

HASSOCKS PARISH COUNCIL

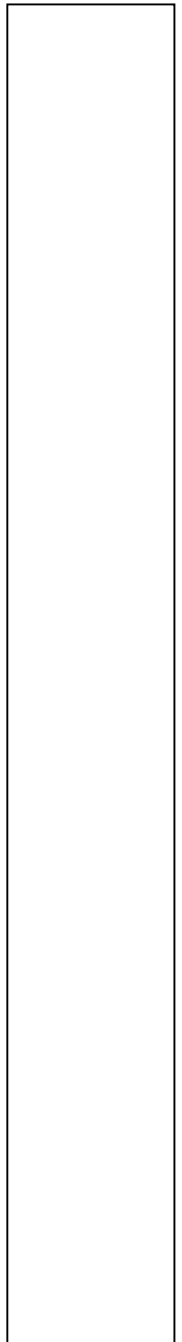
Minutes of the Grounds Committee meeting held on 21 September 2015 at 7.30 pm in the Parish Centre, Adastra Park, Hassocks.

Present: Peter Gibbons (Chairman) Bill Hatton
Jane Baker Darryl Sinclair
Leslie Campbell Murray Thomson.

Clerk: Linda Baker

Also present was a member of the public.

1. **Apology for Absence.** An apology for absence was received from Justine Fisher.
2. **Declarations of Interest.** Jane Baker declared an interest in item in item 5 (b) as she was currently using KPS.
3. **Chairman 2015/16.** Following the resignation of David Cumberland, Peter Gibbons was elected to chair the committee for 2015/16.
4. **Minutes of the meeting held on 8 July 2015.** The minutes were taken as read, agreed by the meeting, and signed by the Chairman as a correct record, with the addition, under item 1, Apologies for Absence, of Murray Thomson.
5. **Adastra Park.**
 - (a) **Skatepark.** Malcolm and his son Cam Roweth, and Nick, a Downlands pupil, joined the meeting to make proposals regarding the skatepark in Adastra Park. The skatepark was an important resource for young people in the village, but they believed it was in need of refurbishment or enlargement. The options were to refurbish the existing skatepark, at an estimated cost of £5,000 - £10,000, or to increase the size and put in a new spray concrete skatepark, which could cost in the region of £33,000. The young people who used the facility were keen to be involved, and to fund raise for the project. An example of the sort of facility which would satisfy their aspirations was at Henfield. The committee thanked the young people for their presentation, and suggested that they explore the possibility of some grant funding in addition to fund raising activities. The committee was supportive of refurbishment or enlargement of the skatepark, but it was cautioned that the project could take some time to be realised. It was RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND that the Grounds Committee should look at the possibility of replacing or enlarging the skatepark in Adastra Park, in co-operation with the young people who used it, and put proposals to council.
 - (b) **Tree Report.** The tree safety report on the trees in Adastra Park and three quotations for the work were considered and it was



RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND that the quotation from James Wilson for work on the trees should be accepted, in the sum of £2,200, the cost to be taken from the tree maintenance reserve, but that trees T43 and T45 should not be felled. Trees T42, T43, and T45 would be kept under review by the Groundsman, who would report any concerns regarding their condition.

(c) Benches. A bench in the children's play area had been removed and a memorial bench beside the tennis courts had been removed as they were beyond repair. Three quotations for replacement benches were considered. It was RESOLVED that both benches should be replaced by a Solway recycled bench, without arms, at a cost of £269 per bench, plus VAT and installation, the cost to be taken from the Adastra Playing Fields budget.

(d) Replacement Swings. The wooden frame of one of the two seat swings next to the skatepark had become unsafe due to age and wear and tear. Three quotations to replace the swings had been obtained. It was agreed that consideration of replacing the swings should be deferred until a decision had been taken regarding the possible enlargement of the skatepark (see paragraph 5 (a) above).

(e) Bowling Green Materials. The committee considered a request for the Adastra Bowling Club for materials for the treatment of the bowling green in the sum of £665.36. RESOLVED that the request was approved.

6. Adastra Park Community Pavilion.

(a) Damage Deposit. The Keymer and Hassocks Football Club had requested that the committee reconsider the damage deposit charged to clubs with a small membership, and less frequent use of the pavilion, as the current charge of £300 would be a burden on the club's finances. RESOLVED that for regular users with a membership below 30 the deposit would be £100. For all other regular users with a membership of over 30 the charge would be £300. The damage deposit would be reviewed in 2016/17.

(b) Damage to Home Changing Room Mirror. The home changing room mirror had been smashed, and none of the users had admitted liability. It was difficult to establish when it had been broken, as with the number of keys issued to regular users it was not always possible to establish when the building was in use if it had not been booked through the office. RESOLVED that the mirror should be removed and not replaced as this was the third time a changing room mirror had been broken.

(c) Complaints Regarding the Condition the Pavilion has been left in by the Keymer and Hassocks Cricket Club (KHCC). Complaints had been received from the Junior Football Club regarding the state the kitchen and lounge area had been left in

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by KHCC following their use of the building on 5 and 6 September 2015. This followed a number of previous occasions when the pavilion had not been left in a clean and tidy condition by KHCC, as required by the hire conditions, during the 2015 and previous seasons. It was agreed that it was important that the hire conditions were adhered to, and that hirers returned all keys at the conclusion of their hire period. It was RESOLVED that regular hirers should be required to return all keys 21 days after their last date of hire, and that in future all keys issued would be numbered and hirers would have to identify by name and address all key holders. If all keys were not returned at the conclusion of the hire period, the committee would consider replacing the locks at the expense of the hirer.

- (d) **Repainting the Interior of the Community Pavilion.** The pavilion had been in use for four years and was in need of internal repainting. It was agreed that three quotations would be obtained, for consideration at the next meeting, for repainting the interior in summer 2016.

7. **Parklands Road Allotments.**

(a) Report from the Hassocks Allotment Holders Association (HAHA).

- (i) **Car Park and Path Project.** Murray Thomson reported that the hard standing for the car park had been ordered, but that some more material was required at a cost of £80. The committee RESOLVED to fund the additional material from the allotment budget. A path had been put down by the contractors working on the Parklands Copse path.
- (ii) **Change of HAHA Chairman.** Murray Thomson reported that he would be stepping down as Chairman of the HAHA. Peter Gibbons, on behalf of the council, thanked Murray very much for all his hard work as HAHA Chairman, and for all the improvements that had been made to the allotment site during his tenure. Murray Thomson thanked the council for their support of the HAHA. It was RESOLVED that the new HAHA Chairman would be co-opted as a member of the Grounds Committee, as agreed by the council, and Murray Thomson would let the office have details when the new Chairman was appointed.

- (b) Allotment Rents.** A formula for calculating the allotment rents was agreed at the 11 March 2015 Grounds Committee meeting, and applying inflation the rent for a half plot would increase by 4 pence. In view of the insignificant increase it was RESOLVED that the allotment rents from 1 October 2015 would remain at £34 for a half plot and £17 for a quarter plot.

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8. **Burial Ground Fees.** The fees had not been reviewed since September 2013. It was RESOLVED that the fees should be updated for inflation, rounded to the nearest whole pound, with immediate effect, as follows:

Burial 12 months to 11 years	£199
Burial over 12 years	£352
Interment of ashes 12 months to 11 years	£86
Interment of ashes over 12 years	£172
Administration fee re-opening a grave	£114
Right to erect a headstone	£114
Additional inscription	£57
Search Fee	£34
Replacement deed of grant	£57

The above fees would apply to Hassocks residents only, and fees for non residents would be five times the standard fees.

9. **Date of Next Meeting.** 23 November 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.....