

HASSOCKS PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Environment Committee meeting held on Monday 20 April 2015 at 7.30 pm in the Parish Centre, Adastra Park, Hassocks.

Present: Ian Weir (Chairman) Darryl Sinclair
 Leslie Campbell Penny Wadsworth
 Peter Gibbons Phil Mead

Clerk: Tracy Bates

1. **Apologies for Absence.** Apologies for absence were received from Sue Hatton.
2. **Declarations of Interest.** None.
3. **Minutes of the Meeting held on 12 February 2015.** The minutes were taken as read, agreed by the meeting, and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.
4. **Tree Planting.** Phil Mead reported that:
 - Street tree letters had been sent out by WSCC to residents of Adastra Avenue, Friars Close and Windmill Avenue with the deadline for registering an interest being 15 May 2015. After the deadline, interested residents will be contacted by members of the Tree Group to discuss tree choice.
 - There are sufficient funds for 20 trees this year, some planting may have to be postponed until next year depending on the uptake for trees.
 - Jim Mellor the arboriculturalist for WSCC had noted that there are two diseased Cherries in Windmill Avenue which will need to be removed.
 - It was mentioned that Windmill Avenue suffers from some traffic congestion which causes vehicles to mount pavements, this might need to be noted in the allocation/placing of trees.
 - Phil Mead informed the committee that the Woodland Trust have recently stated that the South Downs is the most wooded National Park in England and Wales.
5. **Public Rights of Way.** Leslie Campbell reported that:
 - The Monday Group have been working on the stretch of Footpath 27C in Pheasant Field along Lagwood to Woodbine Cottage. The path has been put back on the right line at the request of the owners of Pheasant Field. The owners of the field have made a generous donation to the Monday Group. The Cinder Track has also been tidied up by the Monday Group.
 - The Monday Group have repaired the gate on the Spring Lane bridleway 21C. Materials were paid for by Hassocks Parish Council.
 - Leslie Campbell and Ian Weir met Sue Phillipson, the new WSCC Access Ranger. They discussed joint funding from WSCC and are waiting for an update on this from Sue Phillipson – Leslie Campbell to follow this up. The area of Footpath 27C adjacent to Woodbine Cottage was highlighted as a priority for funding due to the extensive flooding issues in the winter. It was noted that this is complicated as three separate landowners are involved.

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6. Street Furniture.

Litter Bins: It was noted that the new bins were to be installed the week commencing 27 April 2015. The aim is that some of the more suitable existing bins could be relocated to replace damaged bins in Adastra Park.

7. Bus Shelters.

- a) It was noted that the bus shelter by Spitalford Bridge has been ordered. A bus timetable board has not been ordered – this will be looked into at a later stage.
- b) It has not yet proved possible to obtain a quotation for the cleaning of bus shelters. Concern was expressed regarding the bus shelters on London Road which are quite unpleasant. It was agreed that MSDC would be approached regarding providing a one off cleanse.
- c) It was noted that the seating has been installed in the bus shelters on London Road.

8. Seating. The response from Burgess Hill District Lions regarding a memorial bench in the village was discussed. It was felt that there were no suitable places for the location of a new bench within the village centre and therefore it was agreed that Adastra Park would be the best solution – either through the replacement of an existing bench or in a new location. TB to discuss this with the Clerk.

9. Hanging Baskets. The three quotations for hanging baskets in the village were considered. Concern was expressed over the timescale to complete this within the growing season, and also the time involved contacting shopkeepers to ensure the correct paperwork was in place. Penny Wadsworth informed the committee that Wilkinson Landscapes would be able to complete the work and she believed that they included contacting the shopkeepers and dealing with the agreements within their quotation. It was RESOLVED to recommend that the quotation from Wilkinson Landscapes is accepted, subject to the company being able to plant and erect the baskets, and obtain the necessary agreement forms from the participating shops in advance. Ian Weir thanked Penny Wadsworth for all of her hard work on this.

10. Date of the next Meeting: 30 June 2015 at 7.30pm.

It was RESOLVED to recommend that Phil Mead should be invited to re-join the Environment Committee next year in his capacity as Street Tree Co-ordinator, Georgia Cheshire should be invited as the HAA Green Group representative and Penny Wadsworth should be invited to stay on the committee to continue the co-ordination of hanging baskets in the village.

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There being no other business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.10pm.

Date..... Chairman.....