

HASSOCKS PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the **Parish Council** held on 13th March 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, Sue Hatton, Mark Higgins and Emma Wood (PC17/155.1)

Parish Clerk: Ian Cumberworth

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

MINUTES

PC17/147 APOLOGIES

Cllrs Judith Foot, Frances Gaudencio

PC17/148 DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

Disclosure by Councillors of personal interests in matters on the agenda.
None
Cllr Weir subsequently disclosed an interest in item PC17/155.3 prior to its consideration.

PC17/149 MINUTES

The minutes of the Council meeting held on the 13th February 2018 were accepted as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

PC17/150 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were 2 Members of the public present who observed proceedings.

PC17/151 MINUTES

To accept the following Minutes.

Planning Committee 12th February 2018 (agreed), Planning 5th March (for noting) and Grounds & Environment Committee 26th February 2018 (for noting).

PC17/152 FINANCE

The Finance report and payments totalling £25,627.13 for the period ending 31st January 2018 were approved.

PC17/153 Reports

- 153.1 District Councillors reports: - Cllr Gordon Marples (GM) informed Members that the Planning Examiner had reported that the MSDC District Plan was sound for a 5 year land supply, therefore the plan will be formally considered for adoption by District Members on the 28th March 2018. The issue regarding Ashdown forest and Wealden District Council (WDC) has continued to result in WDC objecting to a number of neighbouring authority planning applications and policies. This matter has now been escalated to County.

The Districts winter plan has been in operation due to the adverse weather conditions and has involved some disruption to the waste collection service. Emergency plan was enacted to assist other agencies in supplying additional water supplies to those areas that suffered disrupted supply during the recent bad weather.

Burgess Hill Town Council have recently held a referendum regarding the construction of a new Arts Centre to replace the Martlets Hall, although the vote was close the result was that there is insufficient support to provide a new Arts Centre.

Cllr Binks has/ is also setting up another meeting to discuss potential improvement in Belmont Park in April.

Cllr Sue Hatton (District matters) is currently in liaison with County council regarding pathways close to Age Concern. This includes some responsibility issues between district and county that need to be resolved.

Parking group meeting is scheduled for next week.

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

I have been working with Highways and Parking Officers to make adjustments to Parish Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) drawings and go through feedback from the recent consultation on the county-led TRO

I have spoken with contractors about the cinder path, I am doing some site visits next week and hope to have quotes by next month's Parish Council meeting.

I have established that the wooden bollards on the new crossing at Woodland Rd are temporary as there was a long lead time on bollards that are a closer match to the ones in the village. These will be replaced shortly once the permanent ones are delivered.

Other areas of work include Woodlands Meed, flood risk, and have contacted a rep at GTR about the Clapham Junction service. Health

visitor services are changing again across county - unclear if there is any impact on Hassocks and I'm awaiting a response.

- 153.3 Rail matters – Cllr Gibbons informed Members that 91 trains had been cancelled in February of which 51 were cancelled outright and a further 40 failed to stop. Of those trains that failed to stop at Hassocks 15 failed to gain any time by doing so.
At its previous meeting Members resolved (**PC/17/130.3**) that the Council write to Nick Herbert MP expressing the Council's dissatisfaction of the level of ongoing service. The Clerk and Cllr Gibbons confirmed that a letter had been sent and the MP had indicated he would raise our concerns with the appropriate parties.
- 153.4 Youth Initiatives- Cllr Bailey confirmed that the scheduled meeting was cancelled and is to be rearranged but the club continues to be operated from the Adastra Park Pavilion on Friday evenings by a third party organisation.
- 153.5 Police matters – Cllr Bailey updated Members that the village continues to have some ongoing anti-social groups which the police are currently actively dealing with.
- 153.6 Report from Councillors on meetings of outside bodies where the Council is represented-
Cllr Gaudencio updated Members on a recent meeting attended with SUDS representatives to progress the implementation of the Rain garden(s) in Adastra Park.

Cllr Gibbons updated Members on a recent county council meeting (CLC) he and Cllr Bailey attended regarding Woodlands Mead School. Although County have made some limited proposals progress has not been made to effect these changes. This matter is to be considered again at a future CLC meeting where it is hoped that the WSCC education cabinet member would be in attendance to address some of the unresolved concerns raised at this meeting.

PC17/154 CHAIRMANS REPORT –.

Cllr Ian Weir informed Members that he had been contacted by the Mid Sussex Times to provide a statement on the outcome of the District Plan which has been provided.

In light of the decision on the District plan HPC will now need to look at how we can ensure we look after the best interests of Hassocks going forward.

Members briefly discussed the issue regarding the Strategic site and it was confirmed that we will have the opportunity to be involved at the planning stage.

Members expressed various views on the potential impact on the railway crossing and implications it may have on PROW footpaths.

Cllr Weir confirmed that a public consultation was to be held later this month on various parking initiatives being proposed in conjunction with WSCC.

PC17/155 CLERK'S REPORT

- 155.1 **Co-opting onto the Council.** The Clerk informed Members that we had received one application for the current vacancy from Mrs Emma Wood who was present at the meeting tonight and Members would be invited to vote on her acceptance to join the Council. Before Members voted on the application she was invited to speak to provide a brief overview of why she wished to be considered for the Council and potential areas she 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 Mrs Wood onto the Council. The slips were returned and counted, the result was declared that an overall majority of Members were in favour. It was therefore **RESOLVED** that Emma Wood be duly elected onto the Council.

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

Members discussed the option of what Committees Cllr Wood should sit on; there was a consensus that the new member should attend all Committees first prior to determining which Committees she would like to serve on. This would then allow the member to identify any specific Committee interests and be formally selected to her chosen Committees at the Annual Parish Meeting in May along with all other Member appointments for the municipal year (2018/19)

- 155.2 **Committee Membership** Cllr Mark Higgins was previously co-opted onto the Council (PC17/140) Members were therefore asked to consider which Committees Cllr Higgins should serve on. Cllr Higgins had indicated a preference to sit on Planning and Grounds & Environment Committee however some Members raised concerns over the current number of Members on the Grounds & Environment Committee. After discussion it was **RESOLVED** that Cllr Higgins would sit on the Planning Committee and the Neighbourhood Plan Working Group.

Members also requested that the Clerk explore the viability within the Councils standing orders that the Clerk determine the Committees new co-opted Members should reside on to negate the need to refer the decision to Council in the first instance.

155.3 Royal Wedding Street Party – Road Closure, Semley Road.

Members were invited to consider a request for a road closure on the 19th May 2018 to hold a street party in celebration of the royal wedding. At this point Cllr Weir recognised he had an interest in this item therefore took no further part in any discussion and did not vote on the matter. Members raised no matters of concern and therefore did not wish to make any representations.

PC17/156 URGENT MATTERS AT THE DISCRETION OF THE CHAIRMAN for noting and/or inclusion on a future agenda. None

PC17/157 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

To note that the date of the next Council meeting is **Tuesday 10th April 2018 at 7.30pm.**