

## HASSOCKS PARISH COUNCIL

### Minutes of a meeting of the GROUNDS AND ENVIRONMENT Committee held on 27 September 2018 at 7.30pm in the Parish Centre, Adastra Park, Hassocks.

Attendees: Cllrs Jane Baker, Leslie Campbell, Georgia Cheshire, Bill Hatton, Emma Wood and Ian Weir.

In attendance: Tracy Bates – Deputy Clerk.  
Tony Copeland – Chair of Hassocks Allotment Holders Association (HAHA)

**GE18/50 APOLOGIES.** Apologies were received from Cllrs Sue Hatton, Frances Gaudencio and Peter Gibbons, and co-optees Sally Booker and Penny Wadsworth. Absent without apologies, Cllr Kate Bailey.

**GE18/51 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.** There were no declarations of interest.

**GE18/52 MINUTES.**

**RESOLVED** to accept the minutes of the Grounds and Environment Committee meeting held on 25 July 2018.

**GE18/53 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.** There were no members of the public present.

**GE18/54 OFFICER'S REPORT.** Members noted the Officer's Report.

**GE18/55 PARKLANDS ROAD ALLOTMENTS.** Verbal Report – Chair of HAHA  
Tony Copeland reported that the entrance gates to the allotments had dropped in the dry weather and had become increasingly difficult to open. A permanent repair had been carried out repaired by a contractor on behalf of Hassocks Parish Council, TC reported that this was a great improvement and extended his thanks to HPC and the contractor.

**GE 18/56 PARKLANDS ROAD ALLOTMENTS.** Allotment Rent 2018/19  
Members were invited to approve the rent for the Parklands Road Allotments for 2018/19 per half plot using the existing agreed formula based on inflation. Applying inflation to the basic rent of £34.74 per half plot (2017/18) would result in a total increase of 47p (2.4%) bringing the rent to £35.21. Therefore using the previously adopted principle that the rent should be rounded up or down to the nearest pound, it was proposed that the rent should remain at £35.00 pa.

**GE 18/57** It was **RESOLVED** that rent for Parklands Road Allotments would remain at £35.00 per half plot and £17.50 per quarter plot for the year commencing 1 October 2018.

**GE 18/58 HASSOCKS BURIAL GROUND.** Members were informed that the newly designated area for the interment of ashes to the south of the memorial garden was overrun with weeds, and was therefore not an attractive site for a new interment space. It was recommended that the most effective long term solution would be to rotavate the area and then to re-turf. The Deputy Clerk reported that the condition of the grass in this area has resulted in an understandable reluctance to purchase plots.

The Contractor who undertakes the grounds maintenance at the Burial Ground had provided a quote of £600 plus VAT to clear the entire area and to re-turf. It was noted that the Council had ear marked £3000 for improvements to the Burial Ground and it was proposed that these funds should be drawn on to carry the above improvements.

Members were invited to approve the expenditure of £600 plus VAT for the improvement works and to approve the transfer of £600 from the allocated Ear Marked reserves. After a brief discussion, it was:

**GE 18/59** **RESOLVED** to approve the clearance and re-turfing of the area allocated to ashes interments marked with tablets at a cost of £600 plus VAT to be funded from the Burial Ground Earmarked Reserve.

**GE 18/60** **TALBOT FIELD.** Members had previously been provided a report regarding the annual inspection carried out by the Woodland Flora and Fauna Group (Appendix 4 of the Agenda). Cllr Jane Baker informed Members that the inspection had shown the bird boxes at Talbot Field to be the most used of all boxes installed by the Group which was very positive news.

Cllr Baker informed members that she had carried out a site inspection of Talbot Field previously on two separate occasions over the last year, once with Cllr Ian Weir and the Parish Clerk, and once with Cllr Georgia Cheshire. Cllr Baker was encouraged to be able to report that the areas requiring attention which had been noted by the Woodland Group were parallel to those that she had recorded on her inspections. Cllr Baker asked Members to note that following their inspection, the Woodland Flora and Fauna Group had kindly offered to carry out some voluntary maintenance work at Talbot Field to address these areas. The Parish Council was very grateful for this offer from such a knowledgeable and skilled group and the Parish Clerk will be liaising with the group's representative to progress the work.

**GE 18/61** **GARDEN OF REMEMBRANCE.** Cllr Jane Baker informed Members that the volunteer group working on the Garden of Remembrance was now well underway. Two preliminary meetings had been held with the volunteers to discuss the project and to highlight the need for sensitivity within the Garden, due to the various plantings which had been carried out over the years in memory of specific people. Cllr Baker asked the group to note that the volunteers were specifically working on the Garden of Remembrance and were a very keen and positive group of people. The group had met on three afternoons to date, with the next sessions being Friday 28 September, the number of attendees varies from week to week. Each week the group plans the focus for the following session and it is very much a collaborative group lead project with the volunteers all having ownership.

Cllr Baker was pleased to be able to inform the Committee that the local Rotary Club had extended a very kind offer of help with more heavy duty tasks. This offer is much appreciated and it is hoped can be quickly utilised. However Cllr Baker first needs to discuss the most effective use of this additional group with the volunteers and the Parish Clerk.

**GE 18/62** **REMEMBRANCE BEACON EVENT.** Cllr Georgia Cheshire updated the Committee on the developing plans for the forthcoming Remembrance Beacon Event. A provisional timetable has been set out as follows:

5.30pm Guides and Scouts groups to meet in Clayton Car park  
Walk up to Jack and Jill Windmills

6.30pm Other attendees to use Jack and Jill car park  
Guides and Scouts to arrive.  
6.55pm Last Post *It is hoped to find a bugler from Downlands School or the Burgess Hill Marching Band*  
6.59pm One minute silence  
7pm Bonfire to be lit. *The wood from the bonfire has been donated by the National Trust who manage much of the land and members of the group have also very kindly agreed to build the bonfire*  
7.05pm Bell ringing. *Keymer Church bells will be rung and it is also hoped that those in Ditchling and Hurstpierpoint Churches will be rung too.*  
7.10pm Cry for Peace. *Efforts are in place to find a volunteer to read this – it was hoped that an ex-serviceman or woman might be happy to undertake the reading.*  
7.15pm Hot Dogs. These have been kindly donated by Budgens, Hassocks and will be sold to raise funds for retired RAF service men and women.

Members noted the update.

**GE 18/63** **STREET TREES.** Members were invited to note the following report from Steve Richards of the Hassocks Tree Group.

*This year we invited people to get in touch with the Trees Group individually to request a tree, rather than planning to plant one or two specific streets. As a result we identified 18 trees to be planted at 17 addresses across the village, filling gaps and replacing the odd dead tree. The trees will be planted later over the winter as usual. Looking forward to planting for 2019 it will be appropriate to survey the village once more for any remaining unplanted areas and to check especially for the condition of ash trees, as we are told ash dieback is looking more likely and this will impact certain areas (e.g. London Road). If the Committee would like us to look at any specific areas of the village we would of course be pleased to follow up suggestions.*

Members noted the report and discussed possible locations for further planting. It was discussed whether planting could take place in grass verges which were not directly outside houses, but were on corners of roads, for examples. One such location discussed was on the corners of Stonepound Road, Priors Road and Little Copse Road. It was AGREED that Members would let the Deputy Clerk know if any further locations came to mind and these would be passed onto Hassocks Tree Group.

**GE 18/64** **TRAFFIC AND PARKING.** Cllr Ian Weir updated Members on the current situation with Stage 2 of the Traffic and parking proposals. Following the initial consultation held earlier this year by HPC, responses had been analysed by the Parking Working Group and the initial proposals were looked at by West Sussex County Council (WSCC). Following this it was necessary to make some amendments to the proposals for particular roads, and residents in these roads were re-consulted in July. All of the responses received have now been analysed and with a few minor changes the proposals are now finalised. Sally Booker and Cllr Ian Weir have a co-ordination meeting with Richard Speller from WSCC to agree the program of work required to deliver the finalised proposal documents required for WSCC Legal Department.

Cllr Weir reported that, because this is a Parish-led TRO, the detailed proposals normally prepared by WSCC Highways at this stage will need to be done by the Parish - this will take about 4 - 6 weeks. Once the legal work is complete the Stage 2 proposals will then be advertised locally – hopefully in early December and depending

on the number of objections may need to go to the County Local Committee (CLC) in February 2019 for final approval.

Cllr Georgia Cheshire asked when Stage 1 of the project would be commencing. Cllr Weir informed her that these had already been approved by the CLC earlier in the year and would be progressed, although the timing was in the hands of WSCC. He would follow this up with Richard Speller.

**GE 18/65 PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY.**

18/65.1

Proposed improvements to the Cinder Track. Members were invited to consider a report previously circulated regarding proposed improvements to the Cinder Track by Cllr Kirsty Lord (Appendix 1). Cllr Leslie Campbell informed Members that he had met with Cllr Lord and that whilst this is a significant project, it was hoped that there may be opportunities for joint partnership funding with various stakeholders including the Parish Council.

The project is in its early stages so Cllr Campbell asked the Parish Council to indicate its support for the project in principle at this stage. Cllr Emma Wood questioned the reasoning for the choice of the Cinder Track as a focus for such a significant project. It was noted that The Cinder Track had been donated to the village of Clayton by the Campion family and is the primary link from Hassocks Station to the South Downs. It was also believed that WSCC and the South Downs National Park had previously drawn up a list of areas to be targeted in improving the links to the National Park which included the Cinder Track.

Cllr Bill Hatton informed the Committee that he fully supported the concept, but was unclear as to the status of the proposal. He questioned whether this would be a WSCC lead project. It was agreed that some clarity as to how it is hoped the project will progress would be helpful. After further discussion Members were very much in favour of the proposed improvements to the Cinder Track and expressed their full support for the project in principle.

18/65.2

PROW Verbal Update. Cllr Leslie Campbell informed members that Footpath 10C on the land west of London Road, had been diverted but it was still possible to walk the route which was a positive. He also reported that Footpath 5K had been temporarily closed due to a collapsed staircase leading up to the railway line, and Footpath 19K had been temporarily closed due to a fallen tree. It is believed that both paths have now been re-opened.

**GE18/66**

**URGENT MATTERS** at the discretion of the Chairman for noting and/or inclusion on a future agenda. Cllr Jane Baker asked Members to note that whilst the Park Masterplan had not been incorporated on the agenda, this is still very much progressing behind the scenes and would be reported on at the next meeting.

**GE18/67**

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING.** The date of the next meeting is Thursday 25 October 2018.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 8.10pm

Signed .....Chairman Date.....