

HASSOCKS PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the **Annual Statutory Meeting** of the **Parish Council** held on 14th May 2019 and followed on from the Annual Parish meeting which commenced at 7.30pm in the Parish Centre, Adastra Park, Hassocks. Meeting commenced at 8 pm

Attendees: Parish Councillors Ian Weir, Peter Gibbons, Leslie Campbell, Jane Baker, Bill Hatton, Sue Hatton, Frances Gaudencio, Georgia Cheshire, Nick Owens, David Hammond and Frank Rylance.

Parish Clerk: Ian Cumberworth
Deputy Clerk: Tracy Forte

MINUTES

PC19/1 Apologies

Visiting member Cllr Kirsty Lord (WSCC)

Absent without apologies: Kate Bailey

PC19/2 ELECTION OF CHAIR

The Clerk advised Members that he had received one expression of interest from Cllr Ian Weir to be considered as Chair for a further year and invited other members who wished to be considered. No other members indicated a wish to fulfil the role. It was therefore proposed that Cllr Weir continue in the role for the forthcoming years. Members voted in favour of Cllr Weir to continue as Chair

RESOLVED that Ian Weir was elected as Chair for 2019/20

PC19/3 DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE

The declaration was duly signed by the Chair and the proper officer of the Council.

PC19/4 TO ACCEPT COUNCILLORS DECLARATIONS OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE

The declarations of acceptance were signed by all nominated members present. Ian Weir, Frances Gaudencio, Leslie Campbell, Sue Hatton, Jane Baker, Frank Rylance, David Hammond, Bill Hatton, Georgia Cheshire and the proper officer of the Council

PC19/5 ELECTION OF VICE CHAIR

The Clerk advised Members that he had received one expression of interest from Cllr Jane Baker to be considered as Vice Chair for a further year and invited other members who wished to be considered. No other members indicated a wish to fulfil the role. It was therefore proposed that

Cllr Baker continue in the role of Vice Chair for the forthcoming year. Members voted in favour of Cllr Baker to continue as Vice Chair.

RESOLVED that Jane Baker was elected as Vice Chair for 2019/20 and the declaration of acceptance of office was duly signed.

PC19/6 CO-OPTION OF MEMBERS.

Members were advised that the Council currently has five vacancies which it is able to consider co-opting members too without the need to go out to advertisement.

The council had received three expressions of interest two of whom were present today Nick Owens & Peter Gibbons together with Bob Brewer who unfortunately was not able to be present this evening.

Members were invited to consider the candidates for co-option. .

The Chair firstly sought agreement from members as to whether they wished to consider the position via a show of hands or a ballot. Members agreed they were happy for the decision to be taken by a show of hands.

The Chair proposed that initially members should consider those individuals present at the meeting for co-option.

Nick Owens : - Members **RESOLVED** to co-opt onto the Council

Peter Gibbons: - Members **RESOLVED** to co-opt onto the Council

The two co-opted members were then invited to complete the declaration of acceptance and which were duly completed and signed in the presence of the proper officer.

The Chair then sought member's views on the Co-option of Mr Bob Brewer onto the Council subject to further due diligence checks to be undertaken by the Clerk.

A number of members indicated that they knew Mr Brewer and that he would be a valued representative to have on the Council. Members were therefore requested to vote by a show of hands whether to approve the co-option of Bob Brewer onto the Council. Members **RESOLVED** that subject to the appropriate due diligence checks being completed by the Clerk and the standards being met that Bob Brewer be co-opted onto the Council.

At the conclusion of the Co-option process the Deputy Clerk left the meeting.

PC19/7 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.

PC19/8 APPOINTMENT OF STANDING COMMITTEES AND WORKING GROUPS

The Clerk introduced Appendix 1 setting out the expressions of interest received to date for consideration on the respective standing committees and working groups.

It was noted that some members have not finalised their preferences at this time therefore further consideration will be required to determine the final representation.

The Clerk indicated that new members may wish to attend the respective committees as observer(s) in the first instance prior to finalising their preferences.

Each Committees representation was considered in turn

PC19/9 POLICY, RESOURCES AND COMMUNICATIONS

RESOLVED Cllrs (Frances Gaudencio, Peter Gibbons, Georgia Cheshire, David Hammond, Sue Hatton, Ian Weir and Kate Bailey) be appointed to the Policy Resources and Communications Committee. (a)

PC19/10 GROUNDS & ENVIRONMENT

RESOLVED Cllrs (David Hammond, Kate Bailey, Jane Baker, Frances Gaudencio, Leslie Campbell, Georgia Cheshire, Bill Hatton and Peter Gibbons) be appointed to Grounds & Environment Committee. (b)

PC19/11 PLANNING

RESOLVED Cllrs (Leslie Campbell, Nick Owens, Bill Hatton and Jane Baker) be appointed to Planning Committee. (c)

PC19/12 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN WORKING GROUP

RESOLVED Cllrs (Ian Weir, Bill Hatton, Frances Gaudencio, Nick Owens and David Hammond) be appointed to the Neighbourhood Plan Working Group. (d)

PC19/13 PARKING WORKING GROUP

RESOLVED Cllrs (Ian Weir, Sue Hatton and David Hammond) be appointed to the Parking Working Group. (e)

PC19/14 ADASTRA PARK WORKING GROUP

RESOLVED Cllrs (Frances Gaudencio, Georgia Cheshire, Bill Hatton, Jane Baker, Kate Bailey and David Hammond) be appointed to the Adastra Park Working Group. (f)

PC19/15 BUSINESS PLAN WORKING GROUP

RESOLVED, that this group in its current form be disbanded and the delivery of the plan be overseen by the Policy Resources and Communications Committee.

PC19/16 To confirm that the Chairman of the Council is ex-officio Member of each Standing Committee

RESOLVED The Chairman of the Council to act as ex-officio Member of each Standing Committee

PC19/17 To confirm that the Vice Chair of the Council is ex-officio Member of each Standing Committee

RESOLVED The Vice Chair of the Council is ex-officio Member of each Standing Committee.

PC19/18 APPOINTMENT OF TREE WARDEN

RESOLVED that David Brown be appointed Tree Warden for 2019/20

PC19/19 APPOINTMENT OF REPRESENTATIVES TO OUTSIDE BODIES

PC19/20 ADASTRA HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

RESOLVED that Cllr Sue Hatton be appointed as representatives on the Adastra Hall Management Committee.

PC19/21 DITCHLING LOCAL TRANSPORT

RESOLVED to delete representation as the group has remained dormant for approximately 4 years.

PC19/22 HASSOCKS COMMUNITY RAIL GROUP

RESOLVED that Cllrs Leslie Campbell and Peter Gibbons be appointed as representatives to this group.

PC19/23 HASSOCKS COMMUNITY ORGANISATION

RESOLVED that Cllrs Georgia Cheshire and Frances Gaudencio (substitute) be appointed as representatives to this group.

PC19/24 HASSOCKS TWINNING ASSOCIATION

RESOLVED that Cllr Kate Bailey be appointed as a representative to this group.

PC19/25 MID SUSSEX VOLUNTARY ACTION SERVICE

RESOLVED No formal representative to be appointed

- PC19/26 MID SUSSEX ASSOCIATION OF PARISH COUNCILS**
- RESOLVED** that Cllr Francis Gaudencio be appointed as the representative to this group
- PC19/27 MSDC GREEN CIRCLE STEERING GROUP**
- RESOLVED** that Cllrs Georgia Cheshire and Nick Owens be appointed as representatives to this group
- PC19/28 OLDLAND MILL TRUST**
- RESOLVED** that Cllr Bill Hatton be appointed as the representative to this group
- PC19/29 WSCC SOUTH MID SUSSEX COUNTY LOCAL COMMITTEE**
- RESOLVED** that Cllr Ian Weir and Frances Gaudencio (substitute) attend the Committee meetings if Ian Weir is unable to attend.
- PC19/30 MSDC PARISH LIAISON MEETINGS**
- RESOLVED** that Cllrs Bill Hatton and Ian Weir be appointed as representatives to attend these meetings.
- PC19/31 DOWNLANDS SCHOOLS SPORTS HALL COMMITTEE**
- RESOLVED** that Cllr Bill Hatton be appointed as representative onto this Committee.
- PC19/32 AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT AREA (AQMA)**
- RESOLVED** that Cllrs Sue Hatton and Nick Owens be appointed as representatives to this group
- Cllr Nick Owens (NO) requested that the Council should consider representation on the HK Energy group which had been established for the benefit of the Community and made a donation to the school. Members indicated that for the Council to seek representation on this group they would need to receive an invitation from HK Energy. NO indicated that the group had previously expressed the view they would welcome parish representation he therefore sought to obtain this in writing. Subject to this it was agreed that Cllr Owens would represent the Council on this group.
- PC19/33 MINUTES**
- The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on the 9 April 2019 were accepted as a true and accurate record of the meeting.
- PC19/34 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION** There were two Members of the public present who observed proceedings but did not wish to speak

PC19/35 FINANCE

The Finance report and payments totalling £25,054.12 for the period 1st March to 31st March 2019 were approved.

PC19/36 PRECEPT

Members noted that the first precept instalment had been received in the sum of £140,275 for 2019/20.

PC19/37 TO ACCEPT THE FOLLOWING MINUTES

To accept the Planning Committee minutes for the 8th April 2019 and to note the minutes for 29th April 2019.

To note the minutes of the Policy Resources & Communications Committee for the 16th April 2019.

To note the minutes of the Grounds & Environment Committee for the 23rd April 2019.

To accept the minutes of the Neighbourhood Plan Working Group for the 14th March 2019.

PC19/38 REPORTS

38.1 WSCC representative report. – Cllr Lord had sent her apologies however had submitted a written report that was read out by the Clerk.

Stonepound - There is an application for a temporary Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) that would close Hurst Road between Stonepound Crossroads to a point 150m west for three months starting on 1st July. No further details have been provided at present. I suspect it is related to the Ham Fields development. Cllr Lord indicated that she was trying to establish further details particularly around diversions and the impact on bus routes.

Agreement has been gained from WSCC that we should look at Stonepound Crossroads holistically: pedestrian and cycle access, bus stops, air quality, speed and volume of traffic etc. and will be pursuing this over the coming months.

Parking - Currently working with County Local Committee and WSCC officers to finalise report on the parking scheme and bring it forward to CLC for decision

Cycling -Following a feasibility study, WSCC are proposing to initially take three parts of the cycle route from Sayers Common to Downlands forward to the design stage as the first part of connecting the villages to our school. These include a Hurst high street bypass (cycle route from Western Rd, Manor Rd, Trinity Rd, and St Georges Lane) and then a link from Stonepound to Dale

Avenue and along Dale Avenue including pedestrian improvements at Windmill Avenue. These now proceed to the design stage. If successful and funded, the improvements are likely to be implemented in 2020/21

38.2 Mid Sussex District Councillors Report – Cllr Sue Hatton informed members that she had been re-elected together with two new members who had joined the meeting (Ben Dempsey and Alex Sparasci) who will represent Hassocks. SH informed members no meetings have been held by MSDC recently and the Council will determine members Committee responsibilities later this month on the 22nd May 2019.

38.3 Rail Matters – oral Report (Leslie Campbell) LC informed members that the new rail timetable was due to be introduced on the 19th May 2019. Cllr Peter Gibbons (PG) informed members that in the month of April there had been 145 Cancellations of which 109 were cancelled outright and 39 ran but failed to stop.

PG went on to say that he had concerns with the way GTR are choosing to report performance data in that they do not seem to have adopted the new revised framework where trains are measured against performance at each station (recently introduced performance measurement) but continue to report performance against final destination only. It appears other operators including South Eastern and Southern are complying with the new standards.

(PG) requested that the Council write to Nick Herbert (MP) setting out our concerns that GTR have failed to report performance in line with the new standards.

Members agreed with this suggested approach and **RESOLVED** that the Clerk write to Nick Herbert (MP) setting out the Council's concerns with GTR's apparent non-compliance with the new performance standards

38.4 Youth Initiatives – Cllr Frances Gaudencio (FG) informed members that a meeting was scheduled to be held in Adastra Hall on the 22nd May at 7pm with interested parties to look at the viability of establishing/developing youth provision within the village. All members were invited to attend, (FG) undertook to send details to all members after the Council meeting.

38.5 Police matters - none

38.6 Reports from Councillors on meetings outside bodies where the Council is represented. – None

PC19/39 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Cllr Weir (IW) welcomed the new District Councillors present, he reiterated that the Parish Councillors were non-political and championed the local community and would be keen to have the opportunity to work with the District Councillors to represent the parish of Hassocks. (IW)

confirmed to the District Councillors that the Clerks door was always open.

(IW) confirmed that he had been having on-going discussion with County Councillor Kirsty Lord regarding the long term plan for schools as the village continues to grow and the need for County to take a long term view on the villages need. It is proposed further discussions will be held by County in the near future to establish what their plan might be.

Clearly the Neighbourhood Plan was a key issue in the recent district council elections which generated a very high turnout in Hassocks (52%) when compared to the rest of the district. Efforts are continuing to be made by the Parish Council to protect Gaps and Greenspaces as part of our plan and received support from the community through the recent consultation process.

PC19/40 CLERK'S REPORT

40.1 **Insurance** - Members were requested to note that the council insurance policy has been renewed automatically as part of a 3 year term contract which is entering its second year in the sum of £3107.32. Members were advised that the insurers have been informed of the skate park development which may result in an adjustment to the premium.

40.2 **Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)** - Members were advised that the council had recently received a CIL payment of £2,954.33 in respect of development undertaken in the national park within the parish. The council has 5 years to expend this money. It is proposed to allocate this fund to earmarked reserves to facilitate providing a clear audit trail of where the funds are expended. There is also an obligation on the council to provide details of how these funds are expended.

Members requested clarification from the clerk as to whether the funds could be expended anywhere in the Parish or only in those areas within the South Downs National Park. The Clerk informed members that from the information received to date there does not appear to be any restriction. Members expressed the view that if possible it would be good to utilise within areas of the SDNP if feasible.

Members raised concerns that SDNP had successfully introduced CIL arrangements, however for whatever reason MSDC have still not done so and continue to rely on s106 arrangements for developer contributions.

Members discussed that one of the main benefits of having a Neighbourhood Plan was the increased level of infrastructure contributions payable to the parish where the development occurred. In addition, those Parishes without an adopted plan also receive contributions but at a lower rate. Members felt that due to the delay in MSDC making a decision on introducing CIL Parish Councils are losing out on infrastructure contributions that could have been utilised for infrastructure improvements within the Parishes across the district (Mid Sussex) with the level of development that has taken/proposed to be undertaken.

The Clerk indicated that one of the reasons previously put forward for the delay by MSDC that was the government were likely to consider reviewing the CIL arrangements however this legislation has been delayed. Members were keen for the issue to be raised formally with Mid Sussex District Council to ascertain their position on CIL and when the Parishes can expect the scheme to be formally introduced. The Clerk also suggested that at the same time this should be raised collectively by Mid Sussex Association of Local Councils (MSALC) that is the representative body of all Parish Councils within Mid Sussex.

Members discussed and agreed this approach and **RESOLVED** that the Clerk write to MSDC setting out the Councils concerns over the continued delay in adopting the CIL regime and seek confirmation of when MSDC propose to implement this regime.

The Clerk also undertook to carry out further research into neighbouring district councils and their position regarding the CIL regime.

- 40.3 **Burial Ground Maintenance** - The Clerk introduced a report set out in Appendix 4 that had previously been considered by Grounds and Environment committee members who recommended increasing the maintenance budget for the burial ground by an additional £1,000.

Members were requested to consider this recommendation and determine whether they approved the proposal for the additional funds to be met from General Reserves.

Members **RESOLVED** to approve the recommendation to increase the Burial Ground Maintenance budget by £1,000 to be funded from General Reserves

- 40.4 **Parish Member – Appointments to the National Park Authority.**
The Clerk introduced a letter recently received from SSALC requesting that Parishes nominate representatives for consideration for the forthcoming appointments – 2 Parish representatives for both West and East Sussex. After careful consideration members agreed that it would be more appropriate for representatives to come from parishes wholly within the National Park as opposed to one which only part of the parish falls within the park boundary.

PC19/41 URGENT MATTERS AT THE DISCRETION OF THE CHAIRMAN for noting and/or inclusion on a future agenda. - None

PC19/42 DATE OF NEXT MEETING
To note that the date of the next Council meeting is Tuesday 11th June 2019 at 7.30pm.