

HASSOCKS PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the GROUNDS AND ENVIRONMENT Committee held on 28 November 2019 at 7.30pm in the Parish Centre, Adastra Park, Hassocks.

Attendees: Cllrs Jane Baker, Kate Bailey (from 7.35pm), Leslie Campbell, Frances Gaudencio, Peter Gibbons, David Hammond, Bill Hatton and Alex Simmons.

In attendance: Tracy Forte – Deputy Clerk.

GE19/72 APOLOGIES. Cllr Kristian Berggreen, Bill Hatton and Frank Rylance and co-opted Member Tony Copeland. Absent without apology Cllr Georgia Cheshire.

GE19/73 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST. There were no declarations of interest.

GE19/74 MINUTES.

19/74.1 Cllr Kate Bailey joined the meeting.

19/74.2 Further to the item on Cricket Nets Minute ref GE 19/68, Cllr Gaudencio wanted to confirm that the statement 'one member felt that the club should be encouraged to be more proactive in promoting girls cricket' was not intended to suggest that the Cricket Club was not already promoting cricket to girls. This was noted by the Committee.

19/74.3 **RESOLVED** to accept the minutes of the Grounds and Environment Committee meeting held on 24 October 2019.

GE19/75 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION. There were no members of the Public present.

GE19/76 OFFICER'S REPORT.

Members noted the Officer's report as in the agenda.

DOWNLANDS SCHOOL CHRISTMAS TREE EVENT. The Deputy Clerk informed the Committee that a letter had been received from Downlands School thanking the Parish Council for its participation in the event and included a photograph of the HPC Tree.

GE 19/77 FLORAL DISPLAYS. Lamp Post Baskets.

19/77.1 Members were invited and **RESOLVED** to approve the cost to carry out remedial work as required to the lamp post baskets and brackets at a cost of £251.71 plus VAT. The expenditure to be taken from the Floral Display budget for 2019/20.

19/77.2 Members were invited and **RESOLVED** to approve a two year contract with Greenscene Landscapes for the planting, installation and maintenance of 20 x half lamp post baskets and 5 x wall pots at a total cost for 2020 and 2021 of £2593.11 plus VAT. With an option to extend for a further year (2022) at £1355.17 plus VAT.

GE 19/78 FLORAL DISPLAYS. Hanging Baskets.

Members noted that this had been a very successful project and that a good working partnership had been established between the contractor, the Parish Office and Penny Wadsworth (volunteer) and were fully in agreement to continue with the scheme to provide hanging baskets to Traders in the village. Once again Members expressed their thanks to Penny Wadsworth for her ongoing support with this scheme.

19/78.1 Members **AGREED** the continuation of the Hanging Basket scheme for a further three years and

19/78.2 **RESOLVED** to approve a contract with Greenscene Landscapes for 2020 and 2021 at a cost of £2346.21 plus VAT to supply, install and maintain up to 31 planted baskets to businesses in Hassocks. Plus £9.67 per additional new bracket installed and £2.85 per replacement basket as required. With an option to extend for a further year (2022) @ £1226.16 plus VAT.

GE 19/79 ADASTRA PARK MASTERPLAN. Members noted the report provided as Appendix 4 of the agenda as follows:

The tender for the next phase of improvements is now live with a closing date for tenders set at 10th January 2020, it is understood that there has been strong interest from the market and a number of companies have already undertaken site visits/surveys either with our consultant or independently. All interested parties have welcomed the extended period to allow them to develop their designs/proposals.

Members will need to give some consideration at a future point into scheduling in a public consultation on the preferred suppliers designs possibly in late January/early February once the preferred supplier has been selected.

It is anticipated that the works will commence on site in late April/early May after the Easter holidays with the younger children's playground area being approx. 6 week construction phase with the older children's areas a shorter period. It is planned that the two sites will be constructed at around the same time.

An application has also been submitted to MSDC to secure the available s106 funds that have been specifically allocated for play improvements within Adastra Park. At the time of writing formal confirmation is still awaited of the allocation of funds.

Cllr Frances Gaudencio informed Members that the Park Working Group would be meeting on 17 December 2019 to prepare for the next phase.

GE19/80 TRAFFIC AND PARKING. Cllr Ian Weir sent his apologies for not being able to attend the meeting in person and provide a verbal update on Stage 2 of the Parking Scheme. However Members were provided with a copy of the following written report which has also posted on the Parish Council website.

HASSOCKS PARKING SCHEME Stage 2 – Approved by West Sussex

West Sussex County Local Committee gave final approval to the Stage 2 scheme on 12 November 2019. The Scheme will improve traffic flows through the creation of passing places and reduce thoughtless and inconsiderate parking in a number of heavily used and narrow roads in Hassocks. It also upgrades single yellow lines to double yellows on a number of junctions and bends with restricted visibility. Importantly the loss of parking spaces has been kept to an absolute minimum in order to avoid any significant displacement to adjacent roads.

This stage of the scheme has been community driven and strongly supported by the Parish Council and has evolved over the last 18 months through two consultations and follow up surveys in the affected roads. Whilst the scheme has passed approval largely intact a number of restrictions 'banning parking for 1 hour during the day' were

removed to satisfy an objection from Mid Sussex District Council who have recently identified that they have limited resources available for parking enforcement.

The revised scheme – omitting the removed restrictions from Highlands Close, North Court, Semley Road and part of Woodland Road can be found at <https://westsussex.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s12366/Appendix%20D%20-%20Plans%20showing%20revised%20scheme.pdf>

Parish Council chairman Ian Weir said “Little did I realize back in 2013 when we conducted the first village wide survey how long it would take to get to this point. It was only through the Parish Council taking the unusual step of sponsoring the second stage of the scheme that the original community led proposals have now been largely achieved. Also - I want to thank, local resident, Sally Booker who has done an amazing amount of work in support of this project and our County Councilor Kirsty Lord who has argued in support of the scheme within West Sussex.”

It is anticipated that implementation of the Stage 2 scheme will take place during 2020.

Members noted the report and the Chair asked for thanks to be passed onto to Sally Booker and Cllr Kirsty Lord on behalf of the Committee for their involvement and support with the Scheme. The Chair also conveyed the appreciation of the Committee to Cllr Ian Weir for his longstanding commitment and hard work on the Traffic and Parking projects in Hassocks over the past seven years.

GE19/81 PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY (PROW). There was nothing to report.

GE19/82 URGENT MATTERS at the discretion of the Chairman for noting and/or inclusion on a future agenda.

Festive Tree Lights. The Chair noted that there had been some confusion over the festive lights in the trees in Hassocks. She reminded Members that although there had been an issue regarding damage to the tree lights last year, the reason that the lights would not be illuminated this year was due to a more stringent enforcement of regulations set by the SSE Contracting, who maintain and manage the street lights in Hassocks on behalf of WSCC. Each year the Parish Council has to apply for a licence from SSE to attach festive lights to the street lamp columns and must agree to adhere to the regulations as set by the contractor. The regulations clearly state that lighting strung from trees to the top of street lights are no longer permitted.

Tree Planting. Cllr Frances Gaudencio requested that the Committee considered the introduction of a general Tree Planting Strategy in addition to the existing Street Tree scheme. It was agreed that this would be included as a future agenda item.

GE19/83 DATE OF NEXT MEETING. The Chair noted that the date of the next meeting is planned for Thursday 19 December 2019. She informed the Committee that it was likely that a decision would be taken to cancel this meeting unless there was an urgent matter. Therefore the next meeting of the G&E Committee following this would be 23 January 2020.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 8.10pm.

SignedChair Date.....