

HASSOCKS PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the **Parish Council** held on 12th November 2019
at 7.30pm in the Parish Centre, Adastra Park, Hassocks.

Attendees: Parish Councillors Jane Baker (Chair), Peter Gibbons, Leslie Campbell, Alex Simmonds, Sue Hatton, Georgia Cheshire and David Hammond.

Parish Clerk: Ian Cumberworth

Visiting Member(s): none

MINUTES

PC19/97 APOLOGIES

Cllrs Ian Weir, Kate Bailey, Frances Gaudencio, Bill Hatton, Bob Brewer, Frank Rylance and Nick Owens

Visiting Members: County Councillor Kirsty Lord.

PC19/98 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

PC19/99 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on the 8th October 2019 were accepted as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

PC19/100 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were two members of the public present. One member of the public wished to speak on item 7.2 County Councillors report. Concerns were raised regarding the lack of representation from County and District at the Remembrance service held at Clayton and the fact that no wreath was laid on behalf of either County or District which traditionally has always been the case. The member of the public indicated that the only Council represented was the Parish Council. The member of the public requested that both County and District re-instate the previous arrangements and ensure representatives are in attendance at these services in future and requested that this should be fed back to respective representatives.

Cllr Baker thanked the member of the public for raising her concerns and indicated that the Council also wished to thank Father Alex for stepping into co-ordinate the Remembrance ceremonies held this year.

PC19/101 MINUTES

To accept the following Minutes.

To accept the minutes of the Planning Committee 14th October 2019 and to note the minutes for the 4th November 2019.

To note the minutes of Policy Resources & Communications Committee 15th October 2019 and the Grounds and Environment Committee 24th October 2019.

PC19/102 FINANCE

The Finance report and payments totalling £23,687.88 for the period ending 27th September 2019 were approved.

PC19/103 Reports

- 103.1 **District Councillors reports:** - Cllr Sue Hatton (SH) firstly apologised for the lack of representation at the Clayton ceremony and informed members that there appears to have been a misunderstanding at MSDC as District members were led to believe that there was not a service being held at Clayton this year. Cllr Hatton undertook to take this matter up with District. This misunderstanding may have come about as a result in the change of format this year with the Legion no longer organising the ceremonies which has led to some discussion within the village. It was confirmed that representation was present at Keymer in the afternoon and it will be ensured that arrangements will be put in place to ensure attendance at any future remembrance ceremonies.

SH updated Members that the site selection public consultation was ongoing. Members were also advised that SH had been appointed as a representative on a MSDC Parking working Group that will review parking arrangements within the whole district. It is anticipated that this piece of work will be supported by a parking consultant and at some point will entail a consultation.

SH also passed on County Cllr Kirsty Lords apologies

- 103.2 **County Councillor** – no report submitted.

- 103.3 **Rail matters** – In October there were 298 trains in total cancelled of which 226 never ran or passed through Hassocks while the remaining 72 trains scheduled to stop at Hassocks but failed to do so. This is the worst month to date this year.

From the 1st January 2019 to 31st October 2019 2,191 trains have been cancelled of which 1,567 never ran or passed through Hassocks whilst 624 ran but failed to stop at Hassocks.

Cllr Gibbons indicated that he recently attended a meeting in Hassocks with Rail Future, Sussex & Coastway Division where attendees were

informed of some significant improvement works that are scheduled for Gatwick train station next year. It is proposed to extend the existing footbridge to link up with platform 7. To achieve this the platform (7) will be closed from May 2020 to December 2020.

It is also proposed to undertake widening works on platform 4 & 5 which will be closed from December 2020 to May 2022 which is likely to mean that trains will have to pass through Gatwick at restricted speeds.

103.4 **Youth Initiatives** - Cllr Hammond indicated there was nothing to report other than in conjunction with Cllr Gaudencio they are seeking to establish a committee (not linked formally to the Council) and are seeking other volunteers to support this initiative.

103.5 **Police matters** – Cllr Georgia Cheshire recently attended a meeting on behalf of the Council with the police with other representatives from the village. The police updated representatives on a number of issues and proposed initiatives.

- They were informed that the level of Anti-Social behaviour has decreased since July possibly as a result of a more visible police presence in the village and park during that period.
- As part of a new initiative the Police Commissioner has funded a substantial number of additional PCSO across the county with the intention of a named PCSO being allocated to villages with a view to increasing the police presence.
- The police have also established a grant fund available for community groups to bid for to support community initiatives. Further details can be found on the police website.
- It is proposed that Hassocks traders will have the opportunity to participate in a shop watch radio scheme similar to the one currently operating in Burgess Hill.
- Sgt Phillips is to visit agencies such as Age Concern to make people more aware of computer/telephone scams and what individuals should do if they receive suspicious emails or calls.

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

PC19/104 CHAIRMANS REPORT – Nothing to report.

PC19/105 CLERK'S REPORT –

105.1 **Grants Awarded by Hassocks Parish Council** - Members were informed that the Council had received letters of thanks from the following beneficiaries:

- Victim Support
- St Peter & St James Hospice
- St Catherine's Hospice
- Jack & Jill Playgroup
- Hassocks Guide Hall

- Hurst Players Theatre

105.2 **Co-opting onto the Council** - The Clerk advised Members that the Council has had one vacancy since the elections which has continued to be advertised from that point. The Council have now received an application form Kristian Berggreen who was present at the meeting to enable Members to consider his application to join the Council.

Therefore Members were invited to consider co-opting Kristian Berggreen onto the Council.

The Chair of the meeting requested Mr Berggreen to say a few words as to why he wished to become a Councillor before Members were invited to vote on his co-option.

All Members voted in favour of the co-option therefore it was **RESOLVED** to approve the co-option of Kristian Berggreen onto the Council.

Cllr Berggreen was duly invited to sign his declaration of acceptance form.

105.3 The Clerk informed members that Cllr Berggreen was an experienced Member and had held office with other Councils previously. Cllr Berggreen had indicated an interest in serving on the Planning Committee and Grounds & Environment Committee. Members were therefore requested to consider this membership request.

Members **RESOLVED** to approve Cllr Berggreen's membership onto both the Planning Committee and Grounds & Environment Committee

105.4 **Committee Membership** - Two members who joined the Council earlier in the year have indicated they would be interested in joining the following committees

- Cllr Bob Brewer Planning Committee
- Cllr Alex Simmons Grounds & Environment Committee

Members are therefore requested to formally approve the said memberships.

Members **RESOLVED** to:

Approve Cllr Bob Brewers membership to the Planning Committee

&

Approve Cllr Alex Simmons membership to the Grounds & Environment Committee.

105.5 **Speed watch** - The Clerk reminded Members that the Council had previously funded the acquisition of a speed gun to support the then newly formed Speed watch group.

The group had now been in operation for approximately 11 months and the group co-ordinator had submitted a report for Members to consider setting out the activity of the group during the period which was detailed in the agenda papers.

In summary the group has a core volunteer membership of around eight who have recorded over 1,000 vehicles speeding in excess of 30 mph limits resulting in 900 warning letters being issued. Members were informed that the group had been involved in some joint initiatives recently with the police over a 2 day period. Cllr Cheshire indicated that at a recent police meeting it was confirmed that on the days the police were present most of the speeding offences related to locals.

The group indicated that although their equipment (radar gun) is accurate they were advised by the police that a laser gun would be an upgrade and could be sourced for around £2,000.

The Clerk took members through the key elements of the report which highlighted that most of the offences were occurring in Ockley Lane but it had proved more challenging for the volunteers to get results in Grand Avenue and Keymer Road.

The group raised concerns regarding the lack of improvement in signage in the 30 mph zone of Ockley Lane despite the evidence gathered by the group supporting the need for improvements, they therefore requested that the appropriate authority review this. They also raised the issue regarding whether the Parish would consider purchasing additional signage to promote the initiative.

The Clerk sought Members views firstly on the option of providing further funding of £2,000 towards another device for the group.

Members indicated that taking into consideration that the original equipment has only recently been purchased earlier in the year it was not felt appropriate for the Parish to provide further funding at this point.

Members requested that the Clerk write to the group and thank them for all their efforts to date and for providing such an informative report and to enquire regarding the purchase of additional speed watch signage to increase awareness of the initiative.

In addition the Clerk was requested to raise the concerns regarding the signage in Ockley Lane with West Sussex County Council and to assist the speed watch group in identifying any other potential funding streams that may be available to fund a laser speed device at a future point.

PC19/106 URGENT MATTERS AT THE DISCRETION OF THE CHAIRMAN for noting and/or inclusion on a future agenda.

There were none.

PC19/107 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

To note that the date of the next Council meeting is **Tuesday 10th December 2019 at 7.30pm.**