

HASSOCKS PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the **GROUND AND ENVIRONMENT** Committee held on 28th April 2016 at 7.30pm in the Parish Centre, Adastra Park, Hassocks.

PRESENT: Cllrs Peter Gibbons (Chair)
Jane Baker
Leslie Campbell
Bill Hatton
Ian Weir
Carol Wise

In attendance: Georgia Cheshire (from item 10 - Street Trees)
Tony Copeland
Phil Mead
One member of the Public

APOLOGIES

Cllrs Justine Fisher, Kate Bailey, Darryl Sinclair and Nick Owens due to prior commitments.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST –There were no declarations of interest.

MINUTES

16/284 **RESOLVED** to accept the minutes of the Grounds and Environment Committee meeting held on 25 January 2016.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - There was no public participation.

OFFICERS REPORT (previously circulated to all committee members)
Noted.

FLORAL DISPLAYS

To consider the recommendation to Council, the implementation and funding of a scheme to introduce additional hanging baskets located outside of businesses in Hassocks. (Report circulated to all Councillors prior to the meeting)

The Committee discussed the re-introduction of a scheme initially explored in 2015. The scheme involves the provision of flowering hanging baskets to be displayed outside of local businesses. The previous consultation demonstrated that the proposed scheme was welcomed by the majority of businesses. Unfortunately due to unforeseen administrative difficulties there was a delay in finalising this project in time for summer 2015. It was therefore proposed that this project should be re-introduced with an aim to implement in 2017. Penny Wadsworth, a previous Parish Councillor, had

worked with businesses on the original scheme and has agreed to assist with helping the Parish Clerk to implement the re-introduced scheme should Council approve this project.

- 16/285** **RESOLVED** that the implementation and funding of a scheme for additional hanging baskets attached to businesses in Hassocks should be recommended to Full Council.

SKATEPARK SUB-COMMITTEE UPDATE (previously circulated to all committee members).

The Skatepark Sub-Committee (SPSC) has met twice to date and the younger members of the SPSC have submitted an initial concept design and a wish list of equipment they would like to see incorporated into a skate park. Hassocks Parish Council has agreed, in principle, to make a capital contribution of up to £50,000 and the Clerk will be seeking external funding. The next meeting to be held on 9 May 2016 will discuss further concept designs and a tendering process.

COMMUNITY PAVILION

New Flooring Update (report previously circulated to all Committee members)

Following the resolution at the Full Council meeting on 8 March 2016 (minute 16/247) to replace the floor covering in the main hall and for the Clerk to explore options and costs. The Committee was presented with three quotes for the replacement of the existing carpet tiles with a robust vinyl of a comparable quality.

- 16/286** **RESOLVED** to appoint Disco Carpets (Company C) to undertake the replacement flooring in the Pavilion at a cost of £1919.17 plus VAT. Expenditure to be taken from the Pavilion Budget. [Action: Parish Clerk]

Cleaning Contract (report previously circulated to all Committee members)

Following from the resolution at the Full Council meeting on 8 March 2016 (minute 16/246) that an additional cleaning resource was required for the Community Pavilion, and for the Clerk to explore this. The Committee was asked to consider the engagement of a Cleaning Contractor, Bee Clean, at a cost of £45.00 plus VAT per clean. This would be a full clean of the Pavilion, to an agreed specification, once a week. All hirers of the Pavilion will be expected to maintain the condition of the Pavilion and this will be monitored closely.

- 16/287** **RESOLVED** to appoint Bee Clean Cleaning Contractors to clean the Pavilion on a weekly basis initially at £45.00 plus VAT per clean. Subject to review after 3 months. [Action: Parish Clerk]

Replacement of Existing Furniture (report previously circulated to all Committee members)

Members had been informed that the existing furniture in the Pavilion is not suitable for purpose and reduces the available floor space. This had recently impacted on the appeal to potential hirers. Members were shown examples of lighter weight, folding tables and stackable chairs made by a company called Go-Pack. The tables can also be stored securely on a trolley which could be removed from the main hall making it a more usable space. The Committee was asked to consider approving a budget of £1600 for the purchase of new tables, chairs and a storage trolley for the Pavilion. It was agreed that the existing furniture would either be sold or donated to charity as appropriate.

- 16/288** **RESOLVED** that a budget of up to £1600 be used for the purchase of suitable replacement furniture for the Community Pavilion as deemed appropriate by the Clerk. Expenditure to be taken from the Pavilion Budget. [Action: Parish Clerk]

Georgia Cheshire joined the meeting.

TREES

Street Trees

Phil Mead thanked the Parish Council for agreeing a further £10,000 to be set aside for Tree Planting over the next three years. He reported that West Sussex County Council (WSCC) had distributed the letters regarding tree planting for 2016/17. The focus roads for this year are Chancellors Park, Oldlands Avenue, Kings Drive and Queens Drive. The closing date for registering interest is 20 May 2016. Residents will then be contacted by members of the Trees for Hassocks Group and a finalised list will be given to WSCC by the end of May.

Orchard Lane

Following the discussion at the G&E meeting held on 25 January 2016, regarding the planting young oaks along a section of Orchard Lane to ensure the presence of trees in the future. Phil Mead updated Members that a preliminary examination suggested that there appears to be sufficient space for the planting of young oaks along the section of Orchard Lane. However, before submitting a final report to the Committee, Phil is waiting until all trees are in full leaf.

North Field Car Park

Phil Mead ask the Committee to consider allowing the hedge between the North Field Car Park and the field area to grow higher which would then reduce the visibility of the cars and enhance the 'rural' feel of the park.

Concerns were raised as to the impact this may have on the security within the car park. General agreement was that this would be limited.

16/289 RESOLVED that the hedge around the North Field Car Park would be allowed to grow another five inches subject to operational constraints.

PARKLANDS ALLOTMENTS

Report from Hassocks Allotment Holders Association. Tony Copeland thanked Hassocks Parish Council on behalf of HAHA for the financial support given in enabling the recent site improvements to be made. Great progress has been made and the Car Park is now finished. Tony informed the Committee that volunteers had moved approximately 20 tonnes of materials. Improvement to the drainage and the construction of a centre path are the next project and three working party weekends have been planned to carry out the drainage work. A slight change to the materials used for the drainage has involved the purchase of membrane which will line the trenches and should increase the life of the drainage to about 25 years.

HAHA asked if it would be possible for the existing centre path to be mowed as short as possible before 9 May in order for the work to progress. [Action: Groundsman]

Bee Keeping on Parklands Roads Allotment

Following the G & E meeting held on 25 January 2016, Tony Copeland reported that HAHA members had been consulted on the proposal for bee keeping to be allowed on the allotments and the response was unanimously in favour of this. It was therefore AGREED that bee keeping would be allowed on Parklands Road Allotments in principle, subject to any restrictions or conditions as appropriate. [Action: Acting Assistant Clerk]

Access Bridge to Parklands Allotments

HAHA members had expressed concern about logs in the Herring Stream which are becoming lodged in the access bridge and the bridge on the Parklands Road/Downs View Footpath. Flooding is already an issue and this will exacerbate this. Members were informed by the Acting Assistant Clerk that this land is owned by Mid Sussex District Council (MSDC) and several reports have been made to the Landscapes Department at MSDC and photos sent. It was noted that some of the logs may have come from Parklands Copse following the footpath improvements. The logs have been left as wildlife havens, however have fallen/been pushed into the stream. Therefore it was AGREED that it could be explored for some of these logs to be re-located within Parklands Copse and that this part of the stream could be cleared by HPC.

Georgia Cheshire has been approached by Hassocks Scouts regarding a community project which could be carried out in the summer. The

assistance of the Scouts in the clearance of the stream in Parklands Copse was discussed. All agreed it would be a positive move to encourage the involvement of young people in their local environment and of great assistance. It was AGREED that in principle and subject to the necessary Health and Safety requirements, the assistance of the Scouts in the clearance of the stream in Parklands Copse would be explored further by the Parish Clerk. Georgia Cheshire would provide further clarification on which Scout Group was involved. [Action: Parish Clerk/Georgia Cheshire

PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY

Cllr Leslie Campbell thanked the Parish Clerk and Cllr Ian Weir for arranging the Parklands Copse Open event which many residents had enjoyed.

Footpath 27C

Cllr Campbell informed the Committee that he had received an email from the owners of Lag Wood and Pheasant Field informing him that WSCC had organised the building of a wooden walkway by the stile in the North West corner of Pheasant Field by the Cinder Track. Unfortunately it is too muddy at present, but this work will be carried out when the ground has dried out and a vehicle can access the area without causing damage. The WSCC Access Ranger has also been shown the area by Woodbine Cottage where the stream floods and she is to contact the Parish Council to discuss this further.

Cllr Peter Gibbons commented on the condition of the footpath along the Cinder Track. The tarmac at both ends has broken up and it is particularly bad at the Clayton end. Cllr Campbell informed the Committee that the path is the responsibility of WSCC, however the responsibility is in maintaining access of the path and funding is very limited for carrying out repairs. A discussion took place as to possible projects and funding which could be pursued to incorporate the repair of the Cinder Track.

It was AGREED that at the current time the Parish Council is unable to provide for reparation or maintenance to footpaths, however going forward a program of path upgrades could be incorporated into future plans.

Clayton Village Green

Cllr Jane Baker updated the Committee. The hedge around Clayton Village Green has fallen into considerable disrepair and Cllr Baker has been in discussion with MSDC for over two years on this matter. MSDC have assessed that much of the hedge is now dead or damaged beyond repair, resulting in the need to remove the entire hedge and replace it. New post and rail fencing will be put in and a new hedge replanted.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Thursday 30 June 2016 at 7.30pm.

A provisional date for the following meeting was agreed as Thursday 8th September 2016. This is to be confirmed.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 8.46 pm.

SignedChairman

Date.....

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