

HASSOCKS PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the **Annual Statutory Meeting** of the **Parish Council** held on 9th May 2017 and followed on from the Annual Parish meeting which commenced at 7.30pm in the Parish Centre, Adastra Park, Hassocks. Meeting commenced at 8.02 pm

Attendees: Parish Councillors Ian Weir, Peter Gibbons, Leslie Campbell, Jane Baker, Darryl Sinclair, Bill Hatton, Sue Hatton, Francis Gaudencio, Georgia Cheshire and Chris Hobbs.

Parish Clerk: Ian Cumberworth

Visiting Member: Kirsty Lord (WSCC)

MINUTES

PC17/1 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

Cllr Bill Hatton proposed Ian Weir as Chairman.
Cllr Jane Baker seconded this proposal

RESOLVED that Ian Weir was elected as Chairman for 2017/18

PC17/2 DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE

The declaration was duly signed by the Chair and the proper officer of the Council.

PC17/3 ELECTION OF VICE CHAIRMAN

Cllr Ian Weir proposed Nick Owens as Vice Chairman
Cllr Sue Hatton seconded this proposal

RESOLVED that Nick Owen was elected as Vice Chairman for 2017/18. The declaration of acceptance will be undertaken at 13 June 2017 meeting.

PC17/4 APOLOGIES

Nick Owens, Kate Bailey, Judith Foot, Justine Fisher and Victoria Standfast

PC17/5 DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

Disclosure by Councillors of personal interests in matters on the agenda, and whether the Councillor regards their interest as prejudicial under the terms of the Code of Conduct.

Cllr Sue Hatton, Bill Hatton declared an interest in item 14.2 Hassocks Twinning Association.

PC17/6 APPOINTMENT OF STANDING COMMITTEES AND WORKING GROUPS

PC17/7 POLICY, RESOURCES AND COMMUNICATIONS

RESOLVED that Kate Bailey, Peter Gibbons, Chris Hobbs, Georgia Cheshire, Ian Weir, Justine Fisher, Judith Foot, Francis Gaudencio and Sue Hatton be appointed to the Policy Resources and Communications Committee. (9)

PC17/8 GROUNDS & ENVIRONMENT

RESOLVED Kate Bailey, Jane Baker, Leslie Campbell, Georgia Cheshire, Peter Gibbons, Chris Hobbs, Bill Hatton, Darryl Sinclair, Sue Hatton and Ian Weir be appointed to Grounds & Environment Committee (10)

PC17/9 PLANNING

RESOLVED Leslie Campbell, Nick Owens, Judith Foot, Victoria Standfast, Bill Hatton and Jane Baker be appointed to Planning Committee. (6)

PC17/10 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN WORKING GROUP

RESOLVED Sue Hatton, Justine Fisher, Ian Weir, Judith Foot, Nick Owens, Victoria Standfast, Bill Hatton and Frances Gaudencio were appointed to the Neighbourhood Plan Working Group. (8)

PC17/11 PARKING WORKING GROUP

RESOLVED Ian Weir, Peter Gibbons and Sue Hatton were appointed to the Parking Working Group. (3)

PC17/12 SKATE PARK WORKING GROUP

RESOLVED Peter Gibbons, Leslie Campbell, Georgia Cheshire, Darryl Sinclair and Jane Baker were appointed to the Skate Park Working Group. (5)

PC17/13 TOURISM AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT WORKING GROUP

RESOLVED Members agreed to disband this group in its current form and reconstitute the group at later point when appropriate.

PC17/14 BUSINESS PLAN WORKING GROUP

RESOLVED Chris Hobbs, Francis Gaudencio and Kate Bailey were appointed to the Business Plan Working Group. (3)

PC17/15 To confirm that the Chairman of the Council is ex-officio Member of each Standing Committee

RESOLVED The Chairman of the Council to act as ex-officio Member of each Standing Committee

PC17/16 To confirm that the Vice Chairmen of the Council is ex-officio Member of each Standing Committee

RESOLVED The Vice Chairmen of the Council is ex-officio Member of each Standing Committee.

The meeting continued as it was agreed that the Chairs and Vice Chairs would be appointed at the next meeting of each Committee or Working Group.

PC17/17 APPOINTMENT OF TREE WARDEN

RESOLVED that David Brown be appointed Tree Warden for 2017/18 and the Clerk explore the appointment of a second Tree Warden.

PC17/18 APPOINTMENT OF REPRESENTATIVES TO OUTSIDE BODIES

PC17/19 ADASTRA HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE RESOLVED that Kate Baily and Justine Fisher share the appointment of representative on the Adastra Hall Management Committee and liaise with regards to the attendance of meetings.

PC17/20 DITCHLING LOCAL TRANSPORT Cllr Weir proposed that we no longer appoint a representative to this organisation as he has never been invited to one of its meetings and was unsure how active the group remained. Members discussed this option and **RESOLVED** not to be formally represented on this organisation but the Clerk to contact the organisation and request that Hassocks Parish Council be kept informed of any activity of this group.

PC17/21 HASSOCKS AMENITY ASSOCIATION

RESOLVED that with the impending merger of this group and its disbandment representation would no longer be required at this group.

PC17/22 HASSOCKS COMMUNITY RAIL GROUP

RESOLVED that Leslie Campbell and Peter Gibbons be appointed as representatives to this group.

PC17/23 HASSOCKS COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP

RESOLVED that Kate Bailey and Justine Fisher be appointed as representatives to this group.

PC17/24 HASSOCKS TWINNING ASSOCIATION

RESOLVED that Kate Bailey and Justine Fisher be appointed as representatives to this group.

- PC17/25 POLICE NEIGHBOURHOOD PANEL**
- RESOLVED** that Jane Baker be appointed as representative onto the Police Neighbourhood Panel and Kate Bailey be appointed as a substitute on to the group If Jane Baker is unable to attend.
- PC17/26 MID SUSSEX VOLUNTARY ACTION SERVICE**
- RESOLVED** No formal representative to be appointed and the group to be removed from listed outside bodies.
- PC17/27 MID SUSSEX ASSOCIATION OF PARISH COUNCILS**
- RESOLVED** that Frances Gaudencio be appointed as the representative to this group
- PC17/28 MSDC GREEN CIRCLE STEERING GROUP**
- RESOLVED** that Victoria Standfast and Georgia Cheshire be appointed as representatives to this group
- PC17/29 OLDLAND MILL TRUST**
- RESOLVED** that Bill Hatton be appointed as the representative to this group
- PC17/30 WSCC SOUTH MID SUSSEX COUNTY LOCAL COMMITTEE**
- RESOLVED** that Ian Weir attend the Committee meetings and that Frances Gaudencio substitute if Ian Weir is unable to attend.
- PC17/31 MSDC PARISH LIAISON MEETINGS**
- RESOLVED** that Bill Hatton and Ian Weir be appointed as representatives to attend these meetings.
- PC17/32 DOWNLANDS SCHOOLS SPORTS HALL COMMITTEE**
- RESOLVED** that Justine Fisher be appointed as representative onto this Committee.
- PC17/33 AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT AREA (Aqma)**
- RESOLVED** that Judith Foot and Sue Hatton be appointed as representatives to this group
- PC17/34** At this point of the meeting the Chair proposed that order of items be changed to enable item 12.3 be considered which was agreed by Members.

WSCC representative report.

Newly elected Member Kirsty Long was introduced and welcomed by Members to the meeting and asked whether she could share anything from her recent canvassing on the doorstep. KL indicated firstly that she was keen to work with the Parish Council to support the village and intended to come to the Parish Council meetings, it was also her intention to hold monthly surgeries. KL then provided feedback to members of the key issues that were being raised during the course of all candidates canvassing for the WSCC seat.

The main issues raised centred around the:
Neighbourhood Plan and the development on green spaces;
School places remains a big issue for the village;
Bus services and Parking/traffic.

Parish members raised a number of issues that WSCC have still not adequately resolved including pot holes, road signage and markings. KL indicated that she was keen to support the Parish Council where feasible.

Members indicated they had provided a comprehensive report on signage to WSCC previously however no action has been taken on this to date. Members indicated that this matter will need to be revisited at some point by the Clerk. Members reaffirmed that they have explored bus service issues and further work is in progress however commercial companies have indicated they are not prepared to run loss making services without receiving subsidies.

KL indicated that she is due to attend Member training at County to gain a further understanding her role as a member and welcomed the opportunity to represent the village.

Members thanked KL for attending the meeting.

KL left the meeting at 8.42

PC17/35 MINUTES

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on the 11 April 2017 were accepted as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

PC17/36 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was 1 member of the public present who observed proceedings and did not raise any questions or comments.

PC17/37 FINANCE

The Finance report and payments totalling £33,319.85 for the period ending 31st March 2017 were approved.

Members raised a specific query regarding one transaction relating to the Dog bin service and the frequency of the service.

Members requested the Clerk explore the option to organise additional services when an event is scheduled to occur within Adastra Park. The Clerk agreed to explore this option.

PC17/38 TO ACCEPT THE FOLLOWING MINUTES

The minutes of the Neighbourhood Plan 6th April 2017(11.1), Planning Committee 18th April 2017 (11.2) Policy Resources & Communication 19th April 2017 (11.3) and the Grounds & Environment Committee – 24th April 2017 (11.4) were noted.

The Clerk raised the issue that due to the timing of Committees when minutes come forward to Council for consideration they are invariably for noting only. It was therefore proposed that at future meetings the respective Chairs of the Committee will draw Councils attention to any key decisions made by the respective Committees to ensure members are kept abreast of the actions of the Committees. The intention is only to raise key decisions made. Members welcomed this proposal.

PC17/39 REPORTS

- 39.1 **Police Report** – Members discussed the lack of engagement by the Police at present and the options available to the Council to encourage the police to engage more effectively with the Council. A discussion took place regarding the perceived ongoing decline in Police presence in the village and the potential impact it could have on crime. Members proposed that the Council invite Katy Bourne Sussex Police & Crime Commissioner to a future meeting to inform members of the Polices approach to delivering Community Policing in a village like Hassocks. Members also suggested that this type of meeting should be opened out to other neighbouring parishes that are likely to be experiencing similar frustrations to Hassocks.

RESOLVED

- (i) The Clerk contact Katy Bournes office to ascertain whether she would be prepared to attend this type of meeting.
 - (ii) Subject to the Police Commissioners agreement the Clerk contact other neighbouring parishes to establish whether they would also wish to participate in this meeting. If there is sufficient interest form other parishes organise a combined event.
- 39.2 **Mid Sussex District Councillors Report** none
- 39.3 **Rail Matters** – oral Report (Leslie Campbell) Members were informed that the next scheduled meeting is in June when further feedback will be provided.
- 39.4 **Youth Initiatives** – none
- 39.5 **Reports from Councillors on meetings outside bodies where the Council is represented.** - none.

PC17/40 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Nothing to report

PC17/41 CLERK'S REPORT

41.1 Insurance

The Clerk introduced a report setting out a proposal to extend the existing insurance policy with Zurich as the current policy was due to expire on the 31st May 2017, it was extended for period of one year in 2016 by the previous Clerk with a view to market testing this year as part of a 3 year/5 year arrangement. This has not been possible due to the movement in staff therefore it has been necessary to approach Zurich to provide a quote for a further year. This will also allow the recently appointed Clerk time to complete a review of the Council's Asset register in advance of wider market testing the service next year with a view to entering into a term contract.

The proposed premium for 2017/18 has been discounted to £4,280.90 including insurance premium tax which is now at 12%. The budget for 2017/18 is £4,500 therefore is sufficient to cover the cost of the premium.

RESOLVED Members agreed to accept the proposal from Zurich in the sum of £4,280.90 for a further 1 year period to allow the Clerk time to undertake a wider market test next year with a view to entering into a term contract.

41.2 Hassocks Twinning Association Temporary Road Closure

Members were requested to consider the draft Road closure order for Keymer Road, (Station Approach East to Orchard Lane) on the 3rd June 2017 (Appendix 4) and indicate whether they wish the clerk to submit any representations on behalf of the Council.

RESOLVED Members strongly supported the road closure and did not propose to make any representations to MSDC however requested the Clerk convey to MSDC the need to inform the bus operators of the closure.

PC17/42 URGENT MATTERS AT THE DISCRETION OF THE CHAIRMAN for noting and/or inclusion on a future agenda.

There were none.

PC17/43 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

To note that the date of the next Council meeting is Tuesday 13th June 2017 at 7.30pm.