

## HASSOCKS PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Virtual Meeting of the **Parish Council** held on 4<sup>th</sup> August 2020 at 7.30pm.

Attendees: Parish Councillors Jane Baker (Vice Chair), Kristian Berggreen, Nick Owens, David Hammond, Bob Brewer, Frank Rylance, Alex Simmons. Claire Tester and Ian Weir

Parish Clerk: Ian Cumberworth

### MINUTES

#### **PC20/29 APOLOGIES**

Cllr Peter Gibbons, Leslie Campbell, Francis Gaudencio, Kate Bailey, Sue Hatton and Bill Hatton.

County Cllr Kirsty Lord

#### **PC20/30 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.

#### **PC20/31 MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on the 30<sup>th</sup> June 2020 were accepted as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

#### **PC20/32 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

There was no members of the public present (virtually)

#### **PC20/33 MINUTES**

To agree the following Minutes.

33.1 Planning Committee minutes for the 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2020 and to note the minutes of the 13<sup>th</sup> July 2020.

33.2 To note the minutes of the Grounds & Environment Committee for 9<sup>th</sup> July 2020.

#### **PC20/34 FINANCE**

Members considered the finance reports and the supporting bank statements and reviewed the payment list. The Finance report and payments totalling **£25,390.30** for the period ending 30<sup>th</sup> June 2020.

Members raised a number of queries relating to items on the payment schedule which were clarified by the Clerk. Members therefore **APPROVED** the report.

## **PC20/35 Reports**

- 35.1 **District Councillors reports:** - Cllr Sue Hatton had submitted her apologies but had submitted a paper to the Clerk which he read out:

Mid Sussex District Council (MSDC) have suffered a significant impact on its income streams as a result of Covid 19. In particular with regard to the leisure centres and the ongoing maintenance costs associated with these facilities which has contributed to the delay in re-opening. MSDC are currently trying to renegotiate the existing terms with the operator to enable the venues to reopen at a future point.

MSDC Draft Site Allocations DPD (Regulation 19) document has just been published for consultation and two sites under consideration although within the parish of Burgess Hill are on the border of Keymer / Hassocks. The sites are located off Folders Lane but may impact on traffic joining Ockley lane (SA12 and SA13) which Cllr (S) Hatton hoped the parish council will consider making representations on.

The Clerk advised members that the consultation period runs from 3rd August until the 28th September 2020. Cllr Owens (Chair of Planning Committee) confirmed that the planning committee are scheduled to consider the matter at its next Planning meeting scheduled for the 24th August.

Cllr Hatton also advised that the Covid 19 volunteer group within the parish are scaling down but will scale up again in the event of a 2nd wave.

The Clerk advised members that a letter of thanks had been sent to the volunteer group organisers thanking them for their efforts of support for the community as agreed at the Councils previous meeting.

- 35.2 **County Councillors report** – None

- 35.3 **Rail matters** – Nothing to report.

- 35.4 **Youth Initiatives** – The Clerk reminded members that they had approved some funding earlier this year to enable the youth group to continue to operate prior to lockdown.

During the lockdown, the organisers have continued to hold 'virtual sessions'.

The Council has now been advised that the organisers are proposing to commence some 'detached work' with users of the skate park.

This will involve games & activities outside Adastra hall and the skate park which is proposed to be run on Wednesdays between 4 - 5.30 pm. It is

understood that similar initiatives operated across Sussex have proved to be successful.

- 35.5 **Police matters** – The Clerk informed members that the police continue to visit the park periodically and were requested to do so with the ongoing construction and pending opening of the play areas.

The Council's Silent Solider installation at the entrance to Aadastra Park has recently been vandalised. This was reported to the police who placed an item on social media where they received a number of offers from people offering to contribute to its repair.

The Council has undertaken its own repairs.

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

**PC/20/36 CHAIRS REPORT** – The meeting Chair indicated that she had nothing formally to report other than to reiterate the Council's appreciation as to how the staff team have pulled together to continue to deliver services throughout the current challenging circumstances and having to adapt to different operational practices. It should also be noted that some of the team are now due to take well deserved leave later this month. Cllr Baker also indicated that she would now be passing the reins back to Cllr Weir as Chair of the Council.

**PC/20/37 CLERK'S REPORT**

- 37.1 **Committee Membership** – this report sought member's approval to nominate Cllr Tester to sit as a representative on the Planning Committee.

Members agreed the proposal and **RESOLVED** to **APPROVE** the appointment of Cllr Tester to sit on the Planning Committee with immediate effect.

- 37.2 **Christmas light motif sign repair:** Members were requested to consider the recommendation from the Grounds & Environment Committee (GE20/15.2) seeking approval to release funds from general reserves to supplement the lighting budget to enable the motif (Light Up Hassocks to be repaired) an extract from the minutes is produced within this agenda.

After consideration Members **RESOLVED** to **APPROVE** the release of additional funds of up to £700 from General Reserves to part fund the repair of the motif. The balance of which is to be met from savings realised from the existing Christmas lighting budget.

**PC/20/38 URGENT MATTERS AT THE DISCRETION OF THE CHAIRMAN** for noting and/or inclusion on a future agenda.

38.1 The Clerk raised one item for noting: Members were advised that the play areas within Adastra Park have been completed and a final handover meeting with the contractors was scheduled for Wednesday 5th August.

The areas have passed their ROSPA safety inspections which although identified a couple of minor issues that need to be addressed by the contractor these would not prevent the areas being opened.

It was confirmed that Insurance coverage has been arranged to come into effect when the equipment formally passes over to the council.

The Council have been required to undertake risk assessments of the areas in line with the government Covid guidance. As a result of this some pieces of equipment have been temporarily taped off from use.

Additional Covid 19 guidance signage has also been installed setting out additional guidelines in the use of the play area and equipment.

It is anticipated that the fences will come down later this week and the areas opened for use.

**PC/20/39 DATE OF NEXT MEETING September 8<sup>th</sup> 7.30pm**

The meeting closed at 19.55pm