

HASSOCKS PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the **Parish Council** held on 9th October 2018
at 7.30pm in the Parish Centre, Adastra Park, Hassocks.

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

Parish Clerk: Ian Cumberworth

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

MINUTES

PC18/41 APOLOGIES

Cllrs Jane Baker, Victoria Standfast

Michelle Binks (District Councillor)

Absent without apologies: Kate Bailey

PC18/42 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

PC18/43 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on the 11th September 2018 were accepted as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

PC18/44 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were 2 Members of the public present none of whom wished to speak but observed proceedings.

PC18/45 MINUTES

To accept the following Minutes.

To agree that the minutes of the Planning Committee 10th September 2018 were accepted and the Planning Committee minutes 1st October and 30th were noted.

To note the minutes of Grounds and Environment Committee 27th September 2018.

To agree the minutes of the Neighbourhood Plan Working Group for 6th September 2018 and to note the minutes for 20th September 2018

PC18/46 FINANCE

The Finance report and payments totalling £24,049.93 for the period ending 31st August were approved.

PC18/47 Reports

47.1 District Councillors reports: - Cllr Gordon Marples (GM) indicated he recently attended the Community Awards Ceremony where local residents were rightly recognised for their excellent work in the Community. One concern going forward however is that with 3 District Councillors and the Parish Council nominating residents it may become more difficult in future to identify new nominations.

The Burgess Hill plans for the A230 works are commencing.

MSDC are about to commence the Council Tax setting process which will continue to become challenging in light of the financial challenges facing Local Government.

District Cllrs have now had site of the Construction Plan for the Barratts site on London Road (Ham Fields) this should have been in place prior to commencement of works. MSDC have been active in following up reports where Barratts have failed to follow agreed arrangements. It is understood these issues have now been resolved

With the adoption of the District Plan earlier this year MSDC performance indicators support the fact that there now appears to have been a reduction in planning appeals.

One positive development is that there is considerable hope of the sixth form college re-opening. (GM) indicated however that there was still a lot of work to do. The Parish members welcomed and supported this initiative

Cllr Sue Hatton (SH) informed Members that Barratts (London Road site) have agreed to set up a neighbour/residents liaison group to enable any issues/concerns to be raised.

(SH) informed Members that Parish Councils have recently been advised on the Site selection process MSDC are currently working through as part of the (SHELAA) review. In addition, a number of briefing sessions have been held regarding the Northern Arc (Homes England initiative)

Members were also advised that new legislation has come in which places a duty to refer people to be made homeless at an earlier stage (56 days

in advance) In addition in 2020 new Sewage legislation will be introduced which will impact on households that currently discharge into streams and ditches. It is anticipated this will impact on some households in the Parish.

- 47.2 County Councillor – Kirsty Lord (KL) indicated that County had been relatively quiet. County are due to consider a paper on Cycling across Sussex with a view to taking a more joined up/holistic approach to future initiatives.

CLC is to meet on 30th October where they will consider items including an update on the sixth form and Woodland Mead.

Hassocks Guide group is one of the first applications to be considered under the new county grant 'crowd funding' initiative for a heating system for the Guide hut. (KL) confirmed that county had a reasonable funding pot to be utilised for community grants and encouraged any members to refer community groups to her if they have projects they would like to progress.

KL met with the WSCC Rights of way officer and Parish Cllr Campbell to progress an initiative on improving the cinder path. Although this could be a complex project to achieve, further work is being undertaken on costing and financing the scheme. It is anticipated that different parties will be invited to co fund this scheme at a future point.

- 47.3 Rail matters – LC reminded members that during October no trains will be running at weekends due to engineering works on various tunnels on the Brighton line, and in February there will be one whole week of closure. PG added that the late night trains are also being cancelled at present and replaced by a bus service and that in November no trains will operate on Saturdays to enable engineering works to be undertaken.

PG informed Members that in September there were 625 cancellations compared to 782 in August. Thameslink are yet to re-instate any of the trains previously cancelled by the revised timetable despite their assurance that they would. In addition, Southern have cancelled a further 3 trains this week from their timetable.

PG informed members that he is continuing to compile detailed data on the train service and is providing this data to Nick Herbert (MP) to raise with the appropriate departments.

- 47.4 Youth Initiatives- nothing to report.

- 47.5 Police matters – nothing to report.

- 47.6 Report from Councillors on meetings of outside bodies where the Council is represented - Cllr Bill Hatton (BH) attended a meeting on the Burgess Hill Strategic Partnership regarding the Masterplan for the Northern Arc (Homes England Initiative) which was very positive. A number of exhibitions have been organised to enable members of the public to view

the plans. MSDC anticipate the first planning applications will come forward in January 2020.

Cllr Ian Weir (IW) recently attended the West Sussex Association Local Council conference. 1 key item that came out of the meeting was the Armed Service Covenant which seeks to engage front line staff in referring any persons who have served in the forces or relatives to specific designated organisations that could provide support for ex-service individuals.

PC18/48 CHAIRMANS REPORT – none

PC18/49 CLERK'S REPORT

49.1 GRANTS AWARDED BY HASSOCKS PARISH COUNCIL

Members were informed that the Council had received letters of thanks from Victim Support, West Sussex Mediation, St Peter & St James Hospice, 4 Sight Vision Support and St Catherine's Hospice.

49.2 ANNUAL RETURN 2017/18

The Clerk informed Members that the Council had just received the External Auditor Report and Certificate for 2017/18. The pleasing news is that the accounts have been signed off with no issues raised. The Council has therefore published its Notice of Conclusion of Annual Audit notifying residents that the Annual Return is available for inspection.

Cllr Weir wished to put on record his thanks for all the work undertaken by the staff over the last 2 years to improve the financial processes of the Council.

PC18/50 URGENT MATTERS AT THE DISCRETION OF THE CHAIRMAN for noting and/or inclusion on a future agenda.

There were none.

PC18/51 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

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