

## HASSOCKS PARISH COUNCIL

### Minutes of a meeting of the **GROUND AND ENVIRONMENT** Committee held on 25 July 2018 at 7.30pm in the Parish Centre, Adastra Park, Hassocks.

Attendees: Cllrs Jane Baker, Georgia Cheshire, Frances Gaudencio, Peter Gibbons, Bill Hatton and Sue Hatton.

In attendance: Ian Cumberworth - Parish Clerk.  
Tracy Bates – Deputy Clerk.

**GE18/36 APOLOGIES.** Apologies were received from Cllrs Leslie Campbell and Ian Weir, and co-optees Sally Booker and Penny Wadsworth. Absent without apology Cllrs Emma Wood and Kate Bailey, and co-optee Tony Copeland.

**GE18/37 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.** Cllr Sue Hatton declared a personal interest in Item 7.2, Correspondence from Downlands School.

**GE18/38 MINUTES.**

RESOLVED to accept the minutes of the Grounds and Environment Committee meeting held on 28 June 2018.

**GE18/39 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.** There were no members of the public present.

**GE18/40 OFFICER'S REPORT.** Members noted the Officer's Report. The Deputy Clerk informed Members that the new Memorial Bench would be installed by a contractor instead of The Monday Group. This is because the bench is now being sited on an existing concrete base rather than into the ground.

**GE 18/41 PARKLANDS ROAD ALLOTMENTS.** In the absence of Tony Copeland there was nothing to report.

**GE 18/42 ADASTRA PARK LITTER**

18/42.1 NEW LITTER BIN. Following concerns discussed at the previous G&E meeting over an increase in litter at the northern end of the North Field. Members were invited to agree the purchase of a fence mounted litter bin at a cost of £90.54 (excl. Vat) to be sited at the bottom of the North Field. It was noted that due to the Park Masterplan, it was not prudent to spend a significant amount of money on a new bin until a decision has been made a) about whether to standardise the bins in the park and b) whether any changes are to be made to this particular site in the North Field. However, it was agreed that as there is no bin in this location at all, it is important to rectify this. Some concern was expressed that the bin maybe used for dog waste, however as there are already three other dog bins in the North Park, Members hoped that these would continue to be used for dog waste. The colour of bin was discussed, and it was agreed that a black bin would be in keeping with most of the other bins in the park, and also differentiate the litter bin from the dog bins which are coloured.

18/42.2 It was RESOLVED to agree the purchase of a Glasdon Hooded Triline 25L fence mounted litter bin in black at a cost of £90.54 (excl. Vat) to be sited at the northern end of the North Field in Adastra Park. This would be funded from the Litter Bin budget.

CORRESPONDENCE FROM DOWNLANDS SCHOOL. Members were invited to note correspondence received from Downlands School regarding a joint approach to addressing the litter in Adastra Park.

The Co-ordinator of the Downlands Eco Group expressed his concerns over the increase in litter and reported that at the school they have had two litter campaigns this year to increase awareness and confront poor behaviour, to which the majority of students have responded positively. He noted however there are still some pupils who do not take responsibility for their waste.

The group will raise the issue in its next forum meeting and the daily bulletin and assemblies next term.

He also wondered whether it might be an issue that the local press would be interested in to raise public awareness of the level of litter being left. The school are also intending to organise a litter pick of the area in the autumn and will provide more details in due course.

The Deputy Clerk suggested that a further approach could be to work together to prepare a higher profile anti-litter campaign in the Spring of next year, ready for promoting at the beginning of the Summer Term 2019.

Members noted the report.

**ADASTRA PARK MASTERPLAN.** The Clerk gave a verbal update on the current position of the Park Masterplan.

He reported that the public consultation yielded in excess of 380 responses from a range of age groups and genders. The majority of respondees were supportive and positive towards the Council's vision for the park, and that a number of volunteers have signed up to support the improvement programme in the garden of remembrance.

Since the conclusion of the consultation a number of work streams have been put in place:

i. The Council has been successful in securing £75,000 external funding from developer contributions via a bidding process through Mid Sussex District Council which will now allow progression of the skatepark/wheelpark project. Together with the Council's own funds this will provide a budget circa £100,000 for the scheme. Preliminary discussions have been held with a number of installers to gauge interest in the project & assess logistics associated with the site & the options available. Any final selection process will be subject to a competitive tender process.

ii. Earlier in the year, external funding was awarded for two further initiatives:

a) The installation of a rain garden (approx. £5,000) in the South Field. A recent meeting has been held between Hassocks, Hurst, Keymer and Ditchling Transition (HKD), the Ouse and Adur River Trust (OART), Cllr Baker and Cllr Cheshire to discuss progression and the final designs and timeline.

b) A meeting was held last week with OART re the initiative planned in the North Field with Peter King and Cllr Gaudencio. Clarification was provided and Peter has agreed to draw up some detail plans for the proposed project & timeline. Just under £15,500 has been secured from Operation Watershed for this project.

**GE18/44 REMEMBRANCE BEACONS.** Members were invited to note an update on the Remembrance Beacons event to be held on 11 November 2018 and to agree how Hassocks Parish Council wishes to proceed. Cllr Binks has offered to organise the event and has proposed that a large hand-built bonfire could be lit at the top of the hill next to Jack and Jill Windmills. Cllr Binks to contact the landowner to request permission to hold the event and light the fire in this field. The proposed event will involve local Scouting and Guiding groups, the Royal British Legion and other Community groups. It is anticipated that representatives from the Parish Council would attend the beacon lighting event and would be very welcome to participate in the ceremony itself.

It is suggested that those who are able will meet in the Clayton Recreation ground car park and walk up to the beacon carrying small lanterns or lights and a short ceremony will take place prior to the beacon being lit. It is hoped that a bugler or trumpeter could be hired to play The Last Post. If possible, refreshments would be provided for those that take part.

Therefore, an application has been submitted to Mid Sussex District Council for a grant to assist with the purchase of small lanterns, the cost of a trumpeter or bugler if necessary and towards the provision of refreshments.

The outcome of the grant application is still awaited.

Members were in support of the above proposals and were in full agreement that Hassocks Parish Council would wish to be involved in the event.

Cllr Cheshire offered to act as a liaison between the Parish Council and Cllr Binks for the event.

It was AGREED that an update and further details could be provided by Cllr Binks and Cllr Cheshire at the Full Council meeting in September where a decision could be made on how the Parish Council would participate in this event.

**GE18/45 TEMPORARY ROAD CLOSURE APPLICATION.** Members were invited to consider whether the Parish Council wishes to make any comments on the draft road closure application for the Remembrance Day Parade to be held on Sunday 11 November 2018.

Members noted the road closure application and expressed full support for the closure.

**GE18/46 TRAFFIC AND PARKING.** In the absence of Cllr Ian Weir, the Deputy Clerk reported that the Parking Group are currently in discussions with WSCC regarding amendments to Stage 2 of the Traffic and Parking Project and it is intended the Stage will be finalised ready to present to the October County Local Committee.

Cllr Sue Hatton reported that some residents of North Court had contacted her due to some confusion over the two stages and were unsure about what had been agreed and what was in process. Cllr Hatton also raised a question about the funding of the Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) for Stage 2. There had previously been some discussion about HPC joint funding the TRO with WSCC, and Cllr Hatton asked what the current situation was. The Parish Clerk recalled that the joint funding was due to certain requirements and to date no further information had been forthcoming. This would be followed up by the Clerk/Deputy Clerk.

**GE 18/47 PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY (PROW).** The Deputy Clerk informed members that the WSCC local Access Ranger will be organising Public Rights of Way Inspections to be carried out in Hassocks next month. Following the inspection, routine maintenance work will be prioritised for delivery by the WSCC contractor. Members were invited to let the Deputy Clerk know if there were any Rights of Way concerns that they would like reported to the Access Ranger prior to her inspection. Members noted this request.

Cllr Sue Hatton reported that Barratt Homes, the developers working on Ham Fields, have closed the PROW on Footpath 10C without permission. A planning application has been submitted for this closure, however this is pending and therefore the path should still be open to the Public. The closure has caused considerable anger and upset in the village and Cllr Hatton noted that the developers have shown very little regard for any public relations in the village. This is not a good start, and Cllr Hatton has written to MSDC asking that this is addressed.

**GE18/48 URGENT MATTERS** at the discretion of the Chairman for noting and/or inclusion on a future agenda.

Cllr Hatton reported that Hassocks, Hurst, Keymer & Ditchling Transition (HKD) recently held a public meeting for the residents in Adastra Avenue regarding the proposed Flood Management projects to be implemented on MSDC land north of Adastra Park and adjacent to Adastra Avenue. Cllr Hatton attended this meeting, however there appeared to be some misunderstanding of the projects, unfortunately this was exacerbated due to key members of the Flood Group not being able to attend the meeting due to various unforeseen matters. Cllr Hatton had suggested that the residents might contact the Parish Clerk to express their concerns and ask for clarification. It was noted by the Parish Clerk that whilst questions and concerns could be addressed regarding Flood Management projects on Hassocks Parish Council Land, it is not the case for those to be undertaken on MSDC land and therefore was not within the jurisdiction of the Parish Council. It is understood that the aim of the project is to try to resolve a wider problem of flooding throughout the village,

It was recognised that HKD, OART and the Hassocks Community Organisations (Previously Hassocks Amenity Association) had worked hard to promote and inform on the Flood Management Projects. However further information may be required by the residents of Adastra Avenue from HKD to clarify any concerns they have.

The Parish Clerk informed Members that the proposed Flood Management projects in the Adastra Park Masterplan had been very well supported in the recent Public Consultation.

**GE18/49 DATE OF NEXT MEETING.** The date of the next meeting is Thursday 27 September 2018.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 8.10pm.

Signed .....Chairman

Date.....