

HASSOCKS PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the **GROUND AND ENVIRONMENT** Committee held on 31 July 2017 at 7.30pm in the Parish Centre, Adastra Park, Hassocks.

PRESENT: Cllrs Kate Bailey
Jane Baker (Vice Chair)
Leslie Campbell
Georgia Cheshire (From item 3)
Bill Hatton
Sue Hatton
Chris Hobbs
Darryl Sinclair
Ian Weir

In attendance: Tracy Bates – Deputy Clerk
Ian Cumberworth – Parish Clerk
Sally Booker
2 members of the Public

GE17/36 APOLOGIES. Apologies were received from Cllr Peter Gibbons, Penny Wadsworth and Tony Copeland.

GE17/37 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST. There were no declarations of interest.

GE17/38 MINUTES.

Cllr Georgia Cheshire joined the meeting.

RESOLVED to accept the minutes of the Grounds and Environment Committee meeting held on 29 June 2017. It was noted that Cllr Jane Baker was incorrectly shown as being present at the meeting, however her apologies had been received and she was absent from this meeting.

There were no matters arising.

GE17/39 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION. Mary Phillips spoke about item 9, signage to Footpath 14C. This sign has become tatty and unclear and required replacing. Mrs Phillips also felt that the wording should be changed to inform the public that this was the entrance to the Cinder Track leading to the South Downs National Park and South Downs Way.

GE17/40 OFFICER'S REPORT. This was noted by Members.

GE17/41 PARKLANDS ROAD ALLOTMENTS

ALLOTMENT RENT 2017/18. Members were invited to approve the Allotment Rent for 2017/18 to be set at £35.00 per half plot. Using the previously agreed formula, applying inflation to the rent for a half plot for 2017/18 would make a total increase of 51p bringing the rent to £34.73.

Rent (15/16)	£ 19.23
Inflation increase	£ .50
Water installation	£ 10.00
Water Usage	<u>£ 5.00</u>
Total	£ 34.73

17/41.1 It was **RESOLVED** that the annual rent per half plot from 1 October 2017 would be increased to £35.00 to reflect the increase in inflation.

HASSOCKS ALLOTMENT HOLDERS (HAHA) CHAIRMAN'S REPORT. Tony Copeland had submitted a written report which was shared with Members.

- i. An allotment inspection in June had resulted in one eviction due to the plot not being cultivated in line with the Allotment Tenancy Agreement.
- ii. Blackthorns. There had been an improvement in the number of surviving plants, this is now around 95% compared with 90% as reported at the last meeting.

GE17/42 TRAFFIC AND PARKING. Sally Booker informed the Committee that the comments as agreed at the G&E meeting held on 29 June 2017 had been passed onto Richard Speller, WSCC Highways. However there had not been any response despite attempts to follow this up. West Sussex County Councillor, Kirsty Lord, has been very active in supporting the Traffic and Parking project in Hassocks, however Sally Booker reported that Kirsty was concerned that the previously proposed plans for Hassocks had been watered down further. Sally and Kirsty are hoping to arrange a meeting with Richard Speller in mid-August and invited Cllr Ian Weir to attend.

GE17/43 CHRISTMAS LIGHTS. Members were invited to consider three options for the installation of additional Christmas tree lights.

- a) To continue with the existing Christmas Light selection as stands with no additions.
- b) To recommend to Full Council the purchase of one set of 240m white LED Tree Lights to be installed on Tree 1 (Spitalford Bridge, North of Keymer Road) at a cost of £705 plus VAT. No additional work is required to provide power to these lights.
- c) To recommend to Full Council the purchase of two sets of 240m white LED Tree Lights at a total cost of £1410 plus VAT.

The three options were discussed and it was

17/43.1 **RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND** to Full Council the purchase of one set of 240m white LED Tree Lights to be installed on Tree 1 (Spitalford Bridge, North of Keymer Road) at a cost of £705 plus VAT, to be released from General Reserves.

GE17/44 SIGNAGE TO FOOTPATH 14C. Members were invited to consider replacing signage to the entrance of the Cinder Track from Keymer Road. The sign has deteriorated over time and the wording is no longer clear. This was discussed in depth and it was agreed that the sign should be replaced with revised wording. It was decided that the sign should inform the Public that the footpath leads to the South Downs National Park, Butcher's Wood, Clayton Church and Village and to the Jack and Jill Windmills.

It was also agreed that the HPC logo should be on the sign, using a similar format to the signage for Parklands Copse.

17/44.1 It was **RESOLVED** to provide a replacement sign in aluminium. The cost of the sign and installation to be taken from the Fingerpost Budget. It was **AGREED** to delegate approval of the cost of the sign to the Clerk. The **AGREED** text was as follows:

<p style="text-align: center;">HASSOCKS PARISH COUNCIL</p> <p style="text-align: center;">PUBLIC FOOTPATH TO THE SOUTH DOWNS NATIONAL PARK</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Also to</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Butcher's Wood Clayton Church and Village Jack and Jill Windmills</p>

GE17/45 ADASTRA SKATEPARK AND PLAY FACILITIES.

The Parish Clerk reported that despite speaking to a number of contractors and play equipment suppliers, it had proved frustrating to identify any companies in a position to deliver the consultancy service being sought. At present one potential consultant has been identified.

The Clerk has been in contact with a number of Local Authority parks departments which may result in further options being identified. The Clerk indicated he anticipated hearing from one of these organisations in the next week. He is hopeful that they will be able to provide some assistance in progressing the project.

It was **AGREED** that a decision would need to be made at the next G&E meeting as to how to proceed with this project if no further progress has been made in locating consultants. The Clerk emphasised the benefits of being guided by specialists in this field who had expertise and experience.

GE17/46 HASSOCKS MAY CELEBRATION. Members were asked in principle to approve a request from Michelle Binks for a May Day Event to be held in Adastra Park on Monday 7 May 2018.

Cllr Kate Bailey informed the Committee that a local business had approached her with regard to reviving the Hassocks Summer Fair which occurred as an annual event several years ago. The event included a street procession with floats and a children's parade leading to a fair and other celebrations in Adastra Park.

Previous events organised by Michelle Binks and Kate Bailey have been under the umbrella of the Hassocks Community Partnership and this would continue.

Cllr Bailey informed the Committee that to set up and clear away after such a large event is a significant commitment and requires a considerable amount of time. She noted that to try to do this in one day was particularly difficult. Therefore Cllr Bailey requested that use of Adastra Park for all or part of Sunday 6 May, be allocated to preparations for the May Day event in addition to Monday 7 May.

It was acknowledged that Keymer and Hassocks Cricket Club (KHCC) have reported that fixtures are set over a year in advance which means that the South Field in Adastra Park is already committed for every Saturday. This has created problems in the past when other Community events involving Adastra Park have been arranged.

The Committee felt strongly that such community events are important, although recognised the need to accommodate Sports Club bookings as much as possible. Therefore, the Clerk was asked to liaise with KHCC with regard to the allocation of Adastra Park on Sunday 6 May 2018 in addition to Monday 7 May 2018.

17/46.1 It was AGREED in principle that to approve a request for a May Day Event to be held in Adastra Park on Monday 7 May 2018. With Sunday 6 May being allocated for preparations, subject to liaison with KHCC by the Parish Clerk.

GE17/47 PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY.

Public Bridleway 3K & Public Footpath 4K – Temporary Closure. Members were asked to note that notification has been received from West Sussex County Council that the surface improvement work is due to commence on Bridleway 3K. This was noted.

Verbal Update Cllr Leslie Campbell had nothing to report. Cllr Campbell asked Members to report any matters or concerns regarding Public Rights of Way to himself.

GE17/48 DRAFT BUSINESS PLAN. Members were invited to consider the content of the draft Business Plan document and to nominate volunteers to develop the Business Plan priorities assigned to the Grounds & Environment Committee to enable detailed proposals to be considered at the September meeting.

The Clerk introduced this report which set out the draft Business Plan proposals to be considered as part of the development of the 2018 – 2023 Business Plan. The plan had been divided into six sections and then individual elements assigned to specific Committees to develop.

With regard to the Grounds and Environment Committee 3 out of the 6 sections had work streams assigned to the Committee.

- A Parish for all (3)
- A great place to live, work and enjoy (11)
- Connecting our Villages (6)

The Clerk indicated that members should be encouraged to participate fully in the development of the detailed plan not only for the elements assigned specifically for this Committee but the wider document covering other Committees. If Members had any specific comments on the plan or wished for additional priorities to be considered as part of the wider process they were invited to direct these through the Clerk's office so that they can be co-ordinated and fed into the appropriate work streams.

Members were then requested to consider the detailed elements assigned to Grounds and Environment, as circulated with the agenda, and to seek volunteers to work up the detailed plan for consideration at a future Grounds & Environment Committee meeting.

Cllr Jane Baker felt that there was some discrepancy in the allocation of certain elements. It was considered that under 'A Parish For All', element 4 which related to Hassocks Twinning Association could be allocated to Policy, Resources and Communication (PR&C), alongside element 1 relating to the provision of Youth Services. It was agreed that there was some overlap with some of the elements.

Similarly it was also noted that under the same heading, element 3 relating to disability access to facilities and services should be considered under G&E rather than PR&C.

Sally Booker offered to contribute towards the aspects relating to Parking and Traffic. This offer of support was much appreciated by the Committee.

After some discussion, it was AGREED that Cllrs Georgia Cheshire, Jane Baker, Kate Bailey and Chris Hobbs would set up a focus group to look at the elements of the Business Plan which related to G&E and would put together more specific statements clarifying the practical and financial implications to the Council of each element. This could then be discussed by the Committee in more detail at a future meeting.

Any Members who wished to contribute or comment on specific elements were invited to contact the Clerk who would co-ordinate all contributions.

GE17/49 Urgent Matters at the discretion of the Chairman for noting and/or inclusion on a future agenda.

The Parish Clerk informed Members that he had been contacted by the proprietors of a local mobile food outlet. They had recently taken over the business and had been told that they could no longer use their current location in Hassocks for trading. Therefore the Proprietors were looking for another suitable location and had approached HPC with regard to using Adastra Park car park.

The Clerk asked the Committee for guidance before he responded to the enquiry. It was recognised that the Council was keen to support small businesses, however the Adastra Car Park is a busy car park in the evenings and due to the size of the vehicle there were concerns over the impact on other Adastra Park users accessing and using the car park. Therefore it was generally felt that the Adastra Park Car Park would not be a suitable location for such an outlet.

The car park adjacent to the Pauline Thaw Centre was suggested as a possible alternative.

GE17/50 DATE OF NEXT MEETING. Monday 25 September 2017 at 7.30pm

There being no other business the meeting closed at 8.56 pm.

SignedChairman

Date.....