

HASSOCKS PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the **GROUND AND ENVIRONMENT** Committee held on 26 February 2018 at 7.30pm in the Parish Centre, Adastra Park, Hassocks.

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

In attendance: Tracy Bates – Deputy Clerk
Sally Booker (from 7.35)
1 member of the Public

GE17/107 APOLOGIES. Apologies were received from Tony Copeland (Chair of Hassocks Allotment Holders Association) and Penny Wadsworth

GE17/108 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST. There were no declarations of interest.

GE17/109 MINUTES.

RESOLVED to accept the minutes of the Grounds and Environment Committee meeting held on 29 January 2018.

There were no matters arising.

GE17/110 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION. The resident from 18 Fir Tree Way spoke in support of the request to prune the Yew tree in Adastra Park behind his property. (Agenda Item 8.1)

GE17/111 OFFICER'S REPORT. Members noted the Officer's Report. The Deputy Clerk also gave a verbal report on two items.

Members were informed that the Annual Funfair which has been visiting Hassocks for several years has booked to use Adastra Park for the weekend of 18-20 May 2018, and the annual charge for this use has been £550.00 since 2011. The same charge has been applied for 2018, however it was suggested that this be reviewed for 2019. Members were in support of this proposal.

The bus shelter on London Road East, heading south from Little Copse Road, had been vandalised over the weekend. It is understood that the Fire Brigade was called out to an arson incident at the shelter on Sunday night, and a crime reference number had been allocated to the incident by the Police. The bench inside the shelter has been removed and attempts made to set fire to it, and the shelter itself has also been damaged. The Deputy Clerk informed Members that BHTC Maintenance team had reacted quickly with a site visit to assess the damage, make the shelter safe and to remove the damaged bench. It was agreed that the condition of the two London Road Bus Shelters would be an agenda item for consideration at the next G&E meeting.

GE17/112 TRAFFIC & PARKING

Cllr Ian Weir and Sally Booker informed the Committee that a Public Meeting is to be held at the Parish Centre on Tuesday 27 March, to update residents on the second stage of the Traffic and Parking Proposals. Prior to the meeting the aim is to deliver leaflets to all residents living in roads which will be affected by the proposals. This is to ensure that all residents are aware of the proposals and also to gain an understanding of the level of support. West Sussex County Council will not implement any Traffic or Parking changes which receive a high level of negative feedback, therefore without residents support no action will be taken to address the current concerns. Sally Booker circulated a draft leaflet for Members to consider prior to distribution.

Cllr Weir informed Members that an update on the current situation with the Traffic and Parking projects is to be published in the April edition of the Talkabout and on the Parish Council Website. This will provide information about the first stage which is in process and the proposed second stage.

Careful consideration has been given to minimise displacement. Whilst the proposals aim to readdress the balance between resident and commuter parking, it has also been recognised that the risk of displacement needs to be reduced as much as possible.

Concerns were raised regarding the enforcement of any new regulations. Ian Weir informed Members that he and the Clerk had met with the Mid Sussex District Council (MSDC) Officer responsible for Parking Services, to discuss these issues. MSDC is aware of the increased restrictions to be introduced in Hassocks and will endeavour to ensure an appropriate level of cover by enforcement officers. This may not be a daily presence, however it is expected that the level of cover will be sufficient to address parking issues.

Cllr Sue Hatton reported that the Headteacher from Downlands School had asked for an update on the Traffic and Parking Proposals, and therefore suggested that the Head Teachers from all three schools in Hassocks were provided with information about these. Cllr Weir and Sally Booker confirmed that this would be done.

It is thought that the first stage projects will all be completed by the end of March 2018, and provided there is public support for the second stage proposals, it is hoped that these will be considered and agreed at the June meeting of WSCC and implemented by the end of the March 2019.

The difficulty is where resident's opinions are equally divided, in this instance the strength of responses and reasons behind these will be analysed. It is planned that the opinions of resident's from the affected roads will be collated and displayed at the Public Meeting on 27 March. These residents will be directly affected by any proposals, and therefore it might be helpful for other Hassocks residents to have an understanding of the general feeling of affected residents.

The affected roads have been targeted following responses from the initial Traffic and Parking Consultation, they are roads which have been highlighted as significant problem areas by residents. The only road which is impossible to address is Parklands Road. Despite exploring every possible option to improve traffic flow and parking in this area, unfortunately there appears to be no viable solution to solving the problems in this road.

Cllr Peter Gibbons informed the Committee that the Clayton Mills Residents Association is currently exploring the option to implement parking restrictions via a private company. Clayton Mills is a private estate and therefore permitted to do this. The aim is to outlaw parking on pavements, at junctions and generally all dangerous parking.

GE17/113 In acknowledgement of the attendance of the resident of 18 Fir Tree Way, Hassocks, the Chair proposed changing the order of the agenda and considering item 8 first. The Committee were in full agreement.

GE17/114 ADASTRA PARK TREES

17/114.1 **A REQUEST FOR TREE WORK TO THE REAR OF 18 FIR TREE WAY.** Members were invited to consider a request from the resident of 18 Fir Tree Way for the reduction in height of a Yew Tree bordering their property in Adastral Park. The HPC Tree Warden had recommended that the tree should not be reduced in height, however it could be tidied up through pruning into a tulip shape. He was also in support of the removal of the ivy growing up through the tree.

Members considered the request.

17/114.2 It was **RESOLVED** to approve the prune and reshape of the Yew Tree as described by the Tree Warden, without any reduction to height and to approve the removal of the ivy on the tree. Any work to be carried out must be with the prior approval of the Council and all costs are to be met by the resident.

17/114.3 **TWINNING PLAQUE.** Members were invited to approve the suggested wording for the plaque to be installed with the tree planted to commemorate the 25th Anniversary of the Twinning between Hassocks and Montmirail and Wald Michelbach. The tree is located in the Garden of Remembrance. The proposed wording to be as follows:

Liquidambar styraciflua

This tree was planted on June 3rd 2017 to
commemorate the 25th anniversary of the
Twinning of Hassocks with Montmirail (France)
and Wald-Michelbach (Germany).

Kindly donated by Garden Sage Nurseries

Members considered the proposed wording and it was agreed that the date should be amended to appear as 3rd June 2017.

- 17/114.4 It was therefore RESOLVED to approve the wording for the plaque to accompany the tree planted in commemoration of the 25th Anniversary of the Twinning as follows:

Liquidambar styraciflua

This tree was planted on 3rd June 2017 to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the Twinning of Hassocks with Montmirail (France) and Wald-Michelbach (Germany).

Kindly donated by Garden Sage Nurseries

Members discussed a suitable material for the plaque and coated aluminium was considered as an appropriate option.

- 17/114.5 It was RESOLVED to delegate the final selection of material and form to Cllrs Jane Baker and Georgia Cheshire.

GE17/115 ADASTRA FACILITIES HIRE FEES AND CHARGES

Members were invited to approve the fees and charges for the hire of Adastra Park facilities for 2018-19 as shown in Appendix 2 of the agenda.

- 17/115.1 It was RESOLVED to approve the fees and charges for the hire of Adastra Park Facilities from 1 April 2018 to 31 March 2019 as shown in Appendix 1.

Members were also invited to consider whether an increase in Casual Hire Charges for the public use of the Tennis Courts should be implemented for 2018-19, and if so to agree the level of increase. It had been previously agreed at the G&E Committee meeting held on 30 March 2017 not to increase Casual Hire charges for the Adastra Tennis Courts (Min ref 17/716). Members agreed to defer any changes to charges or booking arrangements until the Adastra Park review had been completed. Members were informed that public hire charges have not been increased since 2011.

Members discussed the matter and it was noted that the condition of the courts has been much improved over the last year. After some consideration Members agreed that as the Park review was still underway, a sensible approach would be to wait until this had been presented to the Committee and decisions had been made as to the future plans for Adastra Park.

- 17/115.2 It was therefore RESOLVED that the public hire charges for the Adastra Park Tennis Courts would remain unchanged for 2018-19.

GE17/115 PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY (PROW). Cllr Leslie Campbell informed Members that he and Cllr Ian Weir were in the early stages of considering a further partnership project for presentation to WSCC regarding surface improvements to Bridleway 8C. Members would be updated accordingly.

GE17/116 URGENT MATTERS at the discretion of the Chairman for noting and/or inclusion on a future agenda. There were no urgent matters.

GE17/117 DATE OF NEXT MEETING. Thursday 29 March 2018 at 7.30pm.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 8.30pm.

SignedChairman

Date.....

HASSOCKS PARISH COUNCIL			
Adastra Park Sports Facilities Fees and Charges 2018/19			
General Conditions			
1.	The charges included in this leaflet are effective from 1 April 2018 to 31 March 2019 in relation to the sports facilities operated by Hassocks Parish Council. Summer and Winter season dates are specific to each facility and activity.		
2.	All hirers must complete an official HPC application form and adhere to the Council's published Terms and Conditions of Hire prior to the booking period.		
3.	Payment for the hire of facilities must be made in advance unless otherwise are agreed.		
4.	Discounted Rates - where a discounted rate (50% of the full rate) is provided, the following conditions apply:		
	Juniors-to qualify for the discounted rate, facility users must be under the age of 17 at the time of hire.		
	Senior Citizens - to qualify for the discounted rate, facility users must be 60 or over at the time of hire.		
		Full Rate	Discounted Rate
SPORTS HIRE - SUMMER			
	Cricket Turf Wicket - per use	43.50	21.75
	Cricket Turf Wicket - evening rate	22.85	
	Juniors on Artificial Pitch		11.40
	Cricket Net Practice		
	Per session	22.85	11.40
	Water for cricket square will be recharged at cost		
	Stoolball - South Field per use	21.20	10.60
	North Field	N/A	5.30
	Bowls - Club Members	125.60	62.80
	Water use will be recharged to the Bowling Club		
	Tennis - Casual Hire per Court	7.00	3.50
	Key Deposit - returnable	5.00	5.00
	Tennis - Club Members	89.60	44.80
	Couples	135.00	N/A
	Children of Adult Members		15.75
SUMMER PAVILION HIRE			
	Changing Rooms/Toilets/Kitchen/Bar/Storage	37.00	N/A
	Changing Rooms/Toilets/Kitchen/Storage	25.00	12.50
	Toilets/Kitchen/Storage	12.50	6.25
SPORTS HIRE - WINTER			
	Football - per use	56.00	
	Junior Football on Senior Pitch		28.00
	Mini-Pitch		14.00
	Training Session (per session)	14.40	7.20
	WINTER PAVILION HIRE	30.50	15.25
	Community Pavilion Hire	9.25 per hour	
	Fitness Training Charges (4 hour session)	10.30	