

## HASSOCKS PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the **GROUND AND ENVIRONMENT** Committee held on 27 November 2017 at 7.30pm in the Parish Centre, Adastra Park, Hassocks.

**Attendees:** Cllrs Kate Bailey, Jane Baker (Vice Chair), Leslie Campbell, Georgia Cheshire, Peter Gibbons (Chair), Bill Hatton, Sue Hatton, Darryl Sinclair and Ian Weir.

In attendance: Tracy Bates – Deputy Clerk  
Ian Cumberworth – Parish Clerk  
Cllr Frances Gaudencio  
Sally Booker  
Tony Copeland (Hassocks Allotment Holders Association-HAHA)  
Penny Wadsworth  
1 member of the Public

**GE17/78 APOLOGIES.** There were no apologies.

**GE17/79 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.** There were no declarations of interest.

**GE17/80 MINUTES.**

**RESOLVED** to accept the minutes of the Grounds and Environment Committee meeting held on 2 November 2017.

There were no matters arising.

**GE17/81 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.** There was no public participation.

Georgia Cheshire joined the meeting.

**GE17/82 OFFICER'S REPORT.** Members noted the Officer's Report. The Deputy Clerk informed the Committee that the repairs had been carried out to the three sets of Christmas Tree lights, and that all lights were now fully functioning and ready for Light Up Hassocks on 1 December 2017.

The Deputy Clerk was also pleased to report that Hassocks Parish Council had been awarded £2000 in the Tesco Bags of Help Grant scheme. This funding would be used towards necessary repairs and refurbishment of the children's playpark. The Clerk noted the lengthy time scale involved between submitting the application and being notified of an award, this needs to be borne in mind for future projects involving grant applications.

**GE17/83 FLORAL DISPLAYS.** Penny Wadsworth reported that 27 local traders have registered to have Hanging Baskets in 2018 which is an increase on this year. Some of the traders had reported problems when watering the baskets, due to an excessive overflow of water. This had been raised with the Contractor who explained that the baskets needed to be watered every day to ensure the soil

remains damp. Once the soil dries out, it does not absorb the water and this results in a subsequent 'pouring through'. A guidance leaflet is provided to traders when the baskets are installed. It was noted that whilst most traders looked after the baskets well, some were less well watered. The current arrangement is that traders agree to water the baskets regularly and the contractor makes a maintenance visit at least fortnightly to water, feed and dead head. Therefore the success of each basket is very much reliant on individual traders.

Colour schemes and plant selections were discussed. Some Members felt that a brighter, bolder colour scheme would be a good choice for next year and various plant options were discussed including more trailing plants. The Deputy Clerk would discuss the options available with the contractor. (Action DC)

Penny Wadsworth left the meeting

**GE17/84 PARKLANDS ROAD ALLOTMENTS.** Tony Copeland reported that HAHA (Hassocks Allotment Holders Association) had recently held their AGM. Where allotment projects and the general status of the Parklands Allotments were discussed. At the meeting, it was recognised that the site is in good shape and is continually improving. This is largely due to the excellent support given by the Parish Council, both at the Grounds and Environment meetings and by the staff working day-to-day in the Parish Office. The members recommended that thanks should be given officially to the HPC at the Grounds and Environment Meeting and also to express sincere appreciation for continued good relationship with the HAHA. Thanks were also extended for the annual donation of £200 provided to HAHA.

The Chair extended thanks on behalf of the G&E Committee to Tony Copeland for his co-operation and assistance in addressing the security issues with the allotments. The preventative planting has been effective to date.

Tony Copeland left the meeting.

**GE17/85 TRAFFIC AND PARKING.** Sally Booker reported that plans have now been prepared by herself and Cllr Ian Weir ready for the second phase of the Traffic and Parking Scheme. These are to be submitted to Richard Speller (West Sussex County Council Highways) to be formally drawn up. Sally Booker extended thanks to Hassocks PC for committing £3000 towards the costs of a Traffic Regulation Order for Stage 2, thus enabling the project to go ahead. All proposals which were omitted from Stage 1 by WSCC would now be included in the second stage.

Stage 1 work is scheduled to begin in January/February 2018.

Sally Booker informed the Committee once the plans for the second stage are completed, leaflets would be delivered to the relevant roads to inform residents of the proposals. It is hoped that any queries or concerns can be addressed prior to the consultation. If Stage 2 is approved it is hoped that the work for this stage will begin in January/February 2019.

The Committee expressed its thanks to Sally Booker for all of her hard work and determination in ensuring that the Traffic and Parking scheme has progressed.

The member of Public left the meeting.

**GE17/86 PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY (PROW).** Cllr Leslie Campbell had no further information on the Cinder Track at this stage. There was nothing else to report on PROW.

**GE17/87 ADASTRA PARK MASTER PLAN.** In the absence of Cllr Chris Hobbs, Cllr Frances Gaudencio provided the following report to the Committee.

Report for Grounds and Environment - 27/11/2017

On the 5<sup>th</sup> Oct 2017

*It was agreed that a working party would be created to look at various options for developing Adastra Park and that a draft proposal would be drawn up and presented to its meeting in December. Cllrs Jane Baker, Frances Gaudencio, Chris Hobbs and Bill Hatton volunteered to be on the working party in the first instance and that an invitation was open to any other Councillor who expressed an interest in joining this group.*

Cllr Georgia Cheshire subsequently offered to join the group.

We are reporting back as an interim measure as there is now no meeting of the G&E in December.

The working party or working group has met 3 times with the Clerk in attendance at the first 2.

The working group has come up with a draft 1 Masterplan for the park

**What has been used to arrive at this?**

- 1) Survey conducted at Downlands school of the 11-16 age group
- 2) The views of some residents pushing for changes to the park –Sept 2016
- 3) A much earlier decision by the PC to budget for a new skate park and the formation of a skate park working group
- 4) A report by Play England on the Skate park, suggesting a wider view be taken
- 5) Empirical evidence gathered by looking at play areas in various locations in Sussex

At the first meeting the working group arrived at our vision for ‘What we want our park to be.’

**This was followed up by looking at the surveys and reports and allocating elements into key areas or projects for the Park as well as the concepts behind them**

Remembrance Garden  
Teen play facility

Under 9's play facility  
Over 9's play facility  
OART (Ouse and Adur Rivers Trust) trees/creative play/scrape  
Adastra Pavilion  
Tennis Courts/Multi sports  
Table tennis

Rain Garden which has already agreed with HKD

These project areas were further broken down into the types of equipment, activities and resources that could be located within them.

Look and feel of the whole park was added.

At the final meeting we walked through all areas of the park to refine our picture 'on the ground'

Cllr Hobbs did a great job of pulling all our ideas together after each meeting, also producing some photos of examples, aerial views of the park, rough plans and finally potential costings.

As a result we feel we now have a first draft Masterplan.

Once the budget has been agreed for next year we will have to look at how much we have to spend

- From earmarked funds for the skate park or wheel park as we could call it
- From S 106 monies which must be pursued as a priority
- From any other external funding source s

It needs to be clear that should the park project be agreed we are likely to fulfil the project in phases and the skate park / wheelpark may or may not be in phase 1.

#### **NEXT STEPS:**

Full Council to agree the Budget

Full Council to agree the Business Plan which includes improvements to Adastra Park

Park Working Group to meet to agree an updated version of the Masterplan to present to the G&E Committee in January

**We would like to put on record our thanks to Cllr Chris Hobbs for all the work he did, in leading the working group, producing the working documents and for his enthusiasm and commitment in getting us to this stage.**

*Cllr Frances Gaudencio, on behalf of the Park Project Working Group 27/11/2017*

**GE17/88 URGENT MATTERS** at the discretion of the Chairman for noting and/or inclusion on a future agenda. There were no urgent matters.

**GE17/89 DATE OF NEXT MEETING.** Monday 29 January 2018 at 7.30pm.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 7.55 pm.

Signed .....Chairman

Date.....