

HASSOCKS PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the **POLICY, RESOURCES and COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE**
meeting held on **Tuesday 17th January 2017 at 7.30pm**

Attendees: Parish Councillors: Kate Bailey; Justine Fisher; Judith Foot (Chair); Frances Gaudencio; Peter Gibbons; Sue Hatton; Chris Hobbs and Ian Weir.

Locum Clerk: Colin Hunt

17/607 APOLOGIES: Justine Fisher sent her apologies as she would be arriving a little late. This was accepted by Committee.

17/608 DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS: None declared.

17/609 MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 29th November 2016 as previously circulated were accepted by the Committee as an accurate record

17/610 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION. There were no members of the public present.

17/611 REPORTS

611.1 Review of existing Council policies-

Protocol on Member/Officer Relations – Dignity at Work Policy

Pursuant to the resolution made by Committee to charge the Locum Clerk with the task of reviewing existing Council policies (Reference 16/551), Appendix 1 was attached which was a draft Member/Officer Protocol for consideration.

Committee was requested to consider the draft and alter the document as it deems necessary prior to referral to Council for formal adoption.

Members had a number of questions, which were answered by the Locum Clerk, who emphasised that this was 'work in progress' and that future modifications were likely as situations arose.

Members generally agreed that the protocol was a useful first step as it gave clear guidance between the strategic and operational parts of the Council and that this might help to look at their own conduct in meetings.

A number of good ideas flowed which Members felt might help in their Council workings. These included:-

- Better ways of disseminating information regarding available training courses and opportunities;
- A 'Buddy councillor' initiative for newly elected/appointed Councillors to learn from;

- Induction programme for new councillors and refreshers for longer standing Councillors and
- A flow chart/diagram to clarify the routes to introducing new initiatives.

These matters will be progressed.

The Chair moved that the Member/Officer Protocol as presented but with certain spelling errors corrected be recommended to Council for adoption. Cllr Sue Hatton seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

611.2

Station Parking Programme and Woodlands Meed School.

Councillors were aware of a series of emails concerning the above, which have been forwarded by WSCC Councillor Andy Petch. This issue was reported at the last Council meeting but as the item did not appear on that agenda Council could not resolve the matter.

In view of the time limitations, Council had delegated the issues to this Committee to discuss and resolve as it considers appropriate.

The Government was committed to providing an additional £1.1bn for local road improvements by 2021. Some of the funding had already been allocated but it was anticipated that a portion of that funding would be allocated to local authorities on a competitive basis. On this premise WSCC Cllr Andy Petch had asked HPC to nominate 'minor' highway schemes and improvements which could be submitted as a bid, which would satisfy the criteria that improvements would improve productivity and enable growth through reduced congestion.

Some Councillor questioned the reference to the Woodlands school, which was technically outside the parish. It was however explained that many children from the village attend the school and would therefore benefit from a resolution of the issue. The matter had been included in WSCC's Cllr Petch's update.

Cllr Weir proposed that an item be included in the February Full council meeting with a recommendation that Council write to WSCC expressing deep concern at the situation and its effect on local children with special needs. This was agreed by the Committee.

After further discussion Cllr Weir proposed a motion that the following three schemes, which Committee agreed to packaging into one for submission purposes, be put forward for consideration. The three schemes being:

1. A roundabout at the junction of New Road and Lodge Lane to improve traffic flows and safety;
2. A TRO to address the parking problems at Downlands School and other roads in Hassocks as previously identified from feedback following WSCC Consultation in July 2016 and;-

3. A new three storey car park to accommodate 400+ cars at the railway station, which could include a footbridge link to the station to alleviate the parking and congestion along adjoining roads and provide much needed parking facilities for railway commuters.

The motion, which was seconded by Cllr Gibbons, was carried by a majority vote of six with one abstention.

17/612 Urgent Matters at the discretion of the Chair for noting and/or inclusion on a future agenda.

612.1 The Chair noted that the proposed meetings of the chairs of committees had not been scheduled and wished to do so at this meeting. The chair asked those chairs present the dates that would be convenient and after consideration a date of the 1st March was agreed. The meeting would start at 7:30in the Council chamber and be clerked.

612.2 The Chair wished to progress work on the Council's business plan by exploring the issues in the priorities that had been identified and agreed.by Council. An item will be placed on the next agenda for this purpose.

There were no other urgent matters.

17/613 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

21st February 2017

The meeting closed at 8:40 pm

Signed.....

Date.....