

## HASSOCKS PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the **GROUNDS AND ENVIRONMENT** Committee held on 2 November 2017 at 7.30pm in the Parish Centre, Adastra Park, Hassocks.

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

In attendance: Tracy Bates – Deputy Clerk  
Sally Booker

**GE17/66 APOLOGIES.** Apologies were received from Cllrs Georgia Cheshire, Sue Hatton, Chris Hobbs and Ian Weir, and Penny Wadsworth. Absent without apology, Tony Copeland.

**GE17/67 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.** There were no declarations of interest.

**GE17/68 MINUTES.**

**RESOLVED** to accept the minutes of the Grounds and Environment Committee meeting held on 5 October 2017.

There were no matters arising.

**GE17/69 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.** There were no members of the Public present.

**GE17/70 OFFICER'S REPORT.** Members read the Officer's Report previously circulated. There were no matters arising. The Deputy Clerk also informed the Committee that moss on the tennis courts had become a persistent problem over the last couple of months or so. The courts had been closed for a week at the beginning of October to allow the Groundsman to carry out intensive treatment, however within two of weeks of reopening, despite the treatment, the moss has become too extensive to allow the courts to safely remain open.

Therefore the decision has been taken to close the courts in the short-term to allow the Clerk the opportunity to explore options for addressing the problem longer term. A fuller report will be brought to a future Council or G&E Meeting for consideration by Committee.

There has been full communication with the Adastra Tennis Club throughout, who have been fully supportive of the decisions. The Club have also expressed concerns on occasions over the safety and conditions of the surface of the courts.

**GE17/71 PARKLANDS ROAD ALLOTMENTS.** Verbal Update (Tony Copeland, Hassocks Allotment Holders Association). In the absence of Tony Copeland there was nothing to report.

**GE17/72 TRAFFIC AND PARKING.** Sally Booker informed the Committee that Stage 1 of the Parking Proposals, as based on the original scheme, are going through. However, as reported at the last meeting there were several proposals that had been previously agreed, yet had been omitted from the final plans as forwarded by West Sussex County Council (WSSC).

This had been raised with Richard Speller (WSSC Area Highways Manager) who agreed to ask Syed Islam (WSSC Improvements Team) to relook at the original proposals. It was also suggested that the Parking Group should contact Syed Islam directly. Unfortunately despite various attempts to make contact, it has proved very difficult to do so, and to date Syed has not returned any calls. Cllr Kirsty Lord (WSSC) has also tried to contact him without success.

Stage 2 of the Parking Proposals (which in the main, address commuter parking) are at the planning stage. The blank A3 plans have been provided by Richard Speller as promised, and both Cllr Ian Weir and Sally Booker spent a couple of hours going round the affected roads, noting existing parking restrictions and firming up on the true positions of passing places etc. on the plans. The drafts of these have been done and are ready to submit to Richard Speller for him to organise the proper legal drawings required.

However, these drafts cannot be submitted until confirmation has been received as to whether the missing proposals on Stage 1 need to be added to Stage 2, or whether the omissions have been rectified on the original proposals.

**GE17/73 ADASTRA PARK. GARDEN OF REMEMBRANCE TREE MAINTENANCE.** Members were invited to consider and approve a proposal to carry out the following tree maintenance in the Adastra Park Garden of Remembrance at a cost of £600. Lifting canopy of selected trees in the garden to the Tree Warden's recommendations and lifting along the foot path parallel with the road. Lifting and reshaping Laurel, Holly and Hazel. Thinning out and removal of dead limbs in centre hedge of the garden. The work to be carried out by James Wilson Tree Care. Members were unanimously in favour of the proposal.

It was **RESOLVED** that the tree work as proposed should be carried out in the Adastra Park Garden of Remembrance by James Wilson Tree Care at a total cost of £600. The expenditure to be drawn from the budget for Tree Work in Adastra Park. (Action: Deputy Clerk)

**GE17/74 ADASTRA PARK. RAIN GARDEN.** (Verbal Update). The Deputy Clerk shared with the Committee a draft timetable which had been provided by Juliet Merrifield (Hassocks Community Partnership) following a meeting with Dusty Gedge, the Consultant supporting the rain garden project.

Oct/Nov 2017 - To obtain a services map of the site. This will be commissioned from Operation Watershed funding. To contact the Trustees of Adastra Hall regarding the proposal. Dusty Gedge will be contacting potential contractors who can carry out the work.

Dec/Jan 2018 - An onsite visit to be carried out by Dusty Gedge and one or two contractors to look at details and estimate costs. To arrange a meeting with the HPC working group to discuss design.

Jan-Mar 2018 - Detailed design will be completed by Dusty Gedge, to be approved by the working group.

Apr/May 2018 (or as soon as the ground as dried up enough) -Contractor on site to complete the project.

**GE17/75 TALBOT FIELD.** Members were invited to note the Annual Report provided by The Woodland, Flora and Fauna Group. This report had been circulated as Appendix 3 of the agenda and concluded that the area continues to be of considerable value to nature. Members were pleased that the decision to install the bat and bird boxes at Talbot Field with the intention of creating an area to encourage wildlife had proved to have a positive effect.

It was also noted that at some point it could be beneficial to explore the introduction of further strategies to encourage other wildlife such as hedgehogs.

**GE17/76 URGENT MATTERS** at the discretion of the Chairman for noting and/or inclusion on a future agenda. Cllr Leslie Campbell requested the opportunity to update the Committee on a Public Right of Way matter. This was agreed by the Chairman.

Cllr Campbell informed the Committee that following many complaints over the condition of the footpath along the Cinder Track. Cllr Kirsty Lord inspected the footpath with Cllr Campbell and agreed that surfacing work is required along this Public Right of Way. Cllr Lord will raise this issue with WSCC and will explore if any funding is available to make improvements. This may require some match funding from Hassocks Parish Council. Cllr Campbell will update Members at the next G&E meeting.

**GE17/77 DATE OF NEXT MEETING.** Monday 27 November 2017 at 7.30pm.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 7.44 pm.

Signed .....Chairman

Date.....