

HASSOCKS PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the **Parish Council** held on 10th March 2020
at 7.30pm in the Parish Centre, Adastra Park, Hassocks.

Attendees: Parish Councillors Jane Baker (Vice Chair), Peter Gibbons, Bill Hatton, Leslie Campbell, Frances Gaudencio, Kate Bailey, Nick Owens, Kristian Berggreen and David Hammond.

Parish Clerk: Ian Cumberworth

Visiting Member: Kirst Lord (County Councillor) arrived at 8.15

MINUTES

PC19/129 APOLOGIES

Cllr Sue Hatton, Ian Weir, Alex Simmons, Bob Brewer, Frank Rylance and Georgia Cheshire

PC19/130 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.

Cllr Francis Gaudencio and Cllr David Hammond disclosed a potential interest in item 9.1 in relation to the Youth club item.

PC19/131 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on the 11th February 2020 were accepted as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

PC19/132 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

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

PC19/133 MINUTES

To accept the following Minutes.

To accept the Planning Committee minutes for the 17th February 2020

To note the minutes of the Policy Resources & Communications Committee for the 23rd January 2020.

To agree the minutes of the Grounds & Environment Committee for the 21st January 2020 and to note the minutes for 27th February 2020.

PC19/134 FINANCE

Members considered the finance reports and the supporting bank statements and reviewed the payment list. The Finance report and payments totalling **£16,739.29** for the period ending 31st January 2020 were considered and approved.

PC19/135 Reports

- 135.1 **District Councillors reports:** - Cllr Sue Hatton (SH) had sent her apologies but had submitted a written report to the Clerk to report.

MSDC District Planning Committee (with the exception of Cllr Hatton) approved the Land North of Clayton Mills (500 Strategic site) access proposals presented by the developer. WSCC indicated they did not support the need for a 'ghost' right hand turning lane onto the development and that the developer's proposal were satisfactory.

County were questioned on the introduction of a 40mph speed restriction on this section of Ockley Lane but they were unable to provide assurances this would come about. However they did confirm that once county has received s106 funds from the developers the process of looking at any new Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) would start and the Parish Council would be involved as part of the consultation process.

(SH) stated that she had received several queries about bin collections and the difficulties SERCO (MSDC contractor) have accessing some roads. Therefore MSDC are proposing to stop Green Waste collection from some of those roads affected and in addition propose to increase the green waste collection charge to £70 per annum.

The District Council have approved the 2020/21 budget and the District element of Council Tax is to increase by 3%. The effect of this is that it represents an increase of £4.95 per year on a Band D property.

MSDC have also agreed to ring-fence £100,000 from General Reserves for Climate Change and sustainability matters. As part of this the District Council will continue to progress a Business Plan to ensure Council owned buildings are sustainable.

- 135.2 **County Councillors report** - The Vice Chair indicated that County Cllr Lord had indicated that she would be arriving late to this evenings meeting therefore it was proposed to amend the running order of items for consideration and defer the County Cllrs report until later in the meeting once she had arrived. All Members were in agreement with this proposal therefore the matter was deferred for consideration to a later point in the meeting.
- 135.3 **Rail matters** –Cllr Gibbons (PG) informed Members that in February 2020 196 trains were cancelled of which 159 were cancelled outright and 60 ran but failed to stop at Hassocks.

135.4 **Youth Initiatives** - Cllr Francis Gaudencio and Cllr David Hammond updated Members of the work they are undertaking as individuals (not as Parish Councillors) to establish a Hassocks Youth projects group which will sit within the umbrella of Hassocks Community Organisation (HCO) Charitable status. The purpose of the group once fully established will be to facilitate access to future funding streams and co-ordinate youth initiatives which could be delivered in partnership with others or directly by this group. At present the groups Committee is likely to comprise of up to 5 community representatives.

135.5 **Police matters** – nothing to report

135.6 **Report from Councillors on meetings of outside bodies where the Council is represented** – Cllr Bill Hatton informed members that he had recently attended two meetings. Firstly the Odland Mill Trust where the trustees are seeking to install an additional storage building and retain the existing porta cabin on the site although to do so they are required to renew the planning consent for this structure. (BH) indicated it had proved quite difficult dealing with the national park.

(BH) also recently attended the Downlands School Management Committee but there was nothing to report.

The Clerk indicated that due to member unavailability he was requested to attend a recent Inter Parish Group (IPG) meeting held at Albourne to consider the Horsham District Council Regulation 18 District Plan consultation in relation to the strategic site Mayfield Towns near Henfield.

The group currently comprises of 17 parish councils who are working together to co-ordinate a joint response to the plan in relation to this site and with the expectation that individual parishes would also wish to make their own response to Horsham District Council (HDC). Hassocks Parish Council are to consider its response later on this agenda.

Some of the parishes in the direct vicinity of the proposed site have started a campaign displaying posters and banners however some banners have been damaged.

There is a proposed 27,000 leaflet drop through doors to raise awareness of the need to make representations against the proposed site. The leaflet drop will include Hassocks.

Some members of the IPG group raised concerns regarding the functionality of the HDC portal to enable representations to be made.

The IPG group are proposing to submit a combined response on a number of technical aspects and are seeking agreement from the member parishes to jointly sign up to the submission of the paper. This is likely to be circulated to member parish council's w/c 16/3/20 for consideration.

PC19/136 CHAIRS REPORT – Cllr Baker wished to place on record the Council's thanks and appreciation for all the hard work the Neighbourhood Working Group and others have undertaken over a number of years. In particular all those representatives in this group over the years should be commended for their dedication and should be congratulated on the successful outcome of the recent referendum. Cllr Baker observed that even on the day of the Referendum members of the public were coming into the parish office in particular to review the maps detailing the green spaces and gaps proposed within the plan which was a primary focus of interest throughout the referendum process. It had also been noticed that the footfall generally and enquiries regarding the plan had increased the activity within the parish office throughout the referendum period.

Cllr Bill Hatton indicated that he would also like to thank the Clerk and his team and how well the Council did in getting out so many to vote on such a dreadful day (weather wise) and that it was an excellent community effort.

PC19/137 CLERK'S REPORT

137.1 **Youth Club** – The Clerk introduced the report setting out a request for funding to support the ongoing provision of the youth club which operates out of Aadastra Hall run by Sussex Clubs for Young People. The funding submission was set out in appendix 2 which provided some background into the organisation and the work of the youth club in Hassocks together with a summary report covering a 2 month period on the club's activities up to the end of December.

Although no specific sum had been requested the report indicated that it cost approx. £2,600 per quarter (hall hire, staff costs, including training, SCYP's core costs and seasonal materials etc.)

The club organisers have indicated that without securing funding this would put the running of the club at risk and the ability of the group to continue at this time.

The Clerk advised Members that youth initiatives has been identified as one of the council's priorities and it currently holds £5,000 in earmarked reserves to support youth initiatives.

Members were requested to consider this funding request and determine whether they wished to make a contribution and if so how much.

The Chair then invited each Member in turn to comment on the submission, a detailed discussion took place where all members indicated that they were keen to support ongoing youth initiatives within the parish. Members discussed a range of award values from covering the total cost of the running costs for a quarter in the sum of £2,600 to £3,000 to enable some flexibility to enable some equipment to be purchased for the group. The general consensus from members was that they favoured an award in the region of £3,000.

FG reaffirmed that without this interim support the club could fold. Work was actively underway to establish the Hassocks Youth Project (HYP) group under the umbrella of Hassocks Community Organisation which once formally established will be able to access other funding sources to assist the current club and future initiatives but until this point the parish should be encouraged to support this initiative.

Cllr Kate Bailey indicated that if and when HYP was established they could take over the existing Hassocks Youth Group Facebook page. Cllr Gaudencio confirmed that a representative from Hassocks Community Organisation had already indicated that they would be happy to take over the administration of this site.

Cllr Jane Baker suggested that if members were minded to approve the award of funding they should seek to receive regular reports to Council from the group to evaluate the impact of the funding covering areas such as: Initiatives developed, activities being run, increased engagement and membership attendance.

Members welcomed this suggestion. Members were therefore requested to consider the award of £3,000 from the Youth Initiatives fund to Sussex Clubs for Young People to enable the continuance of the Hassocks Youth Club in Adastra Hall. Members **RESOLVED** to **AGREE** the award of £3,000 subject to the Council receiving regular reports in respect of the impact of this funding.

Members requested the Clerk to agree the content of the reports with Sussex Clubs for Young People as part of the funding arrangement.

- 137.2 **Replacement Projector** - the Clerk informed members that it had been necessary for the clerk to acquire a replacement projector. In accordance with Financial Regulation 3.6 the Clerk may incur expenditure where necessary subject to a limit of £750. In consultation with the Vice Chair authority was sought and obtained to purchase a replacement projector in the sum of £471.66. The pressing need to acquire a replacement so promptly was that the Planning Committee are reliant on a projector to view planning applications via the MSDC planning online portal. Members were requested to note the actions taken. **Noted**

- 137.3 **Earmarked Reserves** the Clerk had produced a statement setting out the projected position (appendix 3) as at the 31st March together with an indication of known committed reserves expenditure in 2020/21.

The paper indicated that the reserves were likely to reduce from £217,172 to £86,961 by the end of the financial year and the known commitments in 2020/21.

The Clerk informed Members of the updated figure in light of the earlier decision in the meeting regarding the youth initiative funding proposal. After taking this into consideration the balance would reduce further to £83,691

The Clerk indicated that further funds are likely to become available for allocation to support the council's priorities once the final out turn position for this year has been finalised for 2019/20. Members were advised that they will then need to determine whether the current priorities remain unchanged or whether they require amendment.

Earlier in the year members did not identify any additional priorities, however a number of existing priorities currently remain underfunded therefore these could be considered for additional funding alongside any future priorities.

Members were requested to note the report and to give some consideration to future funding initiatives at a future meeting.

Members discussed the option and potential timing of reviewing the priorities alongside the Business Plan. The Clerk advised members that the detailed Business Plan had been reviewed earlier in the year by Policy Resources & Communications Committee however the Council is yet to clarify some of the detail in relation to timing of delivery of some of the initiatives.

It was confirmed this will need to be completed to inform future work streams. The Clerk indicated that it would normally fall on the respective Committees to identify and prioritise areas of work within their responsibility and for Council to agree any proposals and award of funding.

Members discussed the options and **AGREED** that the relevant Committees should consider the priorities alongside the business plan at their April meeting with a view to coming back to the May Council meeting to allow the allocation of funds and the prioritisation of initiatives to be confirmed. This will then be passed over the new Committees in the new municipal year to progress.

137.4 **Neighbourhood Plan**

Members were advised that this report was simply to record the outcome of the Neighbourhood Plan Referendum held on the 5th March 2020 where the community voted in favour of the approval of the plan:

1,635	voted YES
90	Voted NO
26.43% Turnout	

The Parish Council is now awaiting MSDC to formally ratify the plan as made.

- 137.5 County Councillor Kirsty Lord had joined the meeting and was therefore invited to present the County Councillors report (7.2) which had been deferred from earlier in the meeting.

KL firstly wished to place on record her thanks to the Parish Council for completing the Neighbourhood Plan.

Cllr Lord went on to explain to Members that the key issues at present concerns the level of potholes within the parish and in particular in relation to Clayton Hill (A273), Southbank and Station approach and the ongoing issue regarding the water leak in London Road which until the leak is resolved County will be unable to carry out patching repairs. It was also acknowledged that multiple temporary repairs are having to be undertaken at the same locations due to the weather compromising the initial repairs. KL indicated that funding is being sought to carry out a permanent repair at Stonepound as opposed to ongoing temporary repairs.

A number of matters have also been taken up regarding drain clearance including Beaconshurst, Railway bridge and Lodge lane where pooling of water is occurring.

WSSC new highways contract commences on 1st April 2020, the contract will be operated on a different model to the existing contractors. The new contract will be split amongst a number of contractors responsible for Responsive repairs and maintenance specified works.

Work is continuing on progressing the cycle route at Stone pound – Downlands –Sayers Common route. It is hoped to see some cycle improvements in the next financial year.

Further discussions are to be held re the school on the Strategic site and school places. County are having ongoing discussion regarding the Coronavirus and the potential logistics in the event of schools having to be closed.

KL informed Members that she had met with the Clerk and highways to discuss the way forward and timeline the contract for the lines to be installed in the designated roads.

Parish members raised concerns regarding the phasing sequence of lights at Stonepound Crossroads and that there was still issues with people being able to access the crossing from parts of Keymer Road. It was explained that to enable a pedestrian crossing to work effectively it would require all four arms of traffic to be stopped. This would not be feasible as Stonepound was an AQMA site therefore stopping traffic impacts adversely on air quality however KL indicated that she is in discussions with County regarding a potential crossing (possibly zebra crossing) nearer South Bank which could alleviate the issue of people being able to access the pedestrian crossing at Stonepound crossroads.

Cllr Baker raised issues regarding the footpath by the Jack & Jill pub being overgrown, KL agreed to take the matter up with the appropriate team.

- 137.6 **Horsham District Council District Plan Consultation in respect of the Mayfield site** - Planning Committee considered a discussion paper setting out the proposed response on behalf of Hassocks Parish Council the previous evening on 10/3/20 a copy of which was circulated prior to

the commencement of the Council meeting detailing the areas to be covered.

Planning Committee members agreed that this document should form the basis of the submission.

Members then discussed the content of the said document and agreed that the order of some of the headings could be rescheduled which included moving the comments on the methodology used by HDC to the start of the document and also cross referencing to the NPFF where possible.

Members were content with this approach and in light of the Clerks report regarding a joint submission from the Inter Parish Group it was **RESOLVED** to delegate responsibility to the Clerk, Vice Chair and the Chair of Planning Committee to finalise and agree the submission post receipt of the IPG paper to ensure that they are compatible. Subject to this they are authorised to submit Hassocks Parish Councils representation and sign off the joint submission on behalf of the IPG to ensure that it reflects Hassocks Parish Councils position.

PC19/138 URGENT MATTERS AT THE DISCRETION OF THE CHAIRMAN for noting and/or inclusion on a future agenda.

There were none.

PC19/139 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

To note that the date of the next Council meeting is **Tuesday 14th April 2020 at 7.30pm.**