

HASSOCKS PARISH COUNCIL

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

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

In attendance: Cllr Gordon Marples - Mid Sussex District Council
 Jo Whitcombe – Parish Clerk
 8 Members of the Public
 Dale Mayhew - Dowsett Mayhew
 Claire Tester

APOLOGIES

Cllr Leslie Campbell - unwell
 Cllr Jane Baker – Attending another meeting
 Cllr Andy Petch - WSCC

DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE

Cllr Ian Weir signed a declaration of acceptance of office.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Nick Owens Agenda item 9.1, sites 1, 2 and 15.
 Cllr Frances Gaudencio – Agenda item 9.1, site 8.
 Cllr Justine Fisher – Agenda item 9.1, sites 7 and 8.
 Cllr Carol Wise – Agenda item 9.1, sites 1 and 2.
 Cllr Victoria Standfast – Agenda item 9.1, sites 1 and 2.
 Cllr Ian Credland declared an interest in agenda item 9.1 and sites 1 and 2.
 Cllr Darryl Sinclair – Agenda item 10.1 as a Member of the Light Up Hassocks Committee.

MINUTES

Cllr Sue Hatton nominated Cllr Justine Fisher to be re-instated on to the Neighbourhood Plan Working Group.

Cllr Judith Foot seconded this nomination.

16/351 **RESOLVED** that Cllr Justine Fisher be re-instated on to the Neighbourhood Plan Working Group.

It was noted that Cllr Jane Baker was attending a Local Policing meeting with the Acting Assistant Clerk and there would be a report given at the next meeting of Council.

16/352 RESOLVED to adopt the minutes of the Council meeting held on 3 May 2016.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Carol Bullimore spoke to the Committee outlining her concerns regarding Planning Application DM/15/4609 for 51 houses at Ham Field which is being considered at the Mid Sussex District Council planning meeting on 16 June 2016. It is recommended for approval and she has concerns regarding the air quality issues at Stonepound Crossroads which have not been addressed and Stonepound Road is also used as a 'rat run'. She also said that neighbours of this site had not been adequately informed of this planning application.

Kate Sexton spoke in support of the unanimous decision of the Neighbourhood Plan Working Group to submit the Hassocks Regulation 16 Plan to Mid Sussex District Council. She said that we have had the community consultation and wanted to see the plan approved as this would be localism in action.

MINUTES

Neighbourhood Plan Working Group – 26 April 2016

16/353 RESOLVED to accept the minutes of the Neighbourhood Plan Working Group meeting held on the 26 April 2016.

Skatepark Sub-Committee – 9 May 2016

16/354 RESOLVED to accept the minutes of the Skatepark Sub-Committee meeting held on the 9 May 2016.

Planning Committee – 16 May 2016

16/355 RESOLVED to accept the minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 16 May 2016.

Neighbourhood Plan Working Group – 26 May 2016

16/356 RESOLVED to accept the minutes of the Neighbourhood Plan Working Group meeting held on the 26 May 2016.

Planning Committee – 6 June 2016

For noting.

Policy, Resources and Communications Committee – 7 June 2016

For Members information. Minutes will be considered at next Council meeting on 14 July 2016.

FINANCE

Members considered the Annual Governance Statement for the year ended 31 March 2016 and unanimously,

- 16/357 RESOLVED** to approve the Annual Governance Statement for year ended 31 March 2016 and authorised the Chairman to sign the Annual Return.

Members considered the Accounting Statements for the year ended 31 March 2016 that was circulated as Attachment 1 and unanimously,

- 16/358 RESOLVED** to approve the Accounting Statements for the year ended 31 March 2016 and authorised the Chairman to sign the Annual Return.

Members considered the Annual Return supporting documentation for the year ended 31 March 2016. The Chairman was pleased to note the Internal Auditors Report and said he found it very informative. He said that the Clerk will be reviewing the Auditors recommendations through the appropriate Committees. The Chairman told Members that Section 137 expenditure must be recorded as this was expenditure not specifically authorised by other powers but did benefit our Community. £2501.76 was spent on special refuse collections and £1500 was spent on the allocation of grants.

- 16/359 RESOLVED** to note the contents of this report.

REPORTS

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.

- 7.50pm Cllr Ian Credland joined the meeting.

District Councillors' Report

Cllr Gordon Marples informed the Group that Cllr Peter Martin was unwell. Cllr Marples Surgery, held on Saturday 11 June 2016 was very well attended and the majority of residents concerns were regarding the non-cutting of the grass verges. Since his surgery, West Sussex County Council grass cutters had started cutting the verges in the village. He had spoken to Cllr Pru Moore, MSDC Cabinet Member for Leisure and Sustainability to ask her to consider whether the District Council would top up the grass cutting schedule which are currently set at seven cuts per year by the County Council. He had also taken complaints regarding overhanging vegetation which he had reported to the Clerk.

A Scrutiny Committee will be held on Wednesday 15 June 2016 which will look at the Districts recycling rate which had fallen to below 40%. There is no money for recycled goods and MSDC could face severe financial penalties if this situation is not improved by the year 2020.

He acknowledged the Community Service Awards and noted that this would be considered as a later agenda item and had given the Clerk his recommendations for local people to be recognised for their good works in the village.

County Councillor's Report

The Clerk read out an update from Cllr Andy Petch as he was unable to attend the meeting. He acknowledged that the Parking Consultation was already on the agenda and urged as many people to respond as possible. He too had been dealing with grass cutting complaints and reported that the WSCC Highways Contract is up for renewal. He said that he had received speed data regarding Ockley Lane and Lodge Lane and once he had analysed the report he would feed back the results.

Rail Matters –

Cllr Peter Gibbons advised that there was a meeting with the local station manager planned for 1 July 2016. He updated the Group as to why there was no consistency regarding the opening of the barriers as this was due to issues with the CCTV cameras. The gate operator needs to have a good view and audio link of the gates and currently 3 cameras do not work and the other remaining one gives a corrupt picture.

He reported that 1337 trains had been cancelled in Hassocks since 1 January 2016 and advised that there had been a protest in Brighton as Commuters were exasperated regarding the shortages of staff and cancelled trains since Govia Thameslink Railway took over the franchise.

Youth Initiatives

Cllr Justine Fisher reported that a banner advertising the Streetmate Trial had been erected in Adastra Park, fliers had been given to all Tutor Groups at the local school and would be delivered to all households and there had been over 1000 views on the Hassocks Hub post on Facebook. James is the Youth Worker for Streetmate which is currently recruiting for another post. Cllr Fisher asked the Council to support the introduction of Wi-Fi in the Pavilion as this would be a big attraction for young people and confirmed that this initiative had been awarded £2,500 by WSCC. Should it be demonstrated that this trial is accessed by Affinity Sutton tenants then additional funding would be available from the Housing Association. Cllr Fisher also advised that she would be attending a Children in Need workshop on how to apply for funding from this organisation.

The Chairman thanked Cllr Justine Fisher, Cllr Kate Bailey and Michelle Binks (The Hassocks Hub) for all of their hard work on this initiative.

- 16/360** **RESOLVED** to note the contents of this report and,
- 16/361** **RESOLVED** unanimously that Hassocks Parish Council would not make a charge for the use of the Pavilion for the Voluntary Café to support the Streetmate Trail and,
- 16/362** **RESOLVED** to ask the Clerk to explore the installation of Wi-Fi in the Community Pavilion and report back on associated costs.

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

Cllr Justine Fisher attended the Downlands Sports Hall Committee meeting and reported that representatives from Freedom Leisure would like to explore working more closely with the Parish Council on youth initiatives.

Cllr Justine Fisher attended a Hassocks Twinning Association meeting and reported there is a 25th anniversary of twinning event planned for the 2-5 June 2017. There will be a dinner in Adastra Hall and members from the Montmirail and Wald-Michelbach Twinning Associations will be attending in national costumes as part of this celebration.

The Chairman asked for a full report in order that Hassocks Parish Council can plan for this event.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Hassocks Neighbourhood Plan Regulation 16

The Chairman introduced this item by reading out the officer's report and went on to record his thanks to those members of the community who had contributed a stupendous amount of effort to reach this stage. The Neighbourhood Plan Working Group (NPWG) had met fortnightly for over two years, handling the large amount of work involved in the various consultations and the subsequent development of policies and aims that make up the Hassocks Neighbourhood Plan.

The Parish Council had also been very ably supported by Dale Mayhew and Laura Bourke who although paid by the Parish Council, have consistently gone the extra mile to ensure that we have achieved the demanding timescales required to keep Hassocks in step with the District Plan which is likely to be submitted for examination in the autumn.

The Chairman went on to say that at this stage we are being asked to ratify the Regulation 16 Plan and hand it over to Mid Sussex District Council (MSDC) who will complete a further consultation stage before it goes to examination in the late summer and then to a Referendum. The further the Neighbourhood Plan progresses the more weight it carries in planning terms and so this submission to MSDC will allow it to be taken more seriously at future planning committees.

The documents received by Councillors cover not just the Neighbourhood Plan itself but all the supporting documentation that the Examiner needs as proof that we have done a very thorough job and that besides addressing any issues, there is a firm evidence base behind all of the decisions made in creating the final version of the Plan.

He made a final point that without a Neighbourhood Plan our Planning Committee and the District Planning Committees would have no tools for managing planning applications in a way that benefits Hassocks as a whole.

Whilst there are risks that planning applications will be received before the Plan goes to Referendum, the very fact that if it has passed Regulation 16 will give our plan a lot more weight in any decisions.

The Chairman asked for comments from the floor.

Cllr Victoria Standfast asked whether the Transport Study had been received. Dale Mayhew advised that the Transport Study is being produced by MSDC and WSCC has asked for further changes to be made. The study will be included in the final Regulation 16 Report submission and as of today Dowsett Mayhew has asked for some remodelling of the traffic flow scenarios to be undertaken immediately. In addition, MSDC has advised that officers consider that our approach to assessing the impact of policies, particularly Housing, has been proportionate and robust.

Cllr Peter Gibbons said he was worried about current legal challenges which may damage the Hassocks Neighbourhood Plan and the Local Green Space Allocations and made reference to the planning application at Ham Field currently being recommended for approval by MSDC. He asked for a recorded vote on this recommendation.

In response, Cllr Nick Owens felt that the MSDC Planning Officer's recommendation to this planning application was deficient in major respects as fails to mention the College Lane Appeal decision which refused development as encroached on the strategic gap between Hassocks and Hurstpierpoint. This decision was upheld by the Secretary of State.

Cllr Bill Hatton strongly supported the recommendation and advised the Group to submit the Plan. A huge amount of background work had been undertaken which reflected the communities preferences and would secure and protect the future of Hassocks. The District Council would assess our Plan to ensure that it complies with relevant policies and the Transport Plan report should not hinder the progress of our Neighbourhood Plan.

Cllr Ian Credland recommended that we move forward with the Regulation 16 Submission and thanked Claire Tester for attending the meeting. He said we have taken absolute pains to consider what all respondents said and more recently have all voiced the same concerns of Cllr Gibbons regarding proponents of other sites submitting planning applications. Without a Plan Hassocks would be in a worse place and we have pushed ahead with a sound evidence base to support the decisions made. Over 1000 people have expressed an opinion for the site selections. If we have no Plan we are not in control! If we do not proceed to Regulation 16 now, then when?

Cllr Frances Gaudencio supported the recommendation to proceed to Regulation 16 and felt it was a travesty of the system that Central Government supports localism via the Neighbourhood Planning system yet could still be undermined by local planners.

16/363 RESOLVED that Hassocks Parish Council approve the Regulation 16 Plan and to submit it to Mid Sussex District Council.

There was a Recorded vote and the outcome was:

FOR	Cllr Kate Bailey
FOR	Cllr Ian Credland
FOR	Cllr Justine Fisher
FOR	Cllr Judith Foot
FOR	Cllr Frances Gaudencio
FOR	Cllr Bill Hatton
FOR	Cllr Sue Hatton
FOR	Cllr Nick Owens
FOR	Cllr Darryl Sinclair
FOR	Cllr Ian Weir
FOR	Cllr Carol Wise

AGAINST Cllr Peter Gibbons

ABSTAINED Cllr Victoria Standfast.

PARKING WORKING GROUP

The Chairman introduced this report and explained that the Parking Working Group (PWG), in consultation with the community, had identified a number of parking and traffic flow issues in the village. These had been passed to West Sussex County Council (WSSCC) who has produced some Location Plans which have now gone out for consultation.

Officers from WSSCC and members of the PWG will be available to talk to residents on Tuesday 21 June 2016 between 3.00pm till 9.00pm and on Saturday 25 June between 9.00pm and 12.30pm at Hassocks Parish Council. Letters have been delivered to all residences in Hassocks and full details of how you can view the documents are on the Parish Councils website – www.hassockspc.net.

Members of the PWG have already viewed the Location Plans and advised WSSCC of changes required but unfortunately the plans could not be altered in time for the consultation. Members were advised that the timescale for any works to be undertaken, subject to available funding, will be in 2017/18.

16/364 RESOLVED to note the contents of this report.

CLERK'S REPORT

LIGHT UP HASSOCKS

Members considered the report and Cllr Peter Gibbons asked the Light Up Hassocks Committee to consider whether the time of 4.00 pm was too early to close the road as school children needed to get home. Members voted on the officer recommendation which was seconded by Cllr Sue Hatton.

16/365 **RESOLVED** to support the temporary road closure for the Light Up Hassocks event 2016 and feedback comments to Mid Sussex District Council. Cllr Peter Gibbons abstained from voting.

DRAFT WEST SUSSEX JOINT MINERALS LOCAL PLAN CONSULTATION.

Members considered the report and voted on the officer’s recommendation which was seconded by Cllr Sue Hatton.

16/366 **RESOLVED** that Hassocks Parish Council supports the Draft West Sussex Joint Minerals Plan. Cllr Frances Gaudencio abstained from voting.

COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARDS

Members discussed this agenda item and agreed that this was a worthwhile initiative to say thank you to those members of the community who gave their time voluntarily to do good works in our village.

Cllr Sue Hatton advised that Cllr Gordon Marples had put forward the Monday Group who undertake various repair works to styles and footpaths and Sian and Tony Philips, residents, who maintain the station garden and undertake tidying and clearing work around the village.

Members unanimously supported these recommendations.

16/367 **RESOLVED** that The Monday Group and Sian and Tony Philips be nominated for a Community Service award.

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

There were none.

The meeting closed at 8.40pm

Signed..... Chairman

Date.....