

HASSOCKS PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the **GROUNDS AND ENVIRONMENT** Committee held on 29 June 2017 at 7.30pm in the Parish Centre, Adastra Park, Hassocks.

PRESENT: Cllrs Kate Bailey (joined the meeting 7.40pm)
Jane Baker
Leslie Campbell
Georgia Cheshire
Peter Gibbons
Bill Hatton
Chris Hobbs
Darryl Sinclair
Ian Weir

In attendance: Tracy Bates – Deputy Clerk
Ian Cumberworth – Parish Clerk
Penny Wadsworth
Sally Booker
Tony Copeland (Chair of Hassocks Allotment Holders Association)
Rachel Paget (Ouse and Adur Rivers Trust, OART)
Professor Fred Maillardet (Hassocks Amenity Association, HAA).

GE17/18 The Chairman proposed changing the order of the Agenda to consider item 10, Flood Management for Adastra Park, first. This was agreed by the Committee.

GE17/19 APOLOGIES. Apologies were received from Cllrs Jane Baker, Sue Hatton.

GE17/20 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST. There were no declarations of interest.

GE17/21 MINUTES.

RESOLVED to accept the minutes of the Grounds and Environment Committee meeting held on 30 May 2017.

There were no matters arising.

GE17/22 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION. There was no public participation.

GE17/23 OFFICER'S REPORT. This was noted by Members .

GE17/24 HANGING BASKETS. Penny Wadsworth reported that the hanging baskets were now in situ and looking very attractive. Penny informed members that she felt Greenscene Landscapes had provided an excellent service and suggested that a letter of thanks should be sent to the company. Cllr Ian Weir thanked Penny for her hard work in supporting this project.

GE17/25 STREET TREES. Penny Wadsworth informed Members that the planting of street trees in Farnham Avenue and Manor Avenue would take place in November. The residents who had registered an interest in having a tree had been visited by Members of the Hassocks Tree Group to select their preferred species. In addition to new street trees, there will also be some additional catch up/replacement trees planted in Chancellors Park and Woodland Road.

Penny Wadsworth left the meeting.

GE17/26 FLOOD MANAGEMENT FOR ADASTRA PARK. Members were invited to consider, in principle, the incorporation of a range of proposals for Natural Flood Management submitted by the Ouse and Adur Rivers Trust in the development of the masterplan for Adastra Park.

Tony Copeland had used a drone to take aerial footage of Adastra Park. Members were shown this footage and it was used to identify areas discussed during the meeting.

Cllr Kate Bailey joined the meeting.

Prof Fred Maillardet introduced himself and Rachel Paget (OART). He thanked Members for considering the proposal.

In 2015, Hassocks Amenity Association (HAA) applied for, and received, grants from Operation Watershed (West Sussex County Council). These were used to explore flooding issues in Hassocks. In 2016, HAA, HKD (Hassocks, Hurstpierpoint, Keymer and Ditchling Transition) and OART joined together to take the project further and to explore the use of Natural Flood Management as opposed to Artificial. Prof. Maillardet explained that Natural Flood Management is preferred as it is less expensive, and research has shown that artificial management often tends to move the problem elsewhere rather than address it directly. Natural Flood Management involves using methods to hold water for longer and to slow down the flow of surface water

Part of the overall project for Hassocks has involved looking at Adastra Park, which has led to the suggestion of five main ideas of Natural Flood Management which could be utilised in the park. Debris Dams, Stream Banks, Retention Ponds, Planting and Rain Gardens. Details of these elements were presented in the OART document attached with the Agenda.

The purpose of the proposal was to determine the interest of Hassocks Parish Council in further, more detailed, research being carried out on any of the suggested options

Members discussed the various options and were able to ask Rachel Paget for further information about the options as the discussion progressed.

At this stage none of the proposals have been researched in detail, if the Parish Council were to support some or all of the suggestions, a fuller more specific

exploration would be carried out. The details and appearance of any forms of management would be decided in consultation with HPC.

Some concerns were expressed over any potential impact on houses further upstream from Adastra Park regarding the consequences of slowing down water. However Rachel Paget informed the Committee that full and thorough research would be carried out prior to the installation of any methods of Flood Management, to ensure that there would not be a risk of negative impact elsewhere.

Funding was discussed. Prof. Maillardet informed the Committee that there would be costs associated with Natural Flood management, however significant funding was available for various projects. Funding would need to be distributed across projects and there may not be sufficient to cover every cost, however Prof. Maillardet believed that any costs to the Parish Council should not be significant.

The Committee was in agreement that Adastra Park is an asset to the village and that it was important to ensure the visual and practical amenities of the Park remain protected. However it was also agreed that reducing the risk of flooding throughout the village was an important cause. It was noted that the Committee is currently undertaking a full review of the Park and the facilities in the park and that any Flood Management strategies should be included in the consideration of this.

- 17/26.1 It was therefore RESOLVED that the ideas as presented by OART would be agreed in principle subject to further, more detailed research being carried out. Particularly with attention being given to ensure that there would be no negative impact on properties elsewhere in the village from any Flood Management Strategies being implemented in Adastra Park.

Rachel Paget and Prof. Fred Maillardet left the meeting.

- GE17/27 ADASTRA PARK. CHILDREN'S PLAYPARK** Members were invited to consider whether to proceed with installing a replacement springed piece play equipment in the Children's Playpark or whether to wait until a full review had been undertaken of facilities in Adastra Park.

The Clerk was asked to provide an update on the Adastra Skatepark and Play Facilities consultation. Therefore item 12 was brought forward to be considered in conjunction with this agenda item.

The Clerk informed the Committee that Play England had been contacted and had provided two contacts who may be able to provide the services required by HPC. One of these contacts represented industry wide playground suppliers and had sent out a general email to all interested members. This has resulted in contact being made by a high level of suppliers of play equipment, but very few companies who were able to offer a consultation. Currently there are potentially two possible consultants, including the original consultants contacted, and the Parish Clerk is in the process of contacting other local authorities, who have a dedicated parks team. He is hopeful they may be able to supply more relevant contacts.

Members discussed the installation of a new sprung piece of play equipment in the light of a forthcoming consultation. It was decided that a co-ordinated approach was important and therefore it would be preferable to wait until the Consultation had taken place to be certain that the views of the community were fully considered before undertaking any further additions or changes to the park.

17/27.1 It was RESOLVED to wait until a full Consultation had been undertaken before proceeding with the installation of any further pieces of equipment in Adastra Park.

GE17/28 ADAstra PARK. TREE WORK. Members were invited to approve the lifting of canopies of two Oak trees, a Sycamore and a Hazel which overhang the tennis courts. The cost of this work would be £300 in total.

17/28.1 It was RESOLVED to approve the lifting of canopies of two Oak trees, a Sycamore and a Hazel which overhang the tennis courts. The cost of this work would be £300 in total, to be taken from the tree maintenance budget.

GE17/29 CHRISTMAS LIGHTS. Members were informed that it was possible to change the Christmas Lights design for 2017 should they so wish, and were presented with various design options to consider. These could be provided with no change to the current cost.

After considering the various design options,

17/29.1 It was RESOLVED that no change would be made and that the Christmas Lights for 2017/18 would remain as per the existing design previously selected.

Members continued to discuss the Christmas Lights and the possibilities available to increase the current display. It was felt that there were limited options, Cllr Kate Bailey informed Members that she had previously explored as many locations as possible to erect lights, but that many options were limited due to lack of power supply.

The tree lights are attractive and popular. It was noted that by Spitalford Bridge, there is a tree on either side of the road next to the stream, and it was discussed whether these trees would be suitable for displaying tree lights. Cllr Darryl Sinclair is currently the chair of Light Up Hassocks, and Cllr Kate Bailey had previously been on the Committee and both were therefore able to provide some information to the Committee, as it was only last year that Hassocks Parish Council took on full responsibility for the Christmas Lights. Members were given an estimated cost of £300-400 for the purchase of tree lights and were also informed that there was not a street lamp close to the suggested trees to provide power. However it was discussed that nearby traders could be approached to establish if there would be any interest in providing power from local business premises.

17/29.2 It was AGREED that the potential for providing additional Christmas Lights from the two trees beside Spitalford Bridge, Keymer Road would be explored and that local nearby businesses should be contacted regarding providing power for the lights.

17/29.3 Subject to additional tree lighting being a feasible option, it was RESOLVED to ask Full Council to approve the funding of additional Christmas Lights for 2017 on the basis of the costs discussed above.

GE17/30 PARKLANDS ROAD ALLOTMENTS. Tony Copeland presented Members with aerial footage of the Parklands Road Allotments taken from a drone. Members enjoyed the overhead view and congratulated the allotment holders on such well-kept allotments. Members thanked Tony for the presentation.

GE17/31 PARKING WORKING GROUP. Sally Booker updated Members on a recent meeting held between herself, Richard Spellar (WSSC), Nick De Souza (WSSC) and Kirsty Lord (WSSC Councillor). Notes from this meeting are attached (Appendix 1). Sally Booker informed Members that the proposed roundabout on the junction of Keymer Road and Grand Avenue had been removed from Stage 1 of the Parking Project, as it was not considered viable. This was of considerable concern to the Committee, it was noted by Sally that this was a component of the project which the village had felt strongly about for safety reasons alongside traffic flow issues.

17/31.1 It was RESOLVED that Hassocks Parish Council strongly objected to the removal of the proposed mini roundabout on Keymer Road at the junction to Grand Avenue from the planned works, and that HPC offered its full support to Sally Booker in furthering this matter with WSSC.

It was noted that parking along Dale Avenue continues to be a significant problem, and that the junction to Windmill Avenue from Dale Avenue is an ongoing danger for children crossing this road due to inconsiderate parking and turning.

GE17/32 PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY (PROW). Cllr Leslie Campbell asked for confirmation that a response by HPC had been submitted to East Sussex County Council regarding changes to Footpath Ditchling 46a as discussed at the G&E Meeting held on 30 May 2017 and the Full Council meeting on 13 June 2017. This was confirmed by the Deputy Clerk.

Cllr Peter Gibbons reported that the recent Gibbs Report had indicated an aspiration to close all footpaths which ran across railway lines. This would apply to footpath 5K if actioned. Cllr Campbell noted that HPC should monitor this closely.

GE17/33 URGENT MATTERS AT THE DISCRETION OF THE CHAIRMAN. There were no urgent matters.

GE17/34 DATE OF NEXT MEETING. The date of the next meeting is Monday 31 July 2017 at 7.30pm,

GE17/35 There being no other business the meeting closed at 9.05 pm.

SignedChairman

Date.....

Hassocks Parking

Notes of Meeting 15th June 2017

Present: Richard Speller, Kirsty Lord, Nick De Souza (responsible for TRO's and Road Safety – Maintenance of signs and lines on the highway), Sally Booker

This meeting was convened to update Kirsty on the current situation.

It was noted that Kirsty has replaced Andy Petch as our WSCC Councillor and will be looking to move things forward with the County Council.

Stage 1 of the parking project ie that which was approved from the original consultation will be prepared in the form of a tender document by September 2017 and sent to contractors to get some prices. A decision will be made as to which contractor to appoint in February 2018 and it is expected the work will be done in 2018/19 year. The roundabout at the bottom of Grand Avenue has been removed from the document as it was not considered viable.

Proposals regarding the New Road/Lodge Lane roundabout have also been considered not viable due to a potential £250k cost. However, **Richard and Nick** agreed that once the new signage and speed limits have been put in round this area, if these are not proven to work, this roundabout will be revisited in 1-2 years time. **Kirsty** is also going to approach Burgess Hill Council for use of the mobile Speed Indicator (SID) on a regular basis on New Road to see whether there is a problem with speed on that road. **Nick De Souza** is also going to check that the farmer at these busy crossroads has forwarded all his evidence for the accidents that have happened there in recent years, as Nick thinks he only has the police records, which only mention a few in the last couple of years, as it is only when someone is hurt that they get involved. He is going to report back to **Kirsty**.

Regarding **the new parking restrictions** we need in Hassocks, Richard pointed out that three areas have been prioritised for parking restrictions – namely, Crawley, Burgess Hill and Worthing. However due to the backing of the local community he felt that **Miles Davey**, who is the Lead in Transport and Parking in West Sussex, would be open to a Strategic Request* from **Kirsty** to add it to the next meeting of his committee. Unless his committee approves the request, nothing else will be done. **Kirsty** is also going to ask **Bob Lanza** who arranges the Moderation Meetings at which these are heard if she can attend. The next one is 18th July 2017 at Clapham. **Sally Booker** agreed to forward copies of the two reports detailing the community support for this project to **Kirsty** prior to the meeting.

Richard also mentioned that Miles would need a Road Space Audit to be funded before any approval was fully given but this could be funded by S106 monies available – **Kirsty** is going to ask **Peter Smith** (the Councillor in charge of these monies) to confirm how much funding we have available for the Road Space Audit and the subsequent implementation.

***Kirsty Lord** has noted that the March application by the local council is the latest one and has asked **Richard** to confirm this is the one being worked upon by WSCC at the moment.

Once the above has gone through the due process, we will be in a better position to know what is going to happen and when.

Finally the application to the DFT for the new Station Car park land is with Darrell for dealing with and Kirsty will chase him up regarding this.

Reported to Hassocks Environmental Committee on 29th June 2017