

## HASSOCKS PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the **Parish Council** held on 11<sup>th</sup> December 2018  
at 7.30pm in the Parish Centre, Adastra Park, Hassocks.

Attendees: Parish Councillors Ian Weir (Chair), Peter Gibbons, Jane Baker, Judith Foot, Bill Hatton, Leslie Campbell, Emma Wood, Sue Hatton, Georgia Cheshire, Mark Higgins, Frances Gaudencio, Victoria Standfast and Nick Owens.

Parish Clerk: Ian Cumberworth

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

### MINUTES

#### **PC18/63 APOLOGIES**

Kate Bailey

Michelle Binks (District Councillor)

#### **PC18/64 DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS**

Disclosure by Councillors of personal interests in matters on the agenda, and whether the Councillor regards their interest as prejudicial under the terms of the Code of Conduct.

None

#### **PC18/65 MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on the 13<sup>th</sup> November 2018 were accepted as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

#### **PC18/66 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

There was 2 member of the public present who did not wish to speak but observed proceedings.

#### **PC18/67 MINUTES**

To accept the following Minutes.

To agree the minutes of the Planning Committee for 12th November 2018 and to note the minutes of the 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2018.

To note the minutes of Grounds and Environment Committee 22nd November 2018.

To agree the minutes of the Neighbourhood Plan Working Group for 15<sup>th</sup> November 2018 and to note the minutes for 29th November 2018.

## **PC18/68 FINANCE**

Members considered the finance reports and the supporting bank statements and reviewed the payment list. The Finance report and payments totalling **£15,892.92** for the period ending 31st October were considered and approved.

## **PC18/69 Reports**

69.1 District Councillors reports: - Cllr Gordon Marples (GM) indicated that District Council members recently attended a meeting to be informed that Horsham District Council are in discussions with the developers proposing the Mayfield new settlement regarding a reduced number of properties. The original Mayfield proposal entailed parcels of land that crossed the Horsham / Mid Sussex District boundary however the current proposal only relates to land within Horsham District Councils boundary. MSDC position remains unchanged that they would be opposed to development on land that falls within the adjoining MSDC boundary.

Cllr Sue Hatton (SH) confirmed that the Friars Oak site has recently been considered by MSDC planning and was refused after strong representation against including those by the Parish Council.

SH drew member's attention to the apparent increase in homelessness in Hassocks which has been drawn to MSDC's attention and is being investigated further. In addition, the Gatwick Airport consultation regarding the additional runway is to be considered by MSDC next week.

(GM) indicated that MSDC are hopeful that they will be able to set the Council tax level next week.

Cllr Marples went onto say that he would like to place on record his appreciation of the efforts of the organisers of the Remembrance beacon event (Cllr Binks and Cllr Cheshire) which raised circa £250 for the RAF benevolent fund with around 200 people attending despite the inclement weather.

SH/GM informed Members that there was a scheduled Multi-agency meeting next week which Cllr Binks and Cllr S Hatton will be attending to consider the issues of anti – social behaviour within Hassocks and across the district and exploring ways as to how this can be best addressed.

(GM) stated that it is understood that one of the recent incidents in the village had led to known individuals being identified who are currently being dealt with by the police.

69.2 County Councillor – Kirsty Lord (KL) confirmed that she would also be attending the multi-agency meeting looking at anti- social behaviour.

KL informed Members that she had also recently made representations regarding the Friars Oak site and that she had also been invited to Ham Field liaison resident meeting with Barratts next week.

Traffic Restriction Order notices relating to phase 2 of the Parish sponsored parking initiative will be displayed from 12<sup>th</sup> December 2018 with the consultation running until 10<sup>th</sup> January 2019 as part of a Parish wide consultation. KL requested that parish councillors respond to this.

KL indicated that WSCC Full Council are scheduled to meet this Friday (14/12/18) where they will consider various items including the London Gatwick consultation and the outcome of the Bus user surveys and potential cuts on bus subsidies.

KL informed Members that County had secured various S106 funding that may be eligible to be expended on areas such as Cycle paths, Connectivity, Cinder path improvements and pedestrian crossings. KL is looking to identify some potential schemes and has set up a meeting with the Parish to explore potential options early in the New Year.

- 69.3 Rail matters – PG informed Members that in November there were 552 cancellations of which 486 either never ran or failed to pass through Hassocks and 66 that should have stopped but didn't. 353 of the cancellations were planned due to the temporary revisions made to timetable introduced earlier in the year.

Overall 5,808 trains have been cancelled from the 1<sup>st</sup> January to 30<sup>th</sup> November 2018. PG informed members that the revised new timetable had just come in but not all trains cancelled from the July timetable changes have been reinstated yet.

- 69.4 Youth Initiatives- Cllr Gaudencio informed Members that she had attended an informal meeting with Bob Kennard who has some funds left over from the Beacon Project and looking to reconnect with youth organisations in the village to distribute these funds.

- 69.5 Police matters – discussed earlier in the agenda regarding anti-social behaviour and the scheduled multi agency meeting to address these issues.

- 69.6 Report from Councillors on meetings of outside bodies where the Council is represented – None

**PC18/70 CHAIRMANS REPORT** – The Chair reiterated that the Traffic Regulation Order consultation was about to commence on the 12<sup>th</sup> December. The notices will cover a large number of roads within the parish and it has been notable that where the Parish leads on the initiative the lead in time has been appreciably quicker than for the earlier phase 1 TRO.

## **PC18/71 CLERK'S REPORT**

### **71.1 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN –REGULATION 14 PLAN**

The Clerk introduced the paper and setting out the draft document and indicated members were being asked to consider the document and approve the proposal that the plan progresses to public consultation and that the Council considers withdrawing its current unmade Regulation 16 plan.

The Chair (IW) invited Cllr Bill Hatton (BH) the Chair of the Neighbourhood Plan Working Group to take members through some of the processes the Council has had to go through to reach this stage.

BH stated that this was an important moment for HPC, in the summer this year members decided to embark on producing a light touch plan however this has still entailed a significant amount of work.

The Council are required to revert back to Regulation 14 and prepare for the first phase of consultation to ensure that Planning Regulations are complied with and enable residents/stakeholders to comment on the plan. HPC will then need to consider all comments. It is anticipated that we will be able to move to the Regulation 16 phase by the middle of next year.

BH indicated that he felt the draft document was a significant improvement on the original Regulation 16 plan and has provided an opportunity to refine the vision and objectives. In addition, Policies have been added which embrace the voice of the Community.

There has been a significant change in the Education element which is due to the emergence of the Strategic site and the land allocated for a school as part of this. County Council have declared themselves content with this proposal. We will work as hard as we can to support WSCC to deliver this.

MSDC Planning Committees have previously approved a large number of properties in the parish which has enabled us to meet our current allocation for a category 2 settlement therefore there is no need to allocate further sites in the document over the plan period. This would still enable us to comply with the District Plan.

The next stage is consultation which is proposed to commence on 7<sup>th</sup> January 2019. The Parish will need to consult and will be supported by MSDC and our planning consultant Dowsett Mayhew throughout this process.

BH informed members that with regard to the unmade Regulation 16 plan of June 2016 MSDC have been insistent that this document will need to be formally withdrawn as this plan will now be superseded by the proposed draft plan. They have indicated that they won't be able to consider our new plan if the existing plan is still live therefore we will need to rescind this.

The Neighbourhood Plan Working Group have debated the plan in detail to arrive at our current document and Members are invited to comment on the overall plan.

Members raised a few minor typo errors and requested that they be amended. The Clerk noted these and agreed that they would be amended within the document prior to it going out to consultation.

Cllr Jane Baker thanked the team for all the excellent work carried out in picking up this initiative and hoped residents would acknowledge the hard work that has been put in to develop this document. Members commended all those involved in this difficult task.

Cllr Gaudencio welcomed the positive and constructive comments received from MSDC as part of the drafting process. Cllr Weir indicated that discussions had been held with MSDC to ensure that the plan remained compliant with the District Plan which resulted in only a few minor amendments.

MSDC have indicated that they expect to be exceptionally busy in the summer but will do their best to turn the plan around within a reasonable timescale.

After careful consideration subject to the minor typo amendments.

Members **RESOLVED** to (1) approve the Draft Regulation 14 Neighbourhood Plan and its progression to Public Consultation.

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Members **RESOLVED** to (2) authorise the Clerk to formally write to MSDC informing them that Hassocks Parish Council wishes to withdraw its current unmade Regulation 16 Neighbourhood Plan.

## 71.2 **BUDGET PROPOSAL 2019/20**

The Clerk introduced the paper set out in Appendix 3 which detailed the draft budget proposal for 2019/20 and the projected outturn for 2018/19. Members were informed that this paper had originally been considered by Policy Resources & Communications Committee in November and had been updated to reflect their comments.

Contained within the paper is an introduction which sets out some of the considerations taken into account in determining the proposed budget.

Members were requested to refer to pages 4 and 5 of this report which set out a summary of income and expenditure for 2018/19 (projected outturn) and the proposed budget for 2019/20.

This paper also sets out the impact on both revenue expenditure (day to day expenditure) and the Councils reserves which are used to support the Councils priorities.

The Clerk confirmed that based on the current proposal if Members chose not to increase the precept it would return a deficit budget of (£5,536) for 2019/20. If members were minded to deliver a balanced budget and increase Council Tax to cover the projected shortfall this would increase a band D equivalent property charge from £81.73 pa to £82.76 pa which is equivalent to a 1.26% increase in Council tax. (£1.03 pa increase). This calculation was based on the draft property base of 3390 provided by MSDC. It is understood the property base for MSDC will be formally considered and agreed on the 12<sup>th</sup> December 2018.

The Clerk informed Members that due to savings being realised in the 2017/18 budget and 2018/19 budget there will potentially be an opportunity to allocate some funds from General Reserves to the Councils Earmarked Reserves to support the Councils priorities. The Clerk indicated this should be considered once the precept has been finalised in January once the property tax base has been formally agreed by Mid Sussex District Council.

The Clerk went on to inform Members that as part of the budget setting process he had attempted to provide some narrative on some of the key variances in the current budget (18/19) and potential options/initiatives for 2019/20 in section 4 of the report. In addition to assist Members in their deliberations the Clerk had incorporated an illustration (Appendix A) of the impact on the respective Tax bands in the event of delivering an unchanged precept to deliver a deficit budget or the effect on Council Tax bands if Members were minded to increase precept to deliver a balanced budget. If Members were to deliver a balanced budget this would equate to a 1.26% increase in precept.

Members were invited to ask questions.

Cllr Weir thanked the Clerk for the report and indicated that it was pleasing to see as a result of the difficult decisions taken last year we are in a position to propose a very modest increase to deliver a balanced budget.

Cllr Owens asked the Clerk whether further cuts could be made. The Clerk indicated that the budget had been informed by the Business Plan which had identified a number of new expenditure areas in 2018/19 that have not been fully expended but it would be prudent to retain these to continue to support the priorities identified in the business plan. The Clerk felt as only a very modest increase was being considered it would not be necessary to identify further savings unless Members wished.

The consensus amongst Members was that to increase the budget to achieve a balanced budget was modest and equated to a 1.26% increase which members felt comfortable with. Cllr S Hatton indicated that this paper had been considered in detail by Policy Resources and Communications Committee and they were satisfied with the detail budgets proposed.

After careful consideration Members **RESOLVED** to deliver a balanced budget and increase the current precept by £5,536 from £275,009 to £280,545 which will increase a Band D equivalent property from £81.73 per annum to £82.76 per annum an increase of 1.26% Precept by £5,536.

(12 members voted in favour and 1 member abstained).

The Clerk indicated that the Precept will be approved at January's meeting once formal confirmation of the Council Tax base has been received from MSDC.

Members indicated that they wished to place on record their thanks to the Clerk for the work undertaken in preparing the budget.

### 71.3 **ADASTRA HALL (Appendix 3)**

The Clerk informed members that although the Adastra Hall is owned by the Adastra Hall Management Committee it is held on lease to the Parish Council therefore they are required to notify us of their intention to undertake works on the building that require planning consent. Members are requested to note the notification received regarding the replacement of windows and doors. This was duly noted by Members.

**PC18/72 URGENT MATTERS AT THE DISCRETION OF THE CHAIRMAN** for noting and/or inclusion on a future agenda.

There were none.

### **PC18/73 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

To note that the date of the next Council meeting is **Tuesday 8th January 2019 at 7.30pm.**