

HAS SOCKS PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of **HAS SOCKS PARISH COUNCIL** held on
11 October 2016 at 7.30pm in the Parish Centre, Adastra Park, Hassocks

PRESENT: Ian Weir (Chairman)
Jane Baker Leslie Campbell
Ian Credland Justine Fisher
Judith Foot Frances Gaudencio
Sue Hatton Bill Hatton
Nick Owens Darryl Sinclair
Victoria Standfast

In attendance: Gordon Marples (Mid Sussex District Council Ward Member)
 Stephen Hoyles – Acting Parish Clerk
 2 Members of the Public

16/466: APOLOGIES

The following apologies for absence were received and accepted by Council:
Cllr Peter Gibbons
Cllr Kate Bailey

16/467: DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST

The Council noted that there were no disclosures by Members of any dis-closable pecuniary interests and interests other than pecuniary interests, as defined under Hassocks Parish Council's Code of Conduct and the Localism Act 2011, in relation to matters on the agenda.

16/468: MINUTES

RESOLVED to adopt the non-confidential minutes of the Council meeting held on 27 September 2016.

Matters Arising from the Minutes of 27 September 2016: The Chairman advised that the Council had appointed a temporary locum Clerk, Mr Colin Hunt, who would shortly be commencing on two days per week. It was agreed that an informal meeting with Members would be arranged to allow Mr Hunt to be introduced.

16/469: PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Carolyn Barton, Chairman of the Hassocks Twinning Association, made a presentation to the Council of a Commemorative Plaque, which was given to the Twinning Association at a meeting between the communities of Montmirail in France and Wald-Michelbach in Germany. The artisan metal plaque records the period of twinning with Hassocks – 'PLACE DE MONTMIRAIL, 1992 – 2016. As the agreement was originally set up by the Parish Council, the Twinning Association had asked that the plaque be displayed in the Parish Office for the public to view.

There were no other requests from the public to speak.

16/470: MINUTES of the Planning Committee – 19 September 2016:
The Council noted the Minutes.

16/471: PARTNER REPORTS

(1) District Councillors' Report: Cllr Gordon Marples reported (a) The District Council Annual Community Awards had recently taken place, with awards being made to three Hassocks residents and presented by the High Sheriff. (b) There had been recent changes to the District Council portfolio holders, following the resignation of Cllr Pru Moore from Cabinet. (c) The Council had now responded to the Inspector's initial comments on the submitted District Plan. No date had yet been set for the Examination in Public. (d) It was noted that the planning application for housing at land to the rear of the Friars Oak was due to be considered by the District Council on 13 October 2016.

(2) County Councillor Report: There was no report on this occasion.

(3) Police Report: There was no report on this occasion.

16/472: FINANCE

The Council considered the Financial Report and agreed to authorise the list of cheques for August 2016. (Appendix 1.)

RESOLVED to approve the list of payments for August 2016 (Appendix 1) for £16,747.11.

16/473: AUDIT

The Council was advised that the External Auditor had signed off the Annual Return for the year ended 31 March 2016 and that the external audit fee for the year is £600 plus VAT. It was agreed that a copy of the Annual Return would be sent to Members.

RESOLVED the Annual Return is noted by Council.

16/474 REPORTS

(1) Rail Matters: Cllr Leslie Campbell reported a meeting had been held with Mr Phil Hutchinson of Thameslink on 29 September 2016, at which the proposed timetable changes, effective May 2018, were explained. It was noted with concern that there would be a loss of a direct train from Hassocks to the 'coastway west' (Hove, Littlehampton, etc) and to Wivelsfield and Balcombe, so that changes would be necessary at intermediate stations. The proposed changes would be subject to formal consultation in due course. It was agreed that the local MP should be advised of the proposals.

(2) Youth Initiatives: Cllr Justine Fisher reported that about 75 young people were attending at an event on Fridays between 7.00 and 9.00pm, and four sessions had been completed. It was expected that the initiative would continue. Questions were raised about how the funding was being spent and it was agreed that the Clerk would provide further detail for Council's consideration.

(3) Hassocks Twinning Association request for funding. (Report: Justine Fisher - 11 October 2016:): The Council considered a request from the Twinning Association for a donation of £8,000 to contribute towards the 25-year celebrations in Hassocks in June 2017. Discussion took place at which the Council expressed general support. It was noted that the cost would be met from Reserves in financial

year 2017/18, and also noted that the Council would need to confirm that it held the appropriate powers to make a grant of this type.

RESOLVED the Council agrees to a donation of £8000 in Financial Year 2017/18 to the Hassocks Twinning Association towards the 25-year celebrations, subject to confirmation of the appropriate powers to spend.

(4) Report from Councillors on meetings of outside bodies where the Council is represented. The Council received the following oral reports:

(a) Cllr Jane Baker reported that the Police Panel had been attended by a PCSO, and it had been reported that a number of vehicle break-ins had recently occurred. There was continuing concern about traffic speeding, and the Police were requesting more volunteers to operate speed monitors. The Police were also requesting volunteers to undertake administrative jobs in their offices, and were asking for assistance with publicity for Panel meetings.

(b) Cllr Bill Hatton reported that he had attended a meeting of the Oldlands Mill trustees and was very encouraged by the energy and commitment of the group.

16/475: CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT: There was no report on this occasion.

16/476: CLERK'S REPORT:

COUNCILLOR VACANCY: The Council was asked to note the resignation of Carol Wise from Council on 30 September 2016 due to family commitments. A Notice of Vacancy had 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 Member. (Ref. local Government Act 1972 s87).

RESOLVED the resignation of Member Carol Wise and the publication of a Notice of Vacancy are noted.

16/477 URGENT MATTERS: The following matter was introduced at the discretion of the Chairman for consideration:

(1) Royal British Legion – Hassocks Branch (RBL) - request for financial assistance: The local RBL had made a request for funding of the marching band (about £100) and for the provision of marshals for the road closure during the parade (about £800). The Police had advised that they would not be able to attend, hence the need for marshals. It was noted that this item had only just come to the attention of the Council and that the event would be taking place in early November 2016. Discussion took place in which the Council expressed support for the RBL and the parade, although it was not clear from the information precisely what funds were being requested. The council agreed to set aside up to £1000 as a donation towards the costs of the marching band and road marshals, subject to the provision of firm quotes by RBL, and the decision on the payment to be delegated to the Chairman and Clerk.

RESOLVED Up to £1000 is set aside as a donation to Royal British Legion – Hassocks Branch, as a contribution towards the provision of a marching band and road marshals. The approval of the final payment is delegated to the Chairman and Clerk.

16/478: EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS: In view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted Councillors would be referred to the Confidential Agenda. Any members of the public or press are in attendance were requested to withdraw from the meeting in the public interest.

RESOLVED the Meeting is closed to the public and press to enable confidential matters to be considered.

There being no other business the Chairman concluded the meeting at 9.10pm

Chairman
