

HASSOCKS PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the GROUNDS AND ENVIRONMENT Committee held on 28 June 2018 at 7.30pm in the Parish Centre, Adastra Park, Hassocks.

Attendees: Cllrs Kate Bailey (from item 7), Jane Baker, Leslie Campbell, Peter Gibbons, Bill Hatton, Sue Hatton, and Ian Weir.

In attendance: Tracy Bates – Deputy Clerk
Sally Booker

GE18/21 APOLOGIES. Apologies were received from Cllrs Leslie Campbell, Georgia Cheshire, Frances Gaudencio and Emma Wood and co-optees Tony Copeland and Penny Wadsworth.

GE18/22 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST. There were no declarations of interest.

GE18/23 MINUTES.

The Deputy Clerk reported that Tony Copeland had not been recorded as an attendee at the meeting held on 31 May 2018. This was amended and signed in the minutes and noted by the Committee.

RESOLVED to accept the minutes of the Grounds and Environment Committee meeting held on 31 May 2018 with the agreed amendment.

There were no matters arising.

GE18/24 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION. There were no members of the public present.

GE18/25 OFFICER'S REPORT. Appendix 4 in the agenda. This was noted by the Committee. The Committee were concerned about the level of litter being left around the park, and it was noted that the bottom of the North Field next to the stream had become a favourite gathering place for young people after school. It was suggested that siting a bin here might reduce the amount of litter left on the ground. However careful consideration over the choice of bin and the fixing was important due to the risk of vandalism as has been seen elsewhere in the park. The Deputy Clerk was asked to look into the various options for a bin and to report back to the next meeting.

The Deputy Clerk was also asked to write a letter to Downlands School to report the current problems and to enquire as to whether the newly formed Eco-Group might be able to provide some suggestions for resolving the problem. It was also noted that Cllr Ian Weir would discuss this problem with the Head of Downlands at a forthcoming meeting.

The Officer also reported as part of the agreed revised procedures in the burial ground that 20 spiked numbered grave markers had been ordered to mark the

plots of cremated remains in the wall area of the memorial garden. The total cost of these being £400 coming from the Burial Ground budget. Members were shown a photo of an example of these markers. Members noted this.

GE 18/26 STREET TREES. In the absence of Penny Wadsworth there was nothing to contribute to this agenda item.

GE 18/27 PARKLANDS ROAD ALLOTMENTS.
In Tony Copeland's absence, the Deputy Clerk updated Members on the option to plant a hedge along the southern border of the allotments to increase security. The land owner had been approached regarding planting on the south side of the fence, however he was not agreeable to hedging being planted on his land. Tony Copeland had asked the Deputy Clerk to report that he had raised the option of planting a hedge on the allotment side of the fence with HAA members, but the overall feeling of HAA Members was against a hedge being planted due to a loss of view, the need for maintenance and loss of plot area. Therefore it was agreed not to pursue this option any further.

GE 18/28 ALLOTMENT GREENHOUSES. Members were invited to re-approve the continuation of the application for Planning Permission for up to 20 polycarbonate/perspex greenhouses on the Parklands Road allotments, at a cost of £117.00 for the application. Members had previously approved the erection of greenhouses on allotment plots, however this was over two years ago, and therefore the Deputy Clerk was requesting re-approval to continue with the project. It was noted that no glass would be permitted and that greenhouses would be sited directly onto the ground - no hard standing would be permitted.

Cllr Kate Bailey joined the meeting.

It was RESOLVED that an application for Planning Permission for up to 20 polycarbonate/Perspex greenhouses on the Parklands Road allotments could be progressed at a cost of £117.00 for the application.

GE 18/29 BOWLS GREEN MATERIALS. Members were invited to agree to delegate the approval and management of expenditure for materials required for the maintenance of the Bowling Green to the Parish Clerk. An annual budget is set aside each year for the purpose of purchasing materials, as requested by the Bowling Green Grounds Manager to maintain the Bowls Green. The budget for 2018/19 is £2,500.

Previously the Grounds Manager has been asked to submit a request and quotes for materials to be presented to the G&E Committee for approval. However this requires significant forward planning to ensure the timing of the request meets the deadlines for G&E meetings. This has caused some difficulties in the past, and in addition prices can change which is a further complication.

It was therefore proposed and RESOLVED that the Parish Clerk is delegated the authority to approve materials requests submitted by the Bowls Green

Manager, subject to being satisfied that the overall expenditure will remain within the approved budget for a given year.

- GE 18/30 CHRISTMAS LIGHTS. Members were informed that current Christmas Lights contract will come to an end in January 2019. Therefore Members were invited to consider approving the continuation of funding for Christmas Lights for Hassocks, and the instigation of seeking quotations for a new contract. Currently a budget of £3250 has been allowed for 2018.

It was noted that the Light Up Hassocks event is organised separately, and that the Parish Council has responsibility for the supply, installation and maintenance of the lights as a standalone project. It was understood that Sussex Vale Rotary Club have taken over the Light Up Hassocks event, however the Deputy Clerk would confirm this.

Members were in favour of HPC continuing the funding and organisation of the Christmas Lights and it was AGREED that the Clerk/Deputy Clerk should obtain quotations for the continuation of this project.

- GE 18/31 REMEMBRANCE BEACONS. Members were invited to consider the participation of HPC in the lighting of beacons on 11 November 2018 to mark the 100th anniversary of the First World War. Mid Sussex District Council (MSDC) is providing grants of up to £250 to Parishes which would like to support the initiative. Information was provided with the agenda.

The Deputy Clerk informed Members that Michelle Binks had contacted the Clerk noting the possibility of herself organising an event with the local Scouts and inviting other groups to join in.

The Committee agreed support for the beacon initiative and were in favour of applying for a grant for the purchase of a portable beacon. It was felt that the Jack and Jill Windmill Car Park, owned by MSDC, would be a good location for such an event.

The question was raised as to whether the Parish Council could apply for the grant and purchase the beacon for the Scouts to use. The Deputy Clerk would enquire with MSDC.

The Deputy Clerk was also asked to contact MSDC to obtain permission to hold the event in the Jack and Jill Car Park.

The Deputy Clerk/Clerk to discuss the format of the actual beacon lighting event on 11 November 2018. It was AGREED that the organisation of the event would be discussed at a future meeting.

It was RESOLVED to apply for a grant of £250 from MSDC and to purchase a portable beacon at a net cost of £360 plus the purchase of gas cylinders to light

the beacon. The additional funds would be met from the Grants Budget under s137.

GE 18/32 TRAFFIC AND PARKING. Cllr Ian Weir informed the Committee that at the recent County Local Committee meeting (CLC) Stage 1 of the Traffic and Parking Scheme was approved and Cllr Weir confirmed this would now proceed.

The responses to the recent public consultation held by HPC regarding Stage 2 of the scheme, have now been analysed. Some revisions have been made to the proposals to North Court and Stonepound Road and the next step is to contact residents of these roads to confirm their support for the revisions prior to submitting the finalised proposals to WSCC.

It is intended that Stage 2 of the Traffic and Parking Scheme will be submitted to the next CLC in October 2018. If this is approved, WSCC will carry out a public consultation as for Stage 1.

The Committee expressed its thanks to Cllr Ian Weir and Sally Booker for the huge amount of work they have put into this project.

GE 18/33 PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY (PROW). Cllr Ian Weir informed the Committee that Cllr Leslie Campbell had been in contact with the WSCC PROW Officer regarding footpaths 3C and 4C between Hammonds Mill and Jane Murray Way. The landowner has fenced in the footpath. The PROW Officer is aware of this and is working with Landowner to manage the path. Cllr Weir reported that he is keen to work with WSCC in the future to explore the possibility of converting this path into a bridleway if possible.

GE 18/34 URGENT MATTERS at the discretion of the Chairman for noting and/or inclusion on a future agenda. There were no urgent matters.

GE18/35 DATE OF NEXT MEETING. The date for this meeting was changed due to a clash with a forthcoming Neighbourhood Plan Meeting. Therefore it was agreed that the date of the next meeting would be **Wednesday 25 July 2018**.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 8.12pm.

SignedChairman

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