

HASSOCKS PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of **HASSOCKS PARISH COUNCIL** held on 9 February 2016 at 7.40pm in the Parish Centre, Adastra Park, Hassocks

PRESENT:

Cllrs	Ian Weir	Chairman
	Jane Baker	Leslie Campbell
	Ian Credland	Frances Gaudencio
	Peter Gibbons	Bill Hatton
	Nick Owens	Darryl Sinclair
	Carol Wise	

In attendance: Cllr Andy Petch - West Sussex County Councillor
 Cllr Gordon Marples - Mid Sussex District Council (7.40pm)
 Cllr Peter Martin - Mid Sussex District Council (7.50pm)
 Jo Whitcombe – Parish Clerk
 Linda Butcher – Locum Parish Clerk
 Tracy Bates – Acting Assistant Clerk
 1 member of the public

APOLOGIES

Cllr Sue Hatton – unwell
 Cllr Victoria Standfast – family commitment
 Cllr Jane Baker – Unwell
 Cllr Kate Bailey – Unwell
 Cllr Judith Foot

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none at this time.

7.55pm. Cllr Ian Credland declared a personal interest as he had submitted a planning application that was considered at the Planning meeting held on 1 February 2016.

MINUTES

Parish Council – 12 January 2016

Cllr Nick Owens pointed out that his name was spelt incorrectly throughout the minutes.

Cllr Frances Gaudencio asked for a sentence to be removed from the narrative in the final paragraph on page 878. There was a discussion about the words that had been used and it was

16/223 RESOLVED to remove the sentence “Cllr Frances Gaudencio felt the Neighbourhood Plan process was confusing and hindering the task of identifying a site for a new junior school”.

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16/224 **RESOLVED** to adopt the minutes of the Council meeting held on 12 January 2016 as amended.

7.40pm Cllr Gordon Marples entered the room.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

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

Cllr Peter Gibbons pointed out that some minutes and agendas on the Parish Councils website were still listed as DRAFT copies but had since been passed.

The Clerk would look into this and replace the DRAFT documents with approved ones.

7.50pm Cllr Peter Martin entered the room.

MINUTES

Planning – 11 January 2016

16/225 **RESOLVED** to accept the minutes of the Planning meeting held on 11 January 2015.

Grounds and Environment – 25 January 2016

Cllr Peter Gibbons advised that the inaugural meeting on the Skate Park Working Group had taken place on Monday 8 February 2016.

16/226 **RESOLVED** to accept the minutes of the Grounds and Environment meeting held on 25 January 2016.

Planning – 1 February 2016

16/227 **RESOLVED** to accept the minutes of the Planning meeting held on 1 February 2016.

Cllr Ian Credland declared a personal interest as he had submitted a planning application that was considered at the Planning meeting held on 1 February 2016.

Neighbourhood Plan Working Group – 4 February 2016

16/228 **RESOLVED** to accept the minutes of the Neighbourhood Plan Working Group held on 4 February 2016.

FINANCE

To approve the Financial Report and authorise the list of cheques for January 2016

- 16/229** **RESOLVED** to approve the Financial Report and authorise two Councillors to sign the cheques as per the list presented to Council.

External Audit for Smaller Authorities – Officer’s report circulated to all Councillors prior to the meeting.

- 16/230** **RESOLVED** that Hassocks Parish Council opt in via the Smaller Authorities’ Audit Appointments Ltd.

REPORTS

Police Report – The Chairman read out the Crime Figures report received from PCSO Macknamara. The report was noted.

District Councillors’ Report - Cllr Gordon Marples advised that Officers at Mid Sussex District Council (MSDC) were finalising the Council Tax budget in line with Government guidelines. Though not confirmed a 2% increase is likely, to allow for additional expenditure required by WSCC for adult care.

There would also be an increased charge of £5.00 for Garden Wheelie Bin service but it will also be extended.

He also reported that MSDC’s recycling rates had fallen as the value of recycled materials has reduced greatly. Whilst the District Council’s recycling service is consistently good when bench marked against other Councils, this is a national problem and MSDC must prioritise educational work, particularly with people residing in flats and with Schools. The District Council must increase the amount of recycling collected in order to avoid financial penalties in 2020.

Cllr Marples was pleased to report that the first batch of new dog bins had been delivered and the Clerk will be advised of final locations shortly. It is hoped that installation will occur by the summer.

Cllr Martin apologised that he had not been to a meeting for a while but concurred with Cllr Marples comments regarding the Council Tax budget.

He also spoke regarding the Neighbourhood Plan and encouraged the Parish Council to submit as soon as possible so as to not miss out on Developer contributions. He commended the excellent job that Parish Councillors were doing and hoped that the Hassocks Neighbourhood Plan could be held up as an example of best practise to others when submitted.

County Councillor’s Report – Cllr Andy Petch told Members present that the third tranche of West Sussex County Council (WSCC) Operation Watershed money was likely to be available soon and encouraged the Parish Council to make an application for funding. He had asked the WSCC Area Highways Manager to look at options to combat flooding issues opposite South Downs Garden Centre.

He updated Members that WSCC had submitted its proposal to the Boundary Review Commission and it would be out for consultation soon. Burgess Hill Town Council County Members have objected to the proposals that effect their divisions.

Cllr Petch confirmed that the Library will remain open and accessible during the ongoing work to Stafford House.

He had spoken to Cllr Richard Burrett, WSCC Cabinet Member for Education and Skills regarding the new school provision in the village and had encouraged him to come and talk to the Parish Council. A discussion ensued and Cllr Ian Credland advised that a Feasibility Assessment for potential sites was still to be undertaken by WSCC and Hassocks Parish Council still awaited proposals for short and long term solutions on this issue. Cllr Justine Fisher said it would be helpful to engage with WSCC in order to progress this topic and Members agreed that the purpose of the meeting should be clear as different intake years have different concerns. Cllr Frances Gaudencio said that key players needed to be agreed as WSCC has a duty to place children from outside the parish whilst this council's priority is the children of Hassocks.

16/231 RESOLVED that the Clerk send background information to Cllr Burrett and invite him to meet with representatives of Hassocks Parish Council.

Cllr Andy Petch went on to say that there will be a full WSCC budget meeting on 19 February 2016. There is likely to be a Council Tax increase of just under 4%.

WSCC is in the process of appointing a new Chief Executive Officer and interviews will be carried out in March 2016.

The next Mid Sussex County Local Committee meeting will take place on 8 March 2016 at Woodland Mead School in Burgess Hill. An application for funding has been received from a Hassocks based trampoline club.

Cllr Petch reported on recent incidents concerning the West Sussex Fire and Rescue Service in Mid Sussex.

The Chairman thanked the County and District representatives for coming to the meeting.

Rail Matters – Cllr Peter Gibbons told Members that he had been monitoring the delays and cancellation of fast running trains affecting Hassocks. 172 trains were cancelled in January 2016 and that figure has risen since. Govia Thameslink Railway (GTR) proposals to improve customer service include the reduction of the ticket office opening hours focussing on peak operating times in the morning and to introduce a station host to educate people on how to use the ticket machines. Members expressed their concerns as the machines do not offer all types of tickets or rail journeys although you can purchase these on line. GTR is awaiting a response from the Department for Transport.

Cllr Frances Gaudencio asked what the relationship is between Hassocks Parish Council (HPC) and the local Rail Group. Peter Gibbons advised that HPC has representatives on the Hassocks Amenity Association Rail Group.

The Locum Clerk confirmed that she had not received a response to the letter sent to the Office of Rail in support of the local Rail Group expressing concerns regarding non-stopping trains.

Reports from Councillors on meetings of outside bodies where the Council is represented

There were none.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Annual Parish Meeting will be on Thursday 21 April and the Committee Chairmen are asked to submit their draft reports to the Clerk by Friday 18 March 2016. Cllr Ian Weir will write the Environment report up until its amalgamation with the Grounds Committee.

Cllr Ian Weir confirmed that the opening of Parklands Copse will take place on Saturday 16 April 2016 at 10.30am and all Members are invited to attend. There will be a display in the Scout Hut and refreshments offered.

Cllr Peter Gibbons gave his apologies as he will not be able to attend.

CLERK'S REPORT

Guest speaker for the Annual Parish Meeting – Officers report sent to all Councillors prior to the meeting.

Members welcomed the idea of a guest speaker and

16/232 RESOLVED that the Clerk contact Lee Walther and confirm his arrangements for the Annual Parish Meeting.

Date of the Annual Statutory Meeting – Officer's report sent to all Councillors prior to the meeting.

16/233 RESOLVED to change the date of the Annual Statutory Meeting to Tuesday 3 May 2016.

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

There were none.

Cllr Ian Credland asked whether there had been a resolution to the request from a member of the public to use Talbots Field to park cars on for a family wedding. The Clerk advised that she had taken advice from Sussex Wildlife Trust who had concerns that this would be detrimental to the wildlife. She had also contacted the West Sussex County Council Area Highways Manager who had told her that a Traffic Management plan would also need to be considered for entry and egress on to the highway. Councillors had expressed the view that this would set a precedent. The Clerk had responded to the enquirer to say that it would not be possible to grant permission for this request.

Members were informed that the Queen's celebrations 'Festival 90' were likely to be held at an alternative venue as Adastra Park had a regular booking.

Cllr Ian Weir presented the Locum Clerk with some flowers and chocolates and thanked her for helping Hassocks Parish Council whilst it was in between Clerks.

The meeting closed at 8.45pm

Signed..... Chairman

Date.....