

HASSOCKS PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the **Parish Council** held on 11th February 2020
at 7.30pm in the Parish Centre, Adastra Park, Hassocks.

Attendees: Parish Councillors Jane Baker (Chair), Peter Gibbons, Leslie Campbell, Bill Hatton, Bob Brewer, David Hammond, Alex Simmonds, Frank Rylance and Kate Bailey

Parish Clerk: Ian Cumberworth

Visiting Member(s): none

MINUTES

PC19/119 APOLOGIES

Cllrs Ian Weir, Georgia Cheshire, Frances Gaudencio, Sue Hatton and Nick Owens.

Apologies without absence: - Kristian Berggreen

PC19/120 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

PC19/121 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on the 7th January 2020 were considered and were accepted as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

PC19/122 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were no members of the public present.

PC19/123 MINUTES

To accept the following Minutes.

The minutes of the Planning Committee for 8th January 2020 were accepted and the Planning Committee minutes for the 27th January 2020 were noted.

PC19/124 FINANCE

The Finance report and payments totalling £18,962.67 for the period ending 31st December 2019 were approved.

124.1 **District Councillors reports:** - In Cllr Sue Hatton (SH) absence Cllr Bill Hatton provided a brief update received from (SH).

SH indicated that she had recently attended an Interparish group meeting with the Parish Clerk regarding the potential Mayfield Town Development in Henfield, where there was strong opposition to the development from representatives of the Parishes present. The key aspects of concern for Hassocks are likely to be the proposed link road and the fact that if this development was to be approved by Horsham District Council, Hassocks is the nearest train station. The Clerk indicated that he would update members on this item in more detail later in the agenda.

BH also indicated that SH was to seek further clarification regarding the progress of implementing of Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) by Mid Sussex District Council to gain understanding as why its implementation has not progressed to date. At present development contributions still fall under the Section 106 regime however those parishes with adopted Neighbourhood Plans are able to access potentially larger contributions from the developer towards infrastructure/amenities improvements. The Parish Council have also previously written to the District Council regarding its implementation.

124.2 **County Councillor** – In Cllr Lords absence a brief report had been submitted and was read out by the Clerk.

A number of potholes have been temporarily repaired, Keymer Road between the Railway and A273 Clayton Hill/Ditchling Road are awaiting allocation from the ADP budget for 2020/21 for proper surfacing repairs to be undertaken in the meantime.

Repairs in London Road cannot be carried out until the continuous flow of water has been halted. WSCC are carrying out explorative works to ascertain the source of the problem and look to resolve the issue prior to works being undertaken.

The issue has been raised regarding the phasing of lights at Stonepound crossroads which have been reset and appears to have improved the flow of traffic.

Recent meetings have been held with the police to discuss a number of matters and initiatives. The police have indicated that they propose to bring their van into the village from time to time to enable residents to raise any issues with them. A brief discussion was also held on the potential to introduce a Shopwatch scheme where the traders could link up with each other via radio to report crime incidents along the lines of the system currently in operation in Burgess Hill.

WSCC budget meeting has been set for Friday 14th which can viewed live via webcast.

In terms of WSCC improvements a new Director of Children's Services has been appointed as the service looks to improve. The service will be run by a trust as it has been deemed not able to recover itself, so work will be ongoing this year to create and transfer services over to the trust. In addition a new Fire service Scrutiny committee has been formed to look exclusively at issues associated with improvement of this service.

- 124.3 **Rail matters** – Cllr Peter Gibbons (PG) informed members that in January there were 219 trains in total cancelled of which 159 never ran or passed through Hassocks while the remaining 60 trains scheduled to stop at Hassocks but failed to do so.

Cllr Leslie Campbell (LC) indicated that there was likely to be an impact on the service that Hassocks receives due to the pending platform works scheduled at Gatwick. (PG) indicated that although the same number of trains will pass through Hassocks the train's final destination may be different. (PG) went on to say that after the Gatwick works are completed it is then proposed to add further platforms at East Croydon.

- 124.4 **Youth Initiatives** - the Clerk informed Members that the Council currently has an allocated earmarked reserve (EMR) designated for youth initiatives which was established a number of years ago.

The Council have recently been approached by **Sussex Clubs for Young People** regarding the possibility of the Parish council making a contribution towards the operational costs of the current youth club that operates within Adastra Hall, together with some funding towards games equipment for the club.

The Clerk indicated that as this was a separate fund held outside of the main grants budget, if Members were minded to consider the use of funds for this purpose a request/application could be dealt with outside of the normal grant timeframe.

The Clerk emphasised that there would still be an expectation that a report would be submitted to enable members to consider any request and that members would be required to consider the matter on its merits.

At this stage the Clerk indicated that he was seeking to ascertain whether Members would consider in principal utilising these funds in this way.

Members indicated that they would be prepared to consider this approach in principal however there would be an expectation that the club would be required to submit details of how the club is currently being delivered, facilities/activities provided, number of users and the vision intention of how the club will be developed going forward to enable members to make an informed decision before any funding was granted.

Members requested that the Clerk approach the club and invite them to submit a report/request for funding that can be considered at a future meeting.

- 124.5 **Police matters** – Members were advised that the Clerk met with the named village Police Community Safety Officer (PCSO) Nathaniel Wells who indicated that he would endeavour to visit the village regularly during his shift pattern, however he is responsible for covering a number of other villages.

124.6 **Report from Councillors on meetings of outside bodies where the Council is represented-**

Members were informed that Cllr Sue Hatton (SH) and the Clerk attended a recent Interparish group meeting in Albourne. The group is made up of representatives from a number of Parish Councils that has been established to consider the potential impact of the Mayfield town development in Henfield and to campaign in a co-ordinated way against the proposed settlement.

The Clerk indicated that at present the Mayfield Town still remains a potential strategic site within **Horsham District Councils (HDC) Draft District Plan**. At present all strategic sites which were proposed by developers within the HDC area remain in the draft plan as it appears limited detailed technical assessment has yet to be completed by Council officers. Although each site has been subject to preliminary site suitability assessment there are a number of caveats stated within each site assessment.

With regard to the Mayfield site (SHELAA Ref SA414) of the fourteen elements considered (3 of which are RED) it indicates that although these are unfavourable there is potential for mitigation. The Horsham draft plan is due to go out for Public consultation from 17th February to 30th March 2020.

If this development were to progress the key impacts for Hassocks were likely to be the new link road proposed to link the settlement off the A23 and as Hassocks is the nearest rail station to the proposed site this could have a negative impact on the village from commuters traveling in to use the rail services without the infrastructure being in place to deal with this.

The Clerk indicated that Hassocks Parish Council may wish to consider making a formal representation as part of the consultation process. The Clerk suggested that if the Parish Council were minded to take this approach it was suggested this could be done/co-ordinated via the Planning Committee.

Members were also advised that it was likely that the Interparish group would also be making representations in their own right on behalf of the group of authorities that form part of this group.

Members felt that the Parish Council should make representations on the Horsham District Plan and in particular the Mayfield site. It was **AGREED** that this should be co-ordinated through the Planning Committee and the final representation to be considered by Council.

To assist Members the Clerk undertook to send out copies of the Horsham District Council Site Regulation 18 Summary of Conclusion in relation to the Mayfield site together with links to the Interparish website.

PC19/125 CHAIRMANS REPORT –. Nothing to report.

PC19/126 CLERK'S REPORT –

126.1 **Adastra Park – Orchard Lane.**

Members were informed that repairs were required to be undertaken in Orchard Lane which is the private road that runs alongside Adastra Park which the Council is responsible for.

Authority was being sought to release up to £4,000 from the Repairs & Renewal fund to enable these works to be undertaken. Members were advised that despite a number of companies being invited to quote for the work it had been extremely difficult to get companies to actually price for the work.

If Members were minded to agree to the release of these funds' authority is also sought to delegate authority to the Clerk in consultation with the Chair/vice chair of the Council to appoint the successful contractor.

Members were in agreement with this approach but sought assurance that the works would be carried out to a good standard to reduce the risk of the potholes reappearing in the medium term.

Members **RESOLVED** to agree the release of up to £4,000 from the (EMR) Repairs & Renewal Fund to undertake the repairs.

&

AGREED to delegate authority to the Clerk in consultation with the Vice Chair to appoint the successful contractor.

126.2 **Adastra Park Masterplan – Play Area contract award.**

The Grounds & Environment Committee agreed to **RESOLVE** to appoint HAGS as the preferred supplier to deliver the play area improvement project. Members were advised that the scheme is being funded from a combination of the Councils own funds & developer contributions (section 106 funds).

In accordance with Financial Regulation 13.1 any award of contract in excess of £80,000 is required to be approved/accepted by the Council. Therefore authority was being sought to enter into a formal contract via an 'official order' with the successful supplier once the designs have been finalised.

Members agreed that subject to the designs being finalised post the public consultation feedback they **RESOLVED** the Clerk be authorised to enter into a contract on behalf of the Council by way of an official order with HAGS to deliver the projects.

- 126.3 **Internal Audit Interim report** - this is to advise members of the outcome of recent interim internal audit which concluded

The Internal Auditors opinion was *'It is our opinion that the systems and internal procedures at Hassocks Parish Council are well established and followed. The Clerk is experienced and ensures the council follows best practice regulations and has overseen changes to the internal procedures as regulations and technologies have changed to maintain compliance. It is clear the council takes governance, policies and procedures very seriously and I am pleased to report that overall the systems and procedures you have in place are fit for purpose.'*

Members wished to place on record there thanks to the Clerk and his team in achieving such a positive report.

- 126.4 **Food Bank** Members were advised that the parish office will be one of a number of venues where residents are able to obtain food vouchers for the local food bank subject to the individuals meeting relevant criteria. Members were also advised that this scheme has already been used.

Noted.

PC19/127 URGENT MATTERS AT THE DISCRETION OF THE CHAIRMAN for noting and/or inclusion on a future agenda.

There were none.

PC19/128 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

To note that the date of the next Council meeting is **Tuesday 10th March 2020 at 7.30pm.**