOLVED that the projects which would be put forward were improvements to the Belmont Recreation Ground to provide enhanced facilities for young people, and the creation of a cycle path between local villages.

15/60 Youth Parliament/Youth Committee. Justine Fisher circulated proposals for a Hassocks Youth Parliament/Committee to encourage stronger connections between the community and young people living in the village. The Headteacher and Chair of Governors of Downlands were supportive of the idea. The group would be self-managing, self-funding and would encourage young people to become involved in activities in the village. RESOLVED that Justine Fisher should set up a Youth Parliament/Committee in collaboration with Downlands, reporting back to the Policy, Resources and Communications Committee.

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15/61 MSDC Community Service Awards. RESOLVED that the council would nominate Georgia Cheshire and Jo Lambe to attend the Community Service Awards 2015.

15/62 Local Government Boundary Commission Review. The letter dated 23 June 2015 was considered. RESOLVED that a response would be sent indicating that the council would wish to see Clayton kept as part of the Hassocks electoral division, but would suggest that Victoria ward in Burgess Hill was not linked with Hassocks, to be replaced by an adjacent small parish such as Pyecombe.

15/63 MSDC Draft Hackney Carriage and Private Licensing Policy. The draft policy was considered and it was RESOLVED that Peter Gibbons would review the provisions on driver training and disabled passengers, and forward any comments to the Clerk, who would respond to MSDC.

15/64 Aداstra Bowling Club, Request for Fertiliser. It was RESOLVED that the request for top dressing in the sum of £888, plus VAT was approved, and the Bowling Club could proceed with the order.

15/65 Press Releases. It was RESOLVED that the Policy, Resources and Communications Committee would review the council’s policy on press releases and make recommendations to council.

15/66 Correspondence.

Downlands Dance Studio. The letter of thanks dated 10 June 2015 from Downlands regarding support for the grant application for a dance studio at the school was noted.

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There being no other business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.30 pm.

Chairman.....

Date.....