

## HASSOCKS PARISH COUNCIL

### Minutes of the Grounds Committee Meeting held on 8 July 2015 at 7.30 pm in the Parish Centre, Adastra Park, Hassocks.

Present: David Cumberland (Chairman)  
Jane Baker  
Bill Hatton

Clerk: Linda Baker

Also present was one member of the public.

Sports Clubs attending for item 5:

Pauline Hurley, Hassocks Stoolball Club

John Price, James Pitt, Keymer & Hassocks Cricket Club

John Raftery, Hassocks Village Football Club

Tom Sensier, Nick Palmer, Hassocks Junior Football Club

**1. Apologies for Absence.** Apologies for absence were received from Darryl Sinclair and Justine Fisher.

**2. Declarations of Interest.** None.

**3. Election of Chairman.** David Cumberland was elected to chair the committee for 2015/16.

**4. Minutes of the Meeting held on 8 April 2015.** The minutes were taken as read, agreed by the meeting, and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

**5. Sports Club's Use of Adastra Park.** The Chairman welcomed representatives of the senior and junior football clubs, the cricket and stoolball clubs to discuss matters of mutual interest regarding the use of the north and south fields and the community pavilion.

#### **Junior Football.**

There was an issue with over use of the north and south fields of Adastra Park, which was having a detrimental effect on the surface. This was partly due to the success of junior football, which had increased its membership from 180 to 270 players, which was posing a problem for the club in finding enough pitches in the village to accommodate matches for 21 different age teams. The club would like to be able to develop pitches next to the Beacon Ground, which had been identified by MSDC for recreational use, and were doing what they could to progress this project, and would welcome any support the parish council could give in this regard. Half the cost of the project would be available through the Football Foundation, and the council advised the club to contact MSDC about possible S106 funding. In the interim the club would like to put a third pitch in the north fields of Adastra Park for the forthcoming season, and the parish council would need to give consideration to this.

### Senior Football.

The club always erred on the side of caution in calling off matches if the pitch was not fit to play on, but were concerned that on occasions the juniors trained in the park while the senior match had been called off, which would be detrimental to the surface. The junior club confirmed that they checked with the Groundsman on the pitch conditions in advance of games, and called off play in good time if conditions were unsuitable, and would not play if the ground was not fit, for safety reasons and to preserve the playing surface. It was agreed that the junior club would liaise with the Groundsman on playing conditions, and would also cancel matches if play had been called off by MSDC on their grounds in the village.

It was agreed that the Groundsman would consider what action he could take to make good the surface in the south field, particularly outside the pavilion where it was worn and uneven, when football was not being played in the summer.

There was also a problem with footballs rolling into the stream in the north field and consideration would be given to finding a cost effective way of preventing this, perhaps by use of a small earth mound or gully.

### Keymer and Hassocks Cricket Club.

The cricket club raised the maintenance of the hedges in the park. The Groundsman confirmed that these were cut by contractors towards the end of July, once the bird nesting season had finished, and again in October. The hedges would be cut back as far as possible to make it easier to retrieve lost balls.

There was also concern about the concrete slab at the east side of the south field. The council would investigate the cost of having this removed.

### Use of the Community Pavilion.

KHCC had not signed a hire agreement for the current season, and the council confirmed that there could be no use of the pavilion unless an agreement was signed, so the club were asked to complete a form as a matter of urgency.

It was also a requirement for regular users that a list of key holders should be given to the council at the start of the hire period, and all pavilion keys should be returned to the council at the end of the hire period, but KHCC had not been complying with this condition.

The bi-fold doors had been replaced, but it had not proved possible to have the same lock fitted to the main door and the north door. The users were happy to access the building via the north door, and use the key which had been left in the kitchen to open the east door. The council would ensure that there was a key in situ to open the bi-fold doors.

KHCC and the senior football club queried the requirement for a £300 breakage deposit for regular users. The council had agreed this requirement following several instances of damage occurring in the building and not being reported. It was agreed that this would remain as a hire condition for the present, but that the council would consider reviewing the charge based on what MSDC had in place for their facilities, and possibly varying the charge depending on how

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frequently the building was used and number of members of the sports clubs hiring the facility.

The sports clubs were thanked for their attendance and it was agreed that it would be useful to have similar meetings in future.

## **6. Adastra Park.**

### **(a) Charges, Terms and Conditions for Training Classes in Adastra Park.**

RESOLVED that the charges for training classes would be brought in line with those of MSDC. The rate for the current year for groups of six or more would be £15.60 per session or a seasonal rate of £120 for 16 sessions, and for groups of five or less, or not for profit groups the charge would be £5.00 per session. The hire terms as circulated were agreed.

### **(b) Trees.**

**(i) 23 Fir Tree Way.** The residents had requested that work is done on two further trees. The Tree Warden and contractor would visit the site and a quotation would be obtained for further consideration.

**(ii) 9 Parkside.** The council had agreed some work on a tree bordering the park, but the tree was the subject of a TPO, so a planning application had been submitted for permission to carry out the work.

**(iii) 21 Fir Tree Way.** It was noted that work had been carried out on trees in the park bordering this property, but it was not known who had done the work, and permission had not been sought from the parish council.

**(iv) 13 Fir Tree Way.** A letter regarding an oak tree at the rear of the property had been received. It was agreed that the Tree Warden would be asked to review the request.

**(v) Tree Report.** The committee reviewed the tree safety report. It was agreed that alternative quotations would be obtained for carrying out the work identified, and the committee would give further consideration to what work might be necessary at the next meeting.

**(c) Anti-Social Behaviour in Adastra Park and Benches.** A bench was being removed in the Children's play area following vandalism, a wooden bench near the tennis courts had also been damaged beyond repair, and the Biffa waste bins had been overturned and litter strewn across the park. The incidents had been reported to the PCSO and it was RESOLVED that quotations would be obtained for replacing the benches, preferably in vandal proof material.

## **7. Parklands Road Allotments and Copse.**

### **(a) Report from the Hassocks Allotment Holders Association.**

The report was noted.

**(b) Oak Tree, adjacent to 40 Windmill Avenue.** It was agreed that the Tree Warden would be asked to look at the tree and report back to the committee.

**8. Adastra Bowling Club Lawn Sprinkler.** RESOLVED that the quotation from A&M Services to supply and fit a new safety valve at a cost of £188 for materials, plus VAT and labour, should be accepted.

**9. Skatepark.** It was agreed that Darryl Sinclair would have an initial meeting with young people who had requested some updating to the skatepark, and that then the young people would be invited to attend the next committee meeting

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to put forward their ideas. Any improvements would have to be on the existing footprint, and would be subject to funding being available.

**10. Downlands Sports Hall Management Committee.** It was agreed that Justine Fisher would be asked if she could represent the parish council on the committee. Meetings were held during the day, and the next meeting would be in November 2015.

**11. Frequency of Grounds Committee Meetings.** David Cumberland raised the possibility of the committee meeting more frequently than quarterly as the committee had the largest budget of any council committee and dealt with a wide range of issues associated with the management of the council's grounds. It was agreed that additional meetings could be called as necessary, and that Steven Ecroyd would be asked if he would be willing to be co-opted as a non-councillor member of the committee because of his experience, and because the relatively small membership of the committee might make achieving a quorum for meetings difficult.

**12. Date of Next Meeting.** 16 September 2015 at 7.30 pm.

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There being no other business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.00 pm.

Chairman.....

Date.....