

HASSOCKS PARISH COUNCIL

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

PRESENT:

Cllrs	Ian Weir	Chairman
	Kate Bailey	Jane Baker
	Leslie Campbell	Ian Credland
	Justine Fisher	Judith Foot
	Peter Gibbons	Frances Gaudencio
	Sue Hatton	Bill Hatton
	Nick Owens	Darryl Sinclair
	Victoria Standfast	Carol Wise

In attendance: Jo Whitcombe – Parish Clerk
Cllr Gordon Marples - Mid Sussex District Council
1 Member of the Public

APOLOGIES

Cllr Andy Petch - WSCC

DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST

There were none.

7.40pm Cllr Frances Gaudencio joined the meeting.

MINUTES

Matters Arising

Cllr Justine Fisher requested the following amendments to the Minutes of the 14 June 2016.

Under reports from Councillors on meetings of outside bodies where the Council is represented, on page 970, it states that representatives from Freedom Leisure would like to explore working more closely with the Parish Council on youth initiatives, this should be recorded to reflect that there is a will to work more closely in general with the Parish Council, not limited to youth initiatives.

On page 971 the minutes, should reflect that a full report on the 25th anniversary of the twinning event planned in 2017 be requested from the Hassocks Twinning Association.

The Clerk reported that a temporary arrangement for the use of Wi-Fi in the Community Pavilion had been organised as the Keymer and Hassocks Sports and Social Club had kindly allowed the Parish Council to piggy back its account for the duration of the Streetmate trial.

16/387 RESOLVED to adopt the minutes of the Council meeting held on 14 June 2016.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Sian Phillips asked for clarification on the confidential items and whether agenda item number 10 could be considered prior to the exclusion of the Public and Press. The Chairman confirmed that both agenda items 9.2 and 9.3 would be considered under the confidential agenda and item 10 would be considered prior to this.

MINUTES

Grounds and Environment Committee – 28 April 2016

- 16/388** **RESOLVED** to accept the minutes of the Grounds and Environment Committee meeting held on 28 April 2016.
- 16/389** **RESOLVED** to ratify the decision to resolve to implement and fund the scheme for additional baskets to be attached to businesses in Hassocks as per minute number 16/825.
- 16/390** **AGREED** that Penny Wadsworth be co-opted on to the Grounds and Environment Committee and will manage the 'Additional Baskets' initiative in conjunction with the Clerk.

Planning Committee – 6 June 2016

- 16/391** **RESOLVED** to accept the minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 6 June 2016.

Policy, Resources and Communications Committee – 7 June 2016

- 16/392** **RESOLVED** to accept the minutes of the Policy, Resources and Communications Committee held on 7 June 2016.

The CONFIDENTIAL minutes from the Policy, Resources and Communications Committee meeting held on 22 June 2016 were considered under agenda item 9.

Planning Committee – 27 June 2016

- 16/393** **RESOLVED** to accept the minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 27 June 2016.

Grounds and Environment Committee – 30 June 2016

Members considered a briefing note compiled by the Clerk regarding Jack Mill at Clayton. A request for assistance to fund the repair works to the Sweeps and Brakewheel had been received from the owner and minute number **16/385** resolved to consider this request subject to further research being undertaken.

The Clerk had subsequently spoken to the owner who had approached the South Downs National Park for assistance with funding. However this authority could not assist as it could not set a precedent.

Funding was also requested from Historic England who was unable to help as Jack Mill was not on the Buildings at Risk Register.

Hassocks Amenity Association also did not have any funds to commit to the work.

The owner advised the Clerk that the contractor undertaking the work would do so at the original quote this year but should the project be delayed there would be a significant additional cost due to site mobilisation costs.

If the work was not completed this year which the owner is keen to coincide with the 150th anniversary of Jack Mill, then it is likely not to happen for another two to three years to allow the owner to secure the additional funding.

As Hassocks Parish Council's Financial Regulations do not allow the Parish Council to consider requests for grants or donations from individuals, this would need to be considered under Section 137 and subsequently the Clerk had taken advice from the Chairman of the Sussex and Surrey Association of Local Councils.

Whilst he agreed that the Jack and Jill mills were an important part of the village he had concerns regarding this request, as Jack is in private ownership, it would set a precedent and Hassocks Parish Council could be challenged as to why it provided funds for a private initiative whilst other Parish Council work is still to be considered.

Cllr Jane Baker reminded the Group that the owner had offered access to the Mill for any events the Parish Council wished to organise but there was a general agreement that there was currently insufficient resources available take this forward.

A discussion ensued and whilst the Group were very supportive of any works to improve this local landmark they agreed that they could not commit to spending public money on a privately owned building.

16/394 **RESOLVED** unanimously against the recommendation to Council to consider making a financial donation towards the installation of the Sweeps and Brakewheel to Jack Mill.

16/395 **RESOLVED** to accept the minutes of the Grounds and Environment Committee meeting held on 30 June 2016.

REPORTS

The Chairman said he would consider the reports prior to the Finance items as Cllr Marples had advised that he would need to leave the meeting early.

District Councillors' Report

Cllr Marples told the Group that it was 'business as usual' at Mid Sussex District Council (MSDC) following the Referendum and advised that the introduction of devolution was still being discussed at the highest levels at Central Government which would like to see devolution take place in the South of England.

He said that the District Plan was still on track and MSDC was confident it will be submitted to the Inspector shortly and that the management structure at the District Council was currently being reviewed.

Cllr Marples was still pressing MSDC to consider funding additional grass cuts to top up the County Councils contract and asked for the Hassocks Parish Office staff to be mentioned in dispatches as he praised them and the partnership working with Burgess Hill Town Council Maintenance Team for reacting quickly and efficiently to various customer enquiries.

8.00pm Cllr Gordon Marples left the meeting.

County Councillor report

There was no County Councillor report.

Police report

Members were pleased to receive a Crime/Incident Report from PCSO Joel Havicon and it was noted that it contained a low level of crime.

Cllr Jane Baker gave an oral update on the Local Policing meeting she attended on 14 June 2016.

The purpose of the meeting was to outline the changes to local policing and senior police officers were in attendance. The number of Police Constables will not change but there will be a reduction of Police Community Support Officers (PCSO) from 234 to 196. PCSO's will not be designated a specific village but will work as a team covering a particular area and be based in the Haywards Heath Police Station.

There will be changes to the PCSO's shift patterns to allow them to be more accessible to the public throughout the week however it is unlikely that they will be able to continue to attend Parish Council, Neighbourhood Watch or Police Panel meetings.

Officers will be issued with hand held devices so they will not have to return to a station to complete paperwork allowing them to be positioned around the region. A Resolution Centre is already in operation allowing staff to screen which enquiries need a Police Constable to attend or can be dealt with by trained personnel.

Full details can be found on the following link:

<http://www.sussex.police.uk/about-us/priorities-and-direction/local-policing-model>

Cllr Peter Gibbons expressed his concerns regarding the significant waiting times when using the 101 contact number and felt that not all crime was successfully reported particularly by those people who did not have access to the internet in order to complete the online reporting form on the Sussex Police Website.

Cllr Nick Owens recognised that the police budget had been cut by 40/50 % and it was difficult to deliver a service under these conditions.

Cllr Baker said that Sussex Police was recruiting Special Constables with digital expertise to assist when responding to victims of crime.

Cllr Frances Gaudencio considered how the changes to local policing would impact on our community and asked what role Hassocks Parish Council should have in communicating these changes.

Cllr Ian Credland reminded the Group that previously the Council had discussed the implementation of Council Wardens. The Chairman advised that Hassocks Parish Council is in discussion with Hurstpierpoint and Sayers Common Parish Council to jointly explore this model and would be undertaking a visit to Steyning where the Parish Council had employed a Warden, to see if this model would work locally.

Cllr Kate Bailey advised the Group that the main focus for local police is customer service and crime prevention is better than reacting to crime and therefore asked should the village consider CCTV cameras or the installation of additional lighting?

16/396 **RESOLVED** that the Clerk be asked to write to the Chief Constable to express the Councils concerns regarding the poor response times to the 101 service.

Rail Matters

Cllr Leslie Campbell reported that he had attended a Hassocks Rail Group meeting with Southern Railway representatives on 1 July 2016 to discuss various issues that needed attention at the Railway Station. In autumn 2016 new ticket office opening times could be introduced and the Station Host would be available from the first to the last train times serving Hassocks, Monday to Friday.

Cllr Campbell reported that the underpass was starting look tatty and some of the planters needed repair work. He also asked for the CCTV camera on the east side to be repaired as had not worked for the last two years.

Cllr Peter Gibbons advised that the Brompton Cycle Facility had been moved and there was currently a problem with the power supply to the unit. A meeting with Phil Hutchinson from Govia Thameslink Railway had also been requested to ascertain how the 2018 timetable was progressing.

Cllr Gibbons advised that since 1 January 2016, 1921 trains serving Hassocks had been cancelled and with the introduction of a new timetable, cancelling 341 trains, the rail operator hoped this would provide more certainty of service for commuters

Youth initiatives

Cllr Justine Fisher told the group that the Steetmate Trial had been running for four weeks and 40 young people had accessed the facility. Two further sessions were planned for this initial trial period with the last one being held on the 22 July 2016 where Cllr Fisher hoped to organise a BBQ to mark the end of the school term. Craft sessions had proved popular and some young people had asked whether an open air cinema could be considered in Adastra Park.

Local Parents were commenting on Facebook but more engagement with teenagers was required.

From September 2016 it is proposed to run the sessions from 7.00pm to 9.00pm on Fridays and set up the Streetmate vehicle next to the Pavilion. Feedback received was that the current time of 3.00pm to 5.00pm on Fridays clashes with after school clubs.

Cllr Judith Foot said it would take a few months to build up a good nucleus of young people accessing this initiative and to stick with it!

Cllr Fisher will liaise with the youth workers and the volunteers and provide feedback on this first phase of the project.

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

Cllr Leslie Campbell advised that he had been unable to attend the Green Circle Network meeting on 15 June 2016 as was unwell.

Cllr Justine Fisher advised that she is currently writing a paper on the Hassocks Twinning Association 25th Anniversary of Twinning event planned for 2017, for consideration at the Hassocks Parish Council meeting in September 2016.

FINANCE

- 16/397** **RESOLVED** unanimously to approve the Financial Report and the schedule of payments for May 2016, totalling £27,327.40 and June 2016, totalling £21,798.05 as per Appendix 1.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

PARKING WORKING GROUP CONSULTATION UPDATE

The Chairman told the group that 256 people had attended the consultation exercise on Tuesday 21 June 2016 and 150 people on Saturday 25 June 2016. The consultation will run until Monday 18 July 2016 and West Sussex County Council will manage the analysis of the responses and report back to the Parish Council.

CLERK'S REPORT

PROPOSED CHANGES AFFECTING THE COUNTY LOCAL COMMITTEES (CLC) IN ARUN, CRAWLEY AND MID SUSSEX.

The Chairman outlined the information received in Appendix 2 designed to make savings as part of West Sussex County Council's (WSCC) two year savings programme. The proposal is to reduce the number of CLC's from fourteen to eleven and to reduce the number of meetings per year from four to three.

Hassocks is served by the South Mid Sussex CLC and as well as the current areas covered would include Haywards Heath, Cuckfield and Lucastes, Ansty and Staplefield.

Members were disappointed that if the proposed changes were approved there would be less meetings covering a larger area with less money to distribute.

Cllr Sue Hatton advised the Group that they could give their personal feedback on the County Councils website.

16/398 **RESOLVED** to ask the Clerk to feed back the Councils disappointment to WSCC at this cost cutting exercise as per the views outlined above.

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

There were none.

EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

In view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted Councillors will be referred to the Confidential Agenda. If any members of the public or press are in attendance they will be requested to withdraw from the meeting in the public interest.

16/398A **RESOLVED** that this Council excludes the public and press from this meeting on the grounds of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted. This is in accordance with the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 section1.

8.40pm The Clerk and the Member of the Public left the meeting.

The meeting closed at 9.20pm

Signed..... Chairman

Date.....