

## HASSOCKS PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the **Parish Council** held on 8<sup>th</sup> October 2019  
at 7.30pm in the Parish Centre, Adastra Park, Hassocks.

Attendees: Parish Councillors Ian Weir (Chair), Peter Gibbons, Bill Hatton, Leslie Campbell, Alex Simmonds, Sue Hatton, Frank Rylance, Bob Brewer and Nick Owens.

Parish Clerk: Ian Cumberworth

Visiting Member(s): Kirsty Lord

### MINUTES

#### **PC19/86 APOLOGIES**

Cllrs Jane Baker, Kate Bailey, Georgia Cheshire, David Hammond, Frances Gaudencio.

Visiting Members: District Cllrs Ben Dempsey & Alex Sparasci

#### **PC19/87 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

#### **PC19/88 MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on the 10<sup>th</sup> September 2019 were accepted as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

#### **PC19/89 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

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

#### **PC19/90 MINUTES**

To accept the following Minutes.

To note the minutes of the Planning Committee 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2019.

To note the minutes of Policy Resources & Communications Committee 17<sup>th</sup> September 2019 and the Grounds and Environment Committee 26<sup>th</sup> September 2019.

#### **PC19/91 FINANCE**

The Finance report and payments totalling £29,542.46 for the period ending 30<sup>th</sup> September 2019 were approved.

## PC19/92 Reports

92.1 **District Councillors reports:** - Cllr Sue Hatton (SH) informed members that the Site Selection public consultation was due to commence on the 9<sup>th</sup> October 2019 and responses can be submitted via the District Councils consultation portal. There are 2 sites that could impact directly on Hassocks one being Friars Oak the other relates to a potential site south of Folders Lane. Although falling outside the boundary of the parish it's proposed exit joins onto Keymer Road / Ockley Lane.

The Northern Arc site is progressing and will eventually deliver circa 3,500 homes, as part of this development the intention is that the proposed Science Park will be located to the north of the A2300.

MSSDC anticipate that the planning application for the Hassocks 500 Strategic Site regarding access matters will be submitted and considered by MSSDC planning on either 24<sup>th</sup> October or 31<sup>st</sup> October 2019.

It is also anticipated that the Hassocks Stage 2 Traffic Flow & Parking Plan will come forward in the near future.

92.2 **County Councillor** – Cllr Kirsty Lord advised members that at present a number of changes are afoot at County with the suspension of the Chief Executive and other Senior Managers leaving together with the Leader of the Council stepping down which will create a level of uncertainty. The changes are in part due to a recent critical Ofsted inspection report.

County propose to elect a new leader on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> October 2019.

Public Rights of Way – 11c footway has partially been resurfaced.

Notice has also been received to close 9c across the Golf course for up to 6 months. At present there is no proposal to provide a diversion. It is understood that the developer has suggested that due to impending ground conditions and the need to provide tree root protection a viable alternative route would not be available.

A number of Parish members expressed their disappointment that County have appeared to accept this proposal and observed that ground conditions at Ham Field (also off London Road) were no worse than the golf course yet the developer (Barretts) were required to provide an alternative diversion. (KL) indicated that she is taking the matter up further. In addition concern was expressed over the potential duration of the closure however County have indicated there is no alternative appropriate route. The Clerk confirmed that the office had also been in contact with County seeking further information and the matter is to be considered at Planning Committee on the 14<sup>th</sup> October 2019.

KL advised members that the option of closing some of the smaller Libraries which potentially could have affected Hassocks and Hurstpierpoint appears to have been pushed back and other alternatives

are being explored. There is no certainty that closure options may not be revisited at a later date.

KL informed members that she had recently attended the MSDC Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) regarding Stonepound crossroads with Parish Cllr Owens. The readings still remain above the target thresholds however Cllr Owens also indicated that 2 of the air quality detection devices are missing. At the meeting various initiatives were discussed including signage and an improved cycle route from Hurst to Keymer.

Stonepound crossroads works are on schedule and are likely to progress soon onto the installation of the new crossing. Currently the contractors are considering closing the bus stop near the crossroads and it is unclear whether they propose to re-site it during these works. KL is to have further discussions regarding this at the forthcoming meeting with the contractor and representatives.

Parish members raised concerns with this proposal as this is the main interchange bus stop for people wishing to connect to other transport links including those into the village. KL agreed to take this matter up.

Agreement has now been reached between WSCC and MSDC regarding the Hassocks Stage 2 Traffic Flow & Parking scheme initiated by the Parish Council and it will be considered by West Sussex County Local Committee on 12<sup>th</sup> November 2019.

- 92.3 **Rail matters** –In September there were 171 trains in total cancelled of which 105 never ran or passed through Hassocks while the remaining 66 trains scheduled to stop at Hassocks but failed to do so.

Members were informed that the service to Cambridge in particular has been significantly affected due to cancellations.

From the 1<sup>st</sup> January 2019 to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2019 1,893 trains have been cancelled of which 1341 never ran or passed through Hassocks whilst 552 ran but failed to stop at Hassocks

Members indicated that the Council should write to GTR setting out the Councils concerns regarding the ongoing reliability issues and quality of service being received by the village. It was agreed that Cllr Peter Gibbons will work with the Chair and Clerk to draft an appropriate letter with supporting statistical data. This data should also be compiled and forwarded to MSDC to illustrate that with the level of new development being placed on Hassocks that the village does not benefit from a reliable train service despite this being a point developers are using to justify why development should be allowed in Hassocks.

- 92.4 **Youth Initiatives**- nothing to report.

- 92.5 **Police matters** – The Clerk informed members that representatives from the Police prevent team will be on-site in Adastral Park Car Park on the

20<sup>th</sup> October to provide an opportunity for members of the public to discuss any issues.

92.6 **Report from Councillors on meetings of outside bodies where the Council is represented- None**

**PC19/93 CHAIRMANS REPORT** –. The Chair informed members that he had nothing to report.

**PC19/94 CLERK'S REPORT –**

94.1 **Neighbourhood Plan** – Members were informed that the plan is currently with the Examiner and the Council had just received a clarification note seeking more information on the plan which the Parish have been invited to respond too. Cllr Bill Hatton was invited to provide further details. He informed members that the examiner Andrew Ashcroft had indicated within his clarification note that he felt the document (plan) was well laid out, policies well defined with a good framework together with a number of points of clarification which the council is invited to respond to by the 25<sup>th</sup> October 2019. At this stage the clarification note does not set out any value judgements but simply seeks clarification on certain matters.

Cllr B Hatton indicated that in discussion with the Clerk and our planning consultant (Dowsett Mayhew) it was proposed that the response would be drafted by them. The key issues which clarification is being sought on relate to the local gaps evidence/value and local green space. The document also seeks clarification from MSDC on a number of matters in relation to the Friars Oak site.

The timeline for response was very tight but it was felt that we should aim to respond within this timeframe. It is proposed that the response will be considered by representatives of the NPWG prior to submission however due to the timeline and availability it may not be feasible to convene a formal meeting to consider the matter. Members discussed the option of agreeing a contingency arrangement in the event that it is not possible to convene a NPWG meeting within this limited timeframe to allow the clarification response to be agreed. Members were invited to delegate authority to Cllr Bill Hatton (Chair of NPWG) and the Clerk to agree and sign off the response on behalf of the Council. All members voted in favour of this proposal and **RESOLVED** to delegate authority to the Chair of the NPWG and the Clerk to agree and sign off and approve the content of the clarification response to ensure it represents the Councils views.

**PC19/95 URGENT MATTERS AT THE DISCRETION OF THE CHAIRMAN** for noting and/or inclusion on a future agenda.

There were none.

**PC19/96 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

To note that the date of the next Council meeting is **Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> November 2019 at 7.30pm.**