

HASSOCKS PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of **HASSOCKS PARISH COUNCIL** held on 12th January 2016 at 7.30pm in the Parish Centre, Adastra Park, Hassocks

PRESENT:

Cllrs	Kate Bailey	Jane Baker
	Leslie Campbell	Ian Credland
	Judith Foot	Frances Gaudencio
	Peter Gibbons	Bill Hatton
	Nick Owens	Darryl Sinclair
	Carol Wise	

In attendance: Linda Butcher – Locum Parish Clerk
Christopher Maidment
Lynn Williams
1 member of the public

The Clerk advised that as both the Chairman and Vice Chairman were unable to attend the meeting, Councillors must elect a Chairman for this meeting.

16/191 **RESOLVED** to appoint Cllr Bill Hatton Chairman for this meeting and he duly moved to the chairman's position at the table.

The Chairman advised that the member of the public, Frank Rylance, would be recording the meeting.

APOLOGIES

Cllr Ian Weir – family commitment
Cllr Sue Hatton – unwell
Cllr Victoria Standfast – family commitment
District Councillor Gordon Marples
District Councillor Peter Martin
County Councillor Andy Petch (written report submitted)

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

MINUTES

Parish Council – 8th December 2015

16/192 **RESOLVED** to accept the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 8th December 2015.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

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

GUEST SPEAKER

Councillors were advised that the purpose of this presentation was to gain information about a possible proposal but that they should not give any opinions about what Mr Maidment presents to Council.

The Chairman welcomed Mr Maidment who then introduced himself and his partner Lynn Williams stating that they been undertaking planning consultations for eight years. He believed that everyone needs to accept that there is going to be development but it is just a question of where. Christopher Maidment advised that Belmont Park would be a landmark building creating a future history and heritage for Hassocks and compared this to Clayton Priory and Danny House.

Christopher Maidment then referred to the extant permission and explained that there had been no objections once the access had been changed. He then spoke about the Draft Neighbourhood Plan and the area identified as LGS2 and the wish for enhanced footpaths which could be encompassed with any proposed planning application.

The history of Wickham [now Belmont] House is that it was extended to become a school and that it was way larger than the current proposal. He again referred to Clayton Priory which has protected the adjacent land and Danny which also protects neighbouring land as well as being within the South Downs National Park. He emphasised that the Council could say no development adjacent to LGS2 and Mr Horney may be prepared to give a written agreement to this effect.

The Chairman thanked Christopher Maidment for his presentation and then invited Councillors to ask questions for clarification but reminded them not to give any indication of whether they would support or reject such an application.

Question: Cllr Gaudencio asked for details of the development.

Answer: A six bedroom single house similar to Clayton Priory and Danny.

Question: Cllr Owen asked if the planning application would be put in before or after the Neighbourhood Plan was completed.

Answer: It will go in before as the Neighbourhood Plan process is very long and it is really a question of if it goes in.

Question: Cllr Gibbons asked about the arched parts shown on the plan.

Answer: There are cellars underneath, then the ground floor has the kitchen, living areas etc. with three bedrooms on each of two levels.

Question: Cllr Gaudencio asked about the ownership of the land as marked on the photograph.

Answer: The triangle is owned by the golf course and the areas edged red and gold are owned by Mr Horney

Question: Cllr Wise asked if this proposal was within the 'gap'.

Answer: Lynn Williams said you have to create something to protect it, e.g. Clayton Priory has stopped Burgess Hill moving south.

Question: Cllr Bailey asked who lives in the 'James Bond' house.

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Answer: Mr Horney currently lives in this house.

Question: Cllr Owen asked if the existing Belmont would be demolished.

Answer: No, just the cottage, garage and squash court.

Question: Cllr Owen asked what is the curtilage of the existing site.

Answer: I don't have it here.

8pm Cllr Hatton thanked Christopher Maidment and Lynn Williams for attending.

MINUTES

Neighbourhood Plan Working Group

16/193 **RESOLVED** to note the minutes of the Neighbourhood Plan Working Group meeting held on 10th December 2015.

Planning – 21st December 2015

16/194 **RESOLVED** to accept the minutes of the Planning meeting held on 21st December 2015.

FINANCE

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

16/195 **RESOLVED** to approve the Financial Report and authorise two Councillors to sign the cheques as per the list presented to Council.

REPORTS

Police Report – Cllr Jane Baker reported that there had been no meetings since the last Council meeting.

District Councillors' Report - Cllr Gordon Marples had sent his apologies.

County Councillor's Report – Cllr Bill Hatton read out the report from Cllr Andy Petch.

8.05pm Christopher Maidment and Lynn Williams left the meeting.

Cllr Hatton explained about a West Sussex County Council feasibility study to provide a new school for inclusion in the Neighbourhood Plan. Cllr Frances Gaudencio felt the Neighbourhood Plan process was confusing and hindering the task of identifying a site for a new junior school. The Chairman asked Cllr Ian Credland, chairman of the NPWG to comment and he explained that we had a criteria based policy relating to the identification of a school site in the draft Neighbourhood Plan. Cllr Credland said we cannot identify a specific site for the school without the support of the Local Education Authority, which we have not yet received. It is not possible to include a range of site as options in the

Neighbourhood Plan but our policy is designed to facilitate the selection process and to work with WSCC to agree a school site in accordance with this policy.

Rail Matters – Cllr Leslie Campbell reported on the rail meeting just before Christmas with two representatives (station manager and group station manager) and the main concern being the ticket office closures causing concern. They intend asking Wendy to work mornings only rather than spread her hours over the whole day. There is a broken window in the shelter which needs to be repaired. Another concern is the huge number of train cancellations – 30 since Christmas. Cllr Peter Gibbons is going to keep a list which he will send to Nick Herbert MP but wished to record that Katherine Cassidy is going her best and ‘skip stopping’ causes a major problem for commuters.

16/196 RESOLVED to send a letter to go to the Office of Rail in support of the local Rail Group expressing particular concern about non-stopping trains.

[The Locum Clerk will draft a letter to the Office of Rail via Cllr Campbell and Cllr Gibbons]

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

Cllr Judith Foot attended the Air Quality Management Group which advised that the level has lowered but that there are still initiatives to reduce it further, e.g. walking to school. Money has been provided to improve the A2300. It was agreed that the group will meet next in six months’ time. Cllr Jane Baker felt that the old busses are part of the problem and that there needs to be better buses to reduce pollution. It appears ironic that the monitoring is being carried out by Gleesons. Cllr Frances Gaudencio spoke of the Air Quality Management Group’s connection within the WSCC Plan and the Walking to School programme.

Cllr Kate Bailey reported on her and Cllr Justine Fisher’s meeting with the police last Friday and their plans to hire the Green Room on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays for young people of different age groups. She reported that they are also going to form a Parent Forum for Downlands School which will deal with lots of issues; anger management seems to one of the main problems as is low self-esteem. Parents would have the opportunity to learn about social media. The next stage is to start a dialogue with parents in order to form the Youth Groups and this will involve Windmills and Downlands schools. They will be looking to employ a Key Worker but need some volunteers too.

The Locum Clerk explained that if Cllrs Bailey and Fisher wished to have the Council involved in this initiative then it is important that the correct procedures are adhered to and advised that either the Council or the Policy, Resources and Communications committee should set this up as a formal sub-committee or Working Group much like the Neighbourhood Plan Working Group which will then produce agendas, minutes and report to Council or Committee.

It was AGREED that there would be an item on the next appropriate agenda.

CHAIRMAN’S REPORT

In the absence of the Chairman there was no report at this meeting.

CLERK’S REPORT

General Power of Competence – report submitted to all Councillors prior to the meeting.

16/197 RESOLVED that as the current Clerk is appropriately qualified and sufficient Members were elected Hassocks Parish Council adopts the General Power of Competence.

Calendar of Meetings – report submitted to all Councillors prior to the meeting

16/198 RESOLVED to include monthly meetings for the Policy, Resources and Communications committee but to cancel them if they are not needed at any time.

STAFF

Local Government Pension Scheme

16/199 RESOLVED that Hassocks Parish Council wishes to join the Local Government Pension Scheme administered by West Sussex County Council to enable Jo Whitcombe (Parish Clerk) to continue, and for the Parish Council to start, contributing to that scheme.

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

None

Cllr Bill Hatton, Chairman for the meeting, wished to record the Councils thanks to the Locum Clerk, Linda Butcher, for her assistance over the last three months.

The meeting closed at 8.50pm

Signed..... Chairman

Date.....