

HASSOCKS PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of an Extraordinary Parish **Council** meeting held on the 14th August 2019 at **2 pm** in the Council Chamber, Parish Centre, Adastra Park, Hassocks.

Attendees: Cllrs Ian Weir, Jane Baker, Frances Gaudencio, Alex Simmons, David Hammond, Peter Gibbons, Leslie Campbell and Frank Rylance.

PC19/71 APOLOGIES

Cllrs Kate Bailey, Robert Brewer, Georgia Cheshire, Bill Hatton, Sue Hatton and Nick Owens

PC19/72 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST None

PC19/73 EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS No members of the public were present

EXEMPT ITEM

PC19/74 Turkey Oak Tree – Adastra Park In accordance with the Councils Contract Procedures Members were requested to consider a confidential report to determine the successful contractor to undertake remedial works to the Turkey Oak and to identify funding for these works. The Clerk introduced the report setting out the condition of the tree and the results of a recent quotation process.

Members raised and discussed a number of detailed issues relating to the proposed action agreed by the Grounds and Environment Committee and sought assurances from the Clerk regarding the suitability of the companies invited to quote for the works. The Clerk confirmed that the companies were selected due to their experience in undertaking this type of work and that they all held the appropriate accreditations and insurances, all were based in Sussex.

The Clerk informed Members that the original price submitted by Connick Tree Care did not include the grinding of the trunk therefore an updated price was sought. Members were advised of the revised sum.

The Clerk confirmed that the successful contractor will be required to provide an appropriate Risk Assessment Method statement (RAMS) document setting out how they propose to site manage/undertake the project.

Members raised a series of questions relating to the pricing of the job, timescales and suitability of the contractor which the Clerk responded to. Members were satisfied with these explanations. Members discussed the available options as to how the work was to be funded and considered how the matter should be communicated to the community.

After considerable deliberations members **RESOLVED**:

- a) To nominate and AGREE Connick Tree Care as the successful contractor.
- b) Funds would be met from unallocated General Reserves.
- c) APPROVE and Authorise the Clerk to enter into a contract with the successful Contractor subject to the receipt of an appropriate Risk Assessed Method Statement (RAMS).

Members also agreed that Cllr Baker would draft an appropriate press release in conjunction with the Clerk to communicate the sad news to the community regarding the tree.