

## HASSOCKS PARISH COUNCIL

### **Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council on 8 November 2016 at 8.30pm in the Council Chamber, Parish Centre, Adastra Park, Hassocks.**

Attendees: Parish Councillors: Ian Weir (Chairman); Nick Owen; Leslie Campbell; Peter Gibbons; Kate Bailey; Frances Gaudencio; Bill Hatton; Judith Foot(JAF); Sue Hatton; Rev Daryl Sinclair; Victoria Standfast; Justine Fisher (JF)  
Neighbourhood Plan Consultant: Dale Mayhew (Dowcett Mayhew)  
Locum Clerk: Colin Hunt  
Administration: Jane Bromley

#### **16/502 APOLOGIES**

**502.1** To Accept Apologies for Absence.

Parish Councillor Jane Baker.

#### **16/503 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

**503.1** Disclosure by Councillors of personal interests in matters on the agenda, and whether the Councillor regards their interest as prejudicial under the terms of the Code of Conduct.

SH, BH and NO declared an interest in the HKD Transition Group. This organisation may form part of the discussions when considering the Planning Committee Minutes of 31<sup>st</sup> October 2016.

#### **16/504 MINUTES**

**504.1** To accept the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> October 2016

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 11 October 2016 were accepted.

**16/505 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION- There were approximately 35 members of the public present.**

One resident, Mark Alder, discussed the recent Mid Sussex District Council Planning Officers recommendation with regard to the planning application submitted for Friars Oak. The recommendation had been for the Committee to approve the plans which was contrary to advice from the Parish Council and through the emerging Hassocks Neighbourhood Plan contrary to the will of the community. The Neighbourhood Plan was not mentioned and if the Neighbourhood Plan is allowed to fail it could mean development on all of the sites considered in the Neighbourhood Plan process. The resident presented a petition with 600 signatures collection of which was still ongoing. The petition would be submitted to the Parish Council in due course. The petition was to establish a request for the Parish Council to allocate funding towards a judicial review with regard to the disregard the Planning Officers had for the Neighbourhood Plan.

Another resident, Ian Credland, spoke regarding the Peter Hayward WSCC

Strategic Planning Consultant's submission in respect of the planning application DM/16/17753975 for the Golf Club development which was included as a designated site in the Neighbourhood Plan. Peter Hayward notes that the Transport Assessment carried out for the Golf Club planning application does not include reference to the Ham Field Planning Application (currently with the Secretary of State) or the Friar's Oak application, (a decision for which is 'frozen' pending the Secretary of State's consideration of this application), the reason the Assessment gives, that they are not development's contained within the Neighbourhood Plan. He argues that the Friar's Oak development should be taken into account in the Golf Club's Transport Assessment as it would deliver improvement to the Stonepound traffic signal controlled junction. He goes on to say he understands the Neighbourhood Plan is to be revisited in the light of the resolution granting planning permission to the Friar's Oak site. He says that the Traffic Assessment carried out for the Ham Field site is erroneous as it does not take into account the Friar's Oak development 'resolved for approval'. To avoid further work he considers it would be sufficient to rely on the Friar's Oak Traffic Assessment development case, for the Golf Club Traffic Assessment. He recommends refusal of the Golf Club planning application on the grounds of insufficient evidence as to whether the development would have a material traffic impact on the Stonepound crossroads.

The resident had the following queries with regard to the submission: Why did WSCC think the sites Friar's Oak and The Golf Club were to be flipped? The resident noted that WSCC had commented at the Reg.14 and Reg.16 consultations stating their objection to development along London Road due to insufficient information regarding traffic movement and this is contrary to their commentary on Friar's Oak. The resident asked whether the Parish Council were going to write to the Housing Minister with regard to the Ham Filed appeal, requesting a modification of their Transport assessment to take into account the Friar's Oak development? In addition depending on the location of a new school within Hassocks further testing of the impact of traffic generated by school movements on Stonepound may be required.

BH advised the resident that the Parish Council although aware of the submission by WSCC had not seen the content until now and would need to consider this thoroughly before commenting.

## **16/506 MINUTES**

To accept the following Minutes

**506.1 Planning Committee** 10 October 2016  
31 October 2016 (For noting only)

The Parish Council accepted the minutes of the Planning Committee of 10<sup>th</sup> October 2016 and noted the Planning Committee minutes of 31 October 2016.

**506.2 Policy, Resources and Communications Committee**  
18 October 2016 (For noting only)

The Parish Council noted the minutes of the Policy, Resources and Communications Committee of 18<sup>th</sup> October 2016.

**506.2i** Council are recommended to adopt the Communications Policy as proposed the PR&C Committee. (Minute 486.1) (Appendix 1 - Papers to follow)

IW asked for any questions with regard to this recommendation.

KB felt that the Policy as drafted did not thoroughly take into account the use of Facebook as a means of communication with the community. She felt that this was the modern day method and preferred method of communication for many and that the Parish Council should embrace this.

IW considered that the Policy as drafted was a sound basis for the Communication Policy for the Parish Council and it would be further amended and adjusted upon review at a later date.

KB felt that the Parish Council needed professional advice as to how they could more effectively communicate with the community using social media.

IW felt that KB had made some good points and that the Parish Council would take these on board and this would form the basis of a discussion at a later date.

JF felt Facebook was a good way to spread news. She also felt that the interactive nature of Facebook and social media in general was perhaps not what the Parish Council should entertain.

IW recommended that this be discussed at a later date.

FG recommended that the Communications Policy as drafted be accepted by the Parish Council JAF seconded this proposal and all were in favour.

## **16/507 FINANCE**

**507.1** To approve the Financial Report and authorise the list of cheques for September 2016. (Appendix 2)

The Finance report and cheque payments totalling £15454.44 were approved.

## **16/508 REPORTS**

### **508.1 Police Report**

No report.

### **508.2 District Councillors' Report**

District Councillor, Gordon Marples reported that the applications for Green Bins had now all been processed. The District Council had approved the Orchard shopping Centre subject to survey and contract. He advised that Nick Herbert MP had spoken on Friday about interference with Neighbourhood Plans from planning applications. He advised that a Housing Bill was to be published after the autumn statement but warned that reviewed housing numbers were not good news for his constituency.

### **508.3 County Councillor Report. None**

**508.4 Rail Matters** (Oral report, Cllr Leslie Campbell) There is a Local Council Consultation underway on the planning for the 2018 railway timetable. The Chair of the Rail Group Forum has asked that Parish Councils make a submission and also that they encourage Councillors to make their own individuals submission. The consultation is through the Southern rail website.

PG mentioned that there had been 2685 trains cancelled to Hassocks this year. LC warned of imminent strike action for RMT over Christmas and New Year.

**508.5 Youth Initiatives** (Oral report, Cllr Justine Fisher). The Youth Club is going well and via advertisement on Facebook there has been an increase in numbers.

**508.6** Report from Councillors on Outside Bodies where the Council is represented.  
None.

### **16/509 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

**509.1 Neighbourhood Plan** – verbal report on meeting with MSDC on 7 November 2016

IW mentioned that the Parish Council were aware that the Secretary of State had asked MSDC to 'freeze' their decision on the Friar's Oak site's planning application pending his decision whether or not to call in the application. MSDC also could not support taking the Neighbourhood Plan to Examination due to the Environmental Agency's insistence that the Sequential Flood Risk Assessment for the National Tyres site in the Neighbourhood Plan be redone given the EA's own review on Sequential Flood Risk for the site and surrounding area. This will involve a six week consultation and the results are expected in early January.

IW pointed out that in early January two important issues will be known: the results of the further flood risk assessment for the National Tyres site; and the outcome as to whether the Secretary of State will 'call in' the Friar's Oak application.

**509.2 Neighbourhood Plan** – to review options available to Council following the Decision by MSDC Planning Committee relating to Friars Oak Fields.

BH mentioned the flow chart prepared by FG which had been handed out at the meeting and which summarised the situation with regard to the Neighbourhood Plan following the recommendation by MSDC Officers to approve the Friar's Oak site. The decision is 'frozen' and if this planning application is 'called in' by the Secretary of State then a decision on the site may not be forthcoming until the summer 2017. If the planning application is not 'called in', the planning application will be passed back to MSDC for a decision. The Parish Council do not know how long this decision will take and it is difficult for the Parish Council at this time to make a decision on the way forward for the Neighbourhood Plan. In addition the decision on the Ham Fields site will not be before the New Year.

PG asked if the Neighbourhood Plan came back to the Parish Council to undertake the further flood risk assessment? DM replied that MSDC had undertaken to carry out the consultation on this and the Parish Council would supply MSDC the additional evidence for the consultation.

NO asked what would be the grounds if the Parish Council decided to progress a judicial review and what would be the likelihood of success?

DM replied that a judicial review could not be instigated until a decision was made and that the appellant proposed that there was a procedural error with the making of the decision, not simply that the decision was the wrong one. In DM's view this would be something procedurally wrong with the flood risk testing or the MSDC Officers failing to attach sufficient weight to the Emerging Neighbourhood Plan. DM felt it was wrong to speculate on the prospects of a judicial review.

FG asked that DM addressed the issue of flipping from the public speaker and queried whether there was an intention for this to occur? DM advised that if a site were deselected from the Neighbourhood Plan in favour of the Friar's Oak site this would trigger a rerun of site selection, Reg. 14 Consultation and Reg. 16 Consultation and effectively it would delay any prospects for a 'made' Plan by 12 to 18 months.

**509.3 Neighbourhood Plan** – to agree an Action Plan

IW proposed that the Parish Council vote on two Resolutions:

*IW recommended that the Parish Council support the 'calling in' of the Friar's Oak planning application by the Secretary of State. BH seconded this proposal and all were in favour.*

*IW recommended that the Parish Council review the Strategy for the Neighbourhood Plan in January 2017. JAF seconded and all were in favour.*

**16/510 CLERK'S REPORT**

**510.1 COUNCILLOR VACANCY**

Council is advised of the resignation of Ian Credland from Council on 21 October 2016. A Notice of Vacancy has been published inviting electors to request a poll, as required by law. If no such request is received within the prescribed time then the Council may co-opt a suitable person to sit on the council. (Ref. local Government Act 1972 s87).

Council is requested to note the resignation of Ian Credland and that the publication of a Notice of Vacancy has been posted.

The Parish Council noted these events.

**510.2 CO-OPTING ONTO THE COUNCIL**

Following the resignation of Carol Wise from Council on 30 September 2016 and the posting of the statutory notices, Council is advised that a by-election will not be required in this instance as a poll was not requested by residents.

Council may therefore co-opt a suitable person onto the Council and a notice requesting persons, who may be interested, to apply has been posted.

The Locum Clerk will provide an update to Members on this matter at the meeting.

There were two prospective candidates for the vacant Councillor position which the Locum Clerk would be speaking with regarding the role of a Councillor. A decision would not be made until after 30<sup>th</sup> November 2016 when the second Vacancy Notice publication ended. It may be that the two expressions of interest would fill the two vacancies.

**510.3 DRAFT TAXI AND PRIVATE HIRE LICENSING POINTS SCHEME.**

Members have been alerted to the public consultation relating to the above scheme and have been forwarded details of the draft proposals, which can be found on MSDC's web site. If Councillors or members or the public wish to respond to the consultation they should do so direct to the Licensing Officer at MSDC or email [taxilicensing@midsussex.gov.uk](mailto:taxilicensing@midsussex.gov.uk)

Council is requested to note this matter.

The Parish Council noted this matter.

#### **510.4 RECRUITMENT OF NEW CLERK**

Council is informed that the advertisement for the new clerk has been posted and should appear in the West Sussex Gazette and the Argus on 3 and 10 November 2016. The closing date for applications is the 18 November with interviews planned for the 6<sup>th</sup> December 2016.

The advert will also appear on SSALC's web site, who will help with the recruitment process, and has been forwarded to a number of local authorities with a request that they too advertise the post on their web sites.

The Locum Clerk advised the Parish Council that notices had been placed both on the SALC website and in the West Sussex Gazette and the Brighton Argus. Local Councils had also been asked to advertise the vacancy on their websites.

The Locum Clerk advised that the Staffing Group would be meeting to decide on suitable questions for the interviews. SH queried whether they might have details of initial responders to the vacancy at their Staffing Meeting next week. The Locum Clerk would arrange this if possible.

FG queried whether the vacancy could be advertised via Facebook by putting a link to the Parish Council website on the Facebook notice board. No decision was made with regard to this.

#### **16/511 BUS SERVICES**

Compass Travel have issued a press release announcing the withdrawal of Bus Service 40X from Friday 4 November 2016. The announcement also reports that wider changes will be made to bus services from early January following an ongoing review of the routes taken on the Sussex Bus Company.

Council is asked to consider possible route changes to be proposed to Compass Travel which would benefit the residents of Hassocks. (Oral Report, Cllr Peter Gibbons).

PG advised the members that bus route 40x had been withdrawn as of last Friday and that a review of all bus services was to be carried out. PG asked the Parish Council to think about a new route for the village: Ockley Lane- Library- Keymer-Stonepound and onwards to Brighton.

JAF queried whether there would be a bus that took people to the hospital now that bus 40x was no longer. PG advised that routes 271 and 272 ran from Haywards Heath to the hospital.

VS asked whether there were any routes now for the London Road and PG confirmed that 270; 271; 272 all went along the London Road.

NO proposed to the members that the Transport Survey carried out by Friar's Oak would now be considered incorrect as route 40x could no longer be considered in the survey and should be redone.

PG felt that bus services came and went at a week's notice frequently.

FG reminded the Parish Council about the rules of debate and that the members should now consider NO's proposal.

BH pointed out that the Transport Survey was being redone anyway with regard to the Golf Course planning application and that the Parish Council needed to vote on the proposed new route request suggested by PG.

***PG proposed the new route Ockley Lane via the Library, Keymer and Stonepound to Brighton be supported by the Parish Council. LC seconded and all were in favour.***

LC queried whether PG could draft a letter with the Locum Clerk to send to the bus company. PG agreed to this.

**16/512 URGENT MATTERS** at the discretion of the Chairman for noting and/or inclusion on a future agenda.

IW queried when a new Chair of the Neighbourhood Plan was to be decided upon and SH felt that the next possible scheduled meeting of the Neighbourhood Plan on 24<sup>th</sup> November 2016 would deal with the election of a new Chair.

#### **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.

The Parish Council resolved to the exclusion of the Public and Press.

**16/513** To accept the CONFIDENTIAL Hassocks Parish Council meeting Minutes held on 11 October 2016.

Discussed under confidential session.

**16/514** CONFIDENTIAL Policy, Resources and Communications Committee meeting minutes held on 18 October 2016. (For noting only)

Discussed under confidential session

The meeting closed at 9.50pm.

Chairman's Signature -----