

HASSOCKS PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of **Hassocks Parish Council** held on 8th December 2015 at 7.30pm in the Parish Centre, Adastra Park, Hassocks.

PRESENT: Cllrs Ian Weir (Chairman) Sue Hatton (Vice Chairman)
 Jane Baker Leslie Campbell
 Ian Credland Justine Fisher
 Judith Foot Frances Gaudencio
 Peter Gibbons Bill Hatton
 Darryl Sinclair Victoria Standfast
 Carole Wise Kate Bailey (from 7.50pm)

In attendance: Cllr Gordon Marples – Mid Sussex District Council
 Linda Butcher – Locum Parish Clerk
 Kate Bailey
 Two members of the public

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr Nick Owens – family commitment
 Cllr Andy Petch
 PCSO

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

All Councillors declared a Personal Interest in the sites that have been identified in the Neighbourhood Plan information.

7.50 pm Cllr Kate Bailey confirmed that she too had a Personal Interest in the site identified in the Neighbourhood Plan.

MINUTES

Parish Council – 10th November 2015

15/170 **RESOLVED** to accept the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 10th November 2015.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The members of the public present did not wish to speak.

CO-OPTION TO FILL COUNCIL VACANCY

Although originally six people had expressed an interest in being co-opted onto the Parish Council, five had withdrawn for various reasons and this left just Kate Bailey to give a short presentation to the Council.

Kate explained her interests and said she has lived in Hassocks all her life. She has previously been involved in several community events and confirmed that she worked well with other people. She is currently training

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to be a Special Constable but confirmed this would not affect her commitment to the Parish Council.

15/171 There was then a vote by signed ballot and it was unanimously **RESOLVED** to appoint Kate Bailey to the Parish Council.

The Chairman welcomed her to the Council and she then signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office in front of the Proper Officer.

7.50 pm Cllr Kate Bailey confirmed that she too had a Personal Interest in the site identified in the Neighbourhood Plan.

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Officer's Report: The purpose of this report is to advise Members of the current situation with regard to the Neighbourhood Plan and to ask Council to RESOLVE the next steps. The Council's consultant will be present for this item.

At the NPWG meeting on 26th November the Group recommended to the Parish Council that the draft Neighbourhood Plan be ratified for Regulation 14 publications and to review the Sustainability Appraisal.

Copies of the draft Plan were sent to all Councillors.

There is a RECOMMENDATION that in advertising the Regulation 14 Plan, responses will be collated and that this should be scheduled for the start of the first week in January 2016.

Dale Mayhew and Laura Bourke from Dowsett Mayhew Planning Partnership were in attendance and provided copies of the Hassocks Neighbourhood Plan, Pre Submission Consultation Draft (Regulation 14), and Sustainability Appraisal (incorporating Strategic Environmental Assessment) document for each Councillor. Members were informed that the NPWG had deemed sites on the 22nd September and that the Council should not hold up the progress of the plan while awaiting the determination of applications that are in the pipeline.

15/172 **RESOLVED** to move onto the next stage.

15/173 **RESOLVED** to advertise the Regulation 14 Plan and that responses will be collated from the start of the first week in January 2016.

The Chairman thank Dale and Laura for all the hard work they have done and also all the people on the Neighbourhood Plan Working Group for the huge amount of work completed.

MINUTES

Planning – 9th November 2015

15/174 **RESOLVED** to accept the minutes of the Planning meeting held on 9th November 2015.

Environment – 16th November 2015

- 15/175 **RESOLVED** to accept the minutes of the Environment meeting held on 16th November 2015.

Grounds – 23rd November 2015

In proposing the minutes the Chairman asked if any other Councillors would like to be part of the Skateboard Park Working Group to let him know.

- 15/176 **RESOLVED** to accept the minutes of the Grounds meeting held on 23rd November 2015.

Neighbourhood Plan Working Group – 26th November 2015

- 15/177 **RESOLVED** to note the minutes of the Neighbourhood Plan Working Group meeting held on 26th November 2015

Planning – 30th November 2015

- 15/178 **RESOLVED** to accept the minutes of the Planning meeting held on 30th November 2015.

Policy, Resources and Communications – 1st December 2015

- 15/179 **RESOLVED** to accept the minutes of the Policy, Resources and Communications meeting held on 1st December 2015.

FINANCETo resolve the budget as recommended by the PRC Committee

Officer's Report: At its meeting on 1st December 2015 the P.R and C committee unanimously recommended the Council's budget of £220,680.

- 15/180 **RESOLVED** that the budget for 2016-17 should be £220,680

Officer's Report: The PRC committee then unanimously recommended to Council that this should be funded by taking £39,180 from General Reserves leaving a balance of £181,500 to form the basis of the precept.

At the meeting the committee used a figure of 3300 as the Council Tax based on the previous year and adding a few which gave a Band D Equivalent of £55.00 and after discussion this was unanimously recommended to Council.

Since the meeting the Parish Council has been notified that the likely Tax Base will be 3,329.1 thus reducing the Band D Equivalent to £54.52 if the Council confirms the amount to be taken from General Reserves.

- 15/181 **RESOLVED** that the budget of £220,680 would be funded by £39,180 from General Reserve leaving a balance of £181,500 as the precept demand for 2016-17 which equates to a Band D Equivalent of £54.52

To approve the Financial Report and authorise the list of cheques for November 2015

15/182 **RESOLVED** to approved the Financial Report and authorise two Councillors to sign the cheques as per the list presented to Council.

REPORTS

Police Report

In the absence of a police report, Cllr Jane Baker presented a list of roads that are covered Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinators and asked if anyone could suggest additional people that would be much appreciated.

District Councillors' Report

Cllr Gordon Marples reported that the Ham Field appeal will be held on 2nd February and that Mid Sussex District Council will be sending an observer. He also advised that there is to be a pre-application meeting over the Golf Club development sometime in the future bearing in mind that Members' subscriptions are due in April and people would like to know if they will be playing on an 18 or 9 hole course.

The District Council is working with the proposed developer of Shepherds Walk over the flooding issue. There are indications of an appeal on the garage at Hassocks Lodge and with no materials allowed on site there is likely to be major disruption to the village.

With regard to the Parking Working Group, it appears West Sussex County Council has said that it is in the budget.

Cllr Marples reported that he had witnessed the worse ever road rage incident in Grand Avenue on the night of the Light Up Hassocks event. It appears the perpetrator was with the police overnight.

The Chairman thanked Cllr Marples for attending the meeting.

County Councillor's Report

No report had been received prior to the meeting.

Rail Matters

Cllr Leslie Campbell reported that there had not been a meeting since the last Council meeting, the next one scheduled for 16th December when they would be meeting the new Manager and would talk about the ticket office closure. It is felt that this service is not good enough particularly as the ticket machine does not always work. Katherine Cassidy has written to Nick Herbert MP that GTR should be stripped of their franchise as Hassocks

station is in the same category as Burgess Hill and deserves better service. It is anticipated that there will be an increase in usage of 30% so should be able to afford another person to be employed.

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Report from councillors on meetings of outside bodies where the council is represented

Cllrs Bill Hatton and Jane Baker attended the CLC (South Mid Sussex County Local Committee) and reported that it was very well attended with over 50 people, the majority from Keymer. There were very high feelings about speeding traffic in Ockley and Lodge lanes. The proposals for parking had previously been submitted and the meeting was informed that eight recommendations had been accepted, although they did not say which, and that public consultations would be held early in the New Year. The meeting was also advised that there is money in the budget.

Cllr Jane Baker advised that the PCSO is trained to identify safe observation points but that the monitoring machine is booked until February but that we should have it in the village afterwards. Cllr Judith Foot advised that there is only one speed monitoring device available. In answer to a question from Cllr Ian Credland, Cllr Hatton reported that it will be funded in the New Year although not clear what.

Cllr Frances Gaudencio attended the Ditchling Neighbourhood Plan meeting and confirmed that only 15 houses are being built in four sites. Residents have two forms to complete in the consultation process and it was felt that it is important to retain the buffer between Ditchling and Hassocks. Cllr Gaudencio confirmed that Ditchling is keen for this buffer to be retained too.

The Chairman thanked Councillors for attending these meetings on behalf of the Parish Council.

Cllr Gordon Marples then left the meeting.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Chairman reported that he did not have a report this month.

CLERK'S REPORT

Revised formation of committees

Officer's Report: The purpose of this report is to guide Members through the process for revising the formation of standing committees.

At the present time there are four standing committees, Environment, Grounds, Planning, and Policy, Resources and Communications.

Standing Order 14 allows the Council to appoint standing committees at the annual statutory meeting and at any other time as may be necessary. Standing Order 14 a vi allows the Council to dissolve a committee at any time.

It has been suggested that Environment and Grounds committees should be amalgamated and therefore the process is to firstly resolve to dissolve both committees.

To then resolve to form a new committee [name to be agreed by Members].

To then resolve which Councillors wish to serve on the newly formed committee.

To agree the date on which this change takes effect.

15/183 **RESOLVED** to dissolve the Environment and Grounds committees.
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15/184 **RESOLVED** to form a committee called Grounds and Environment.

14/185 **RESOLVED** that the following Councillors will serve on the new committee:
Cllrs Ian Weir, Bill Hatton, Carol Wise, Justine Fisher, Darryl Sinclair, Kate Bailey, Peter Gibbons, Les Campbell, Jane Baker and Nick Owens.

15/186 **RESOLVED** that the change will take effect from 1st January 2016 and that the committee will meet monthly.

The Clerk reminded Members that the first item of business would be to elect a Chairman of the newly formed committee. Members felt it would also be useful to elect a Vice Chairman.

URGENT MATTERS AT THE DISCRETION OF THE CHAIRMAN FOR NOTING AND/OR INCLUSION ON A FUTURE AGENDA

None

The meeting closed at 9pm

Signed.....Chairman

Date.....