

HASSOCKS PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the **Parish Council** held on 13th February 2018
at 7.30pm in the Parish Centre, Adastra Park, Hassocks.

Attendees: Parish Councillors Ian Weir (Chair), Nick Owens, Peter Gibbons, Jane Baker, Bill Hatton, Leslie Campbell, Darryl Sinclair, Kate Bailey, Georgia Cheshire, Victoria Standfast and Sue Hatton.

Mark Higgins (PC17/140)

Parish Clerk: Ian Cumberworth

Visiting Member: Gordon Marples, (District Councillor)
Kirsty Lord (apologies) (County Councillor)

MINUTES

PC17/135 APOLOGIES

Cllrs Judith Foot, and Frances Gaudencio

PC17/136 DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

Disclosure by Councillors of personal interests in matters on the agenda.
None

PC17/137 MINUTES

The minutes of the Council meeting held on the 9th January 2018 were accepted as a true and accurate record of the meetings subject to amending the date in item PC17/132.4 to read January and not February. Minutes agreed.

PC17/138 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were 2 Members of the public present who observed proceedings. One member of the public expressed her thanks for County Cllr Lord speaking at the recent hearing against the proposed strategic site in Hassocks.

PC17/139 MINUTES

To accept the following Minutes.

Planning Committee 22nd January 2018 (agreed) and Policy Resources & Communications 16th January 2018 (for noting) Grounds & Environment Committee 29th January 2018 (for noting) and Neighbourhood Plan Working Group 11th January 2018 (for noting).

PC17/140 CO OPTING ONTO THE COUNCIL

Cllr Weir updated Members on the position regarding the two vacancies on the Council. The Council has discharged its legal duty to advertise the vacancies and are now in a position to co-opt members onto the Council. Members were informed that we had received one application from Mr Mark Higgins who was present at the meeting tonight and members would be invited to vote on his acceptance to join the Council. Before members voted on the application Mr Higgins was invited to speak to provide a brief overview of why he wished to be considered for the Council and potential areas he would like to be involved in. After this the Clerk passed out voting slips to members to cast their vote as to whether to accept Mr Higgins onto the Council. The returned slips were returned and counted, the result was declared that an overall majority of members were in favour of accepting Mr Higgins onto the Council it was therefore RESOLVED that Mark Higgins be duly elected onto the Council.

The Clerk then signed the Declaration of acceptance together with the new Councillor and welcomed him to the Council.

The Clerk informed members that we will continue to advertise the remaining vacancy until it is filled.

PC17/141 FINANCE

The Finance report and payments totalling £20,888.12 for the period ending 31st December 2017 were approved.

PC17/142 Reports

- 142.1 District Councillors reports: - Cllr Gordon Marples (GM) informed members that since the last meeting there was no further info relating to the proposed strategic site and MSDC is awaiting Mr Bore's response which is expected by the end of this month. (GM) went onto say that Nick Herbert MP went on after the hearing last week to raise Hassocks in a House of Commons debate.

GM reported that a culvert rail has fallen into disrepair in Ockley Lane north of the Thatch public house, it is anticipated this will be repaired shortly. Also the ongoing saga with fly tipping in London road has been cleared.

He recently attended a presentation from the police where amongst other things it was raised that they no longer submit police reports to the parish council.

MSDC propose to increase Council Tax by 3.2% which equates to approx. £4.95 extra per band D equivalent property in the District. Local grant funding has been agreed for next year at £280,000 but this may become challenging in future years as financial pressures increase.

GM indicated that he attended a recent meeting with Parish and District Council representatives regarding parking and did have some concerns over the proposed parking options being explored in Dale Avenue and the potential displacement impact it could have. GM sought confirmation whether there will be further public consultation prior to any scheme progressing. Cllr Weir confirmed that the proposals had been consulted on by WSCC about 18 months ago which due to the time delay has caused some members of the public to overlook that this process had occurred. However the works are scheduled as part of Phase 2 of the overall initiative and there would be a new consultation to review these proposals.

GM informed members that Cllr Michelle Binks has organised a meeting this Thursday to discuss improvements to play provision on London Road (Belmont) and interested persons are invited to attend. Cllr Cheshire indicated she would be keen to attend to see what was being considered and was happy to share information the parish has obtained as part of its review of the parks facilities to ensure we are not duplicating facilities and will feed back to Grounds & Environment Committee.

Cllr Sue Hatton (SH), in her District capacity, informed members that District in conjunction with County Council are looking at issues surrounding rubbish being left on Parklands Road which may be commercial waste. Cllr Hatton also attended the parking meeting (GM) referred to earlier and reaffirmed that consultation will occur on the Dale Avenue Car Park scheme. SH informed members that unfortunately she was unable to attend the recent planning hearing in Haywards Heath.

- 142.2 County Councillor report: Cllr Lord sent her apologies but submitted a report that was read out by the Clerk;

Hassocks

I have been working with Chair, Ian Weir, and Sally Booker on the Traffic Regulation Orders (TRO).

The upgrade to the pedestrian crossing outside the Infant School will start on 19th February and is expected to last 2.5 weeks. A temporary crossing and 2 way traffic control will be in place.

I reported a hole on Parklands Road which turned out to be a sinkhole. Highways kept me informed of progress and the repair was carried out within the week.

Relining has been carried out along Keymer Road. I queried why the zigzags at the two pedestrian crossings were not refreshed. The relevant permissions to turn off the lights were not obtained. I have asked if these can be refreshed as part of the works on the Infant School crossing and am awaiting a response on timelines.

Due to the theft of the SID in Albourne last year, there has not been one available to cover Hassocks & Burgess Hill south and Hurst & Bolney divisions. There are several possible options which I am exploring with Joy Dennis through CLC. In the meantime, I may have secured temporary use of one and hope to be able to obtain data for Ockley Lane, Lodge Lane, and Keymer Road in the coming months.

I have been asked to report any places where we think dropped kerbs would be useful. I will propose one on the northern side of Keymer Road between the Woodsland Road roundabout and railway tunnel to aid crossing here (there are dropped kerbs on the south side but none on the north) and also asking the Highways team to look at the corner of Friars Oak Road and Little Copse Road to aid the route from the village to Jack & Jill nursery and London Road Rec. If councillors know of any other crossing points in the village that would benefit from a dropped kerb, please let me know by the end of February.

At County

Budget discussion on Friday 16th with proposed council tax increase of 4.95%

CLC is in Haywards Heath on Tuesday 20th. Clayton Volunteer Group has made an application for a CIF grant for white gates which I fully support, and there will also be a decision on the governorship at Windmills Junior School that was deferred from the 31st October CLC. I also expect there will be a lot of discussion on Woodlands Mead college site.

The decision on changes to the community funding model – with a move to a crowdfunding, online model – were called in by the Liberal Democrat group, due to concerns about the impact on smaller groups or those with users not comfortable working online. Our call-in was upheld so the Cabinet Member now has to decide whether to proceed or not. This means that the community funding environment for 2018/19 is currently somewhat uncertain. I will update Parish Council once we know the way forward.

- 142.3 . Rail matters – Cllr Campbell informed Members that there had been some resignations from the Rail Group chaired by Katherine Cassidy who has sought confirmation that the remaining members were committed to remain on the group. Both Cllr Campbell and Cllr Gibbons confirmed they were and keen to ensure the Parish was involved, members agreed. A brief discussion was held regarding the frequency and destination of trains under the new timetable proposals. Cllr Gibbons informed Members that 119 trains had been cancelled in January of which 84 were cancelled outright and a further 35 failed to stop

of which 5 were less than 5 minutes late. A discussion followed around the proposed 9 day closures scheduled for October and February and the significant impact it will have on residents commuting to London. At its previous meeting Members resolved (PC/17/130.3) that the Council write to Nick Herbert MP expressing our dissatisfaction of the level of ongoing service. Members requested that Council also set out its concerns relating to the 9 day closures in this letter. All members agreed with this approach. Cllr Gibbons and the Clerk undertook to agree the final content of the letter and submit this to the MP.

- 142.4 Youth Initiatives - Cllr Bailey confirmed that a club continues to be operated from the Adastra Park Pavilion on Friday evenings by a third party organisation who have managed to secure funding to support this initiative. The Clerk confirmed that the pavilion had been booked up until July.

Cllr Bailey indicated that the youth group were keen to engage more effectively with the children from Windmills school.

Cllr Bailey drew members attention to the scheduled County Local Committee (CLC) being held at Haywards Heath on 20th February where one of the items likely to be debated at length will be the Woodlands Mead site which she felt it was important that the Council was represented at this meeting to present our views on any proposals. Members were in full support of this and it was agreed that Cllr Bailey and Cllr Gibbons be designated to represent the Councils views.

- 142.5 Police matters – Cllr Bailey updated members that the village has some ongoing anti-social groups which the police are currently actively dealing with and some issues recently experienced in Hurstpierpoint. The Clerk informed members that he had just received a report from SSALC detailing questions and answers they had asked of the Chief Constable on behalf of Parish Councils which covered many similar concerns regularly expressed by members. The Clerk undertook to circulate this to all members.

- 142.6 Report from Councillors on meetings of outside bodies where the Council is represented – none

PC17/143 CHAIRMANS REPORT –

Cllr Ian Weir informed Members that he did not have too much to report other than that the Planning Inspectors (Mr Bore) hearing was held on the 5th February. It is understood the general consensus was that he was very fair in allowing representatives to put their points of view across and we now await his formal verdict sometime in the next few weeks.

PC17/144 CLERK'S REPORT

The Clerk brought members attention to a numbering error in this section in that it should start as 10.1 and so on and not 10.2 as recorded in the agenda papers consequently each number in this section is affected.

144.1 Terms of Reference.

This report invited members to consider the draft committee terms of reference which were considered by Policy Resources & Communications on 16th January 2018. They had been adjusted to reflect some minor amendments proposed by the committee members and Council are now requested to consider the items set out in appendix 2 (pages 10 -15) and were requested to consider formally adopting these committee terms of reference. Members felt they clearly set out the roles of the respective Committees therefore they **RESOLVED** to accept the Committee Terms of reference for Policy Resources & Communications, Grounds & Environment and Planning Committee.

144.2 Highways Contract

The Clerk advised members that the current highways arrangement with Burgess Hill Town Council will cease at the end of the financial year.

Highways work will continue to be delivered by WSCC but will be prioritised in line with the new highways contract.

A number of operational issues will arise as a result of this including: delivery of salt bags, bus shelter cleaning etc. Funds have been allocated within the budget for highways work therefore alternative arrangements will need to be made if members wish. Members discussed a number of issues, the Clerk therefore undertook to identify the key impacts of the cessation of this arrangement and bring back a further paper for members to consider so that other delivery models can be considered.

144.3 Committee Membership

Members were invited to consider a request from Cllr Frances Gaudencio to join the Grounds & Environment committee. Cllr Gaudencio has recently taken over responsibility for leading on this committee's most significant project the park masterplan which will require regular updates as the project progresses. Member's views are sought.

RESOLVED Cllr Gaudencio be approved as a member of Grounds and Environment Committee.

144.4 Interim Internal Audit

The Clerk informed the Council that they had recently received its interim internal audit report which sets out the findings of their review. Overall it is a positive report. They have concluded:

- Systems and internal procedures well established regulated and followed
- Good progress made on the recommendations made at the 2016/17 review.
- Overall the systems and procedures are fit for purpose.

A small number of recommendations are set out in appendix 3 (pages 16 -17) of the agenda together with the proposed actions and members were asked to note these.

If members are interested they can view the full report in the Clerks Office.

Members wished to place on record their thanks to the Clerk for the work undertaken over the last year on the systems and processes. The report was duly noted.

144.5 The Royal British Legion –WW1 Centenary Commemorations 2018

The Clerk introduced a report where Grounds & Environment Committee considered a sponsorship request on 29th January to install a ‘silent soldier’ which will show a mark of respect in the first four years of the First World War. Appendix 4 (pages 18 – 19) of the agenda. Members resolved (GE/17/100.1) to recommend to full Council to support this initiative and secondly (GE/17/100.2) if approved a decision on the final location to be determined.

The Clerk informed members there was no budget for this however we are currently underspent on our grants budget therefore this could feasibly be funded from this. If members were not minded to utilise this budget it would need to be funded from general reserves.

Members were informed that if the sponsorship contribution was approved it would be classified as section 137 expenditure. Member’s views were sought on the proposal and whether to approve Grounds & Environments funding request to participate in this initiative and to identify a potential site.

Members discussed the initiative and were in favour of supporting this initiative, they felt that the final siting location would be fitting to be within the Garden of Remembrance in Adastra Park.

Members RESOLVED to approve the funding request from Grounds and Environment Committee which will be met from the grants budget and the final siting of the display within the Remembrance Garden to be agreed with the Clerk.

144.6 Cycling Without Age Hurst & Hassocks

The Clerk introduced a request from a recently formed voluntary group who are seeking funding to purchase an electric powered trishaw to encourage elderly residents to get back out on bikes and back in the community. Details of the scheme are set out in appendix 5 (pages 20-21) of the agenda.

Additional funding is being sought via crowdfunding and as of to date they have achieved 33% of their target (which is £7,000)

Members were invited to consider the merits of the initiative and consider whether they were minded to support this scheme.

The Clerk informed members that there was no budget for this however some funding was still available within our grants budget and therefore this could feasibly be funded from this fund. Alternatively if funding was approved it would have to be met from general reserves. Any funding approval would be classified as s137 funding.

Members considered this request and there was a consensus that the Council has already done a lot to support the youth within the village it would therefore be good to support an initiative for the older generation. Discussion took place over the potential level of funding and after considering a number of options members RESOLVED to approve a donation of £250 towards the cost of acquiring the Trishaw subject to the funding target being met. This is to be funded from the grants budget.

PC17/145 URGENT MATTERS AT THE DISCRETION OF THE CHAIRMAN for noting and/or inclusion on a future agenda. None

PC17/146 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

To note that the date of the next Council meeting is **Tuesday 13th March 2018 at 7.30pm.**