

HASSOCKS PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the **Parish Council** held on 11th July 2017
at 7.30pm in the Parish Centre, Adastra Park, Hassocks.

Attendees: Parish Councillors Ian Weir (Chair), Peter Gibbons, Jane Baker, Darryl Sinclair, Bill Hatton, Leslie Campbell, Chris Hobbs, Sue Hatton, Georgia Cheshire, Victoria Standfast and Kate Bailey.

Parish Clerk: Ian Cumberworth

Visiting Member: Gordon Marples, Michelle Binks (District Councillors)
Kirsty Lord (County Councillor)

MINUTES

PC17/61 APOLOGIES

Judith Foot, Justine Fisher, Nick Owens and Frances Gaudencio.

PC17/62 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

PC17/63 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on the 13th June were accepted as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

PC17/64 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was 1 member of the public present who observed proceedings and did not raise any questions or comments.

PC17/65 MINUTES

To accept the following Minutes.

To agree the minutes of the Planning Committee 26th June 2017 and to note the minutes of Grounds and Environment Committee 29th June 2017. Members were informed that one item discussed at this meeting related to the possible extension of the Christmas lighting initiative. Further work is being undertaken but a future report may be brought forward to Full Council to consider potential funding.

PC17/66 HASSOCKS GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT

Fred Maillardet (FM), Juliet Merrifield (JM) and Dusty Gedge (DG) were present to update members on the work undertaken to date and provide an overview of the detailed report which is set out in Appendix 1.

FM introduced the report and indicated the Council had considered a number of reports recently regarding flood prevention initiatives from related groups which are all being supported via funding through 'Operation Watershed', however the focus of this presentation focused on SUDS – Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems.

Dusty Gedge (Consultant) took members through aspects of the detailed report and stated that there was a large amount of land that could potentially store water and affect the rate water enters into the drainage system. Evidence suggests that by incorporating SUDS into schemes can have a positive impact in slowing the water down from entering the drainage system therefore reducing the risk of flooding and should be considered in any future design briefs.

The project which has been funded as part of 'Operation Watershed' has identified a number of sites on both Parish and District Council land within the Parish that would be suitable to incorporate SUDS solutions. The group are keen to explore further options with the respective Councils regarding the viability of some of these initiatives and in particular those that could be accommodated within Adastra Park. DG indicated that some areas could be created which could act not only as SUDS but also be used as a natural play area within the park which had already been successfully achieved within some London Boroughs.

DG hoped that the report would stimulate interest for organisations to develop and take schemes forward. If the Council were minded to take some of the proposals forward on their land it is likely that funding could be secured from 'Operation Watershed' to support this if the projects were taken forward within a reasonable timeframe.

Juliet Merrifield indicated that due to high footfall in the park the group would be keen to install SUD(S) within the park to promote the initiative to encourage others to adopt a similar approach.

Members discussed the contents of the report and aspects of the presentation and were supportive in principle of considering SUDS installations within the park.

Cllr Ian Weir thanked DG, FM and JM for the report and thanked them in particular for a number of reports that have been considered by members over the last few years which have broadened their knowledge of initiatives that could be implemented both to alleviate the risk of flooding and to move to greener energy use within the parish.

PC17/67 FINANCE

The Finance report and payments totalling £19,642.65 for the period ending 31st May 2017 were approved.

PC17/68 Reports

- 68.1 District Councillors reports: - Cllr Gordon Marples (GM) informed members that the District Plan work was progressing and was now in the hands of Mr Bore and will be considered by the inspector later this month.

GM updated members on an issue received from a resident who uses an electric chair who has had difficulties using the pavement outside Adastra Park due to vehicles parking on the kerbs. GM subsequently met with the Clerk and agreed to monitor the issue as they had not received any other complaints regarding this in the Parish offices prior to taking any further action.

With regard to the recent incident at Grenfell Tower MSDC are complying fully with Government guidelines and providing updated guidance. All MSDC premises with cladding are being inspected which also includes those affected Affinity Sutton properties

Members discussed issues surrounding emergency planning and GM confirmed the District are revisiting this alongside other agencies.

Cllr Michelle Binks (MB) indicated that as newly elected District Councillor she is on a steep learning curve and has recently been engaged in supporting a grant application and dealing with complaints regarding parking issues in Parklands and exploring options to alleviate these issues.

Cllr Sue Hatton (SH) informed members that she has been appointed to the Scrutiny & Community Committee which was scheduled amongst other things to review Equalities in the autumn and the Planning Committee.

- 68.2 Rail matters – PG informed members that he had recently attended a GTR stakeholder conference in London where they indicated that it is proposed Hassocks will receive a 4 train off peak service into London. Two to London Victoria and two to Cambridge via London. PG expressed his view that the new Thameslink programme will be operationally challenging to deliver. Discussions were held at the meeting regarding the recently published Gibb report which has set out a tranche of recommendations including the review of fare structures. It was also identified that more waiting shelters need to be provided at Hassocks station due to the length of the platform.

PG informed members that 191 trains had been cancelled in June which were due to stop at Hassocks and a further 54 ran that should have stopped at Hassocks but failed to do so. At the end of June the cumulative

number of trains that were scheduled to stop at Hassocks this year that failed to do so reached 1587.

- 68.3 WSCC Councillor – Kirst Lord (KL) Kirsty informed members that she is on two Committees at County: Treasury Management panels and Children & Young People Select Committee and attended her first Full Council meeting last week.

KL confirmed that she has a scheduled meeting with WSCC officers later in the year to review the model assumptions being used to determine the school need within Hassocks with a view to communicating Hassocks issues more effectively.

A joint member surgery was held today with Cllr S Hatton (MSDC/HPC) in the parish offices which was well attended with a number of issues being raised but in particular traffic in Ockley Lane regarding the speed of vehicles.

Parish members also raised issues regarding Ockley Lane including the length of on-going road works/condition of the highway and highlighted some signage that should be reviewed and questioned the frequency of gully emptying and road sweeping.

KL agreed to take these matters forward and continues to liaise with Richard Speller (WSCC) on Highways issues.

KL informed members that WSCC has £248k Sustainable Transport Section 106 funds available for schemes within Hassocks parish, however it was important that the money is expended within the time limitations and suitable schemes are identified. IW stated that the Clerk now receives reports from MSDC regarding funds available and has made enquiries regarding accessing funds. KL confirmed it would be useful to meet with the Clerk to compare the records and identify how we can influence the content of future S106 agreements and utilise funds available.

KL also recently met with a member of WSCC Community Resilience team which would be happy to advise/ provide support to revise HPC Emergency Plan. IW agreed this could be useful and could be co-ordinated through Cllr Sue Hatton.

- 68.4 Youth Initiatives- Cllr Kate Bailey informed members that it was coming towards the end of the Youth year and the team had previously moved to St Francis Church Hall due to the limitations on the flexibility of the Community Pavilion within Adastra Park. Despite extensive promotion it has been difficult to replicate the attendance numbers at St Francis compared to those when it was located in the park. It was agreed that KB would speak to the Clerk after the meeting to see if the group could be accommodated within the park in the forthcoming weeks.

In light of the reduction in numbers attending St Francis Church Hall some external funding previously obtained may now require to be returned.

KB confirmed that a survey had been completed amongst pupils at Downlands School on what they would like to see in the village including

the park that may be useful in informing options within the park. The data is currently being analysed.

68.5 Police matters – nothing to report. In light of the lack of reports now received from the Police the Clerk sought member's views as to whether this item should be deleted as a standing item and be included by exception if and when any report is received. Members considered this but felt that it should remain as a standing item on the agenda for the time being.

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

PC17/69 CHAIRMANS REPORT – Development of the Business Plan.

IW provided an overview of the development of the Business Plan and the stages it has progressed through to date. IW requested members to study the document to be circulated post this meeting and to bring back ideas to the forthcoming committee meetings. It was important that members engaged in the process fully as it provides an opportunity to shape the plan and inform future priorities of the Council. The intention is that members study the document and the actions assigned to the respective Committees in advance of the scheduled meetings in July: Policy, Resources & Communications on 25th and Grounds and Environment on 31st.

During these meetings, the relevant Chairs will dedicate time in the agenda for members to feed back on the plan, and add/amend suggestions that should be considered/developed.

Once agreed the Chairs of the respective Committees will then be responsible for working up the detailed actions further, either themselves or via delegation, in preparation for the September committee meetings where each Committee will sign off the business plan actions for their respective area. The proposed target is to use the information to inform the budget setting process.

If members require any clarification on the papers they should contact representatives of the Business Plan working group (Cllr Hobbs, Cllr Gaudencio, Cllr Bailey or the Clerk.

PC17/70 URGENT MATTERS AT THE DISCRETION OF THE CHAIRMAN for noting and/or inclusion on a future agenda.

There were none.

PC17/71 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

To note that the date of the next Council meeting is **Tuesday 12th September 2017 at 7.30pm.**

EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS

In view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted Councillors will be referred to the Confidential Agenda. If any members of the public or press are in attendance they will be requested to withdraw from the meeting in the public interest.

PC17/72 CONFIDENTIAL – Neighbourhood Plan Working Group held on the 25th May 2017 were noted.

DRAFT