

HASSOCKS PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the **Parish Council** held on 14th November 2017
at 7.30pm in the Parish Centre, Adastra Park, Hassocks.

Attendees: Parish Councillors Nick Owens (Chair), Peter Gibbons, Jane Baker, Bill Hatton, Leslie Campbell, Darryl Sinclair, Victoria Standfast and Kate Bailey.

Parish Clerk: Ian Cumberworth

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

MINUTES

PC17/102 APOLOGIES

Cllrs Judith Foot, Sue Hatton, Frances Gaudencio, Georgia Cheshire, Ian Weir , Chris Hobbs and Justine Fisher.

PC17/103 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

PC17/104 MINUTES

The minutes of the Council meeting held on the 10th October and the Extraordinary Parish meeting on 31st October were accepted as a true and accurate record of the meetings.

PC17/105 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were 2 Members of the public present who observed proceedings but did not raise any questions or comments.

PC17/106 MINUTES

To accept the following Minutes.

To agree the minutes of the Planning Committee 9th October 2017 (agreed) and 30th October 2017 (for noting).

To note the minutes of Policy Resources & Communications Committee 17th October 2017 and the Grounds and Environment Committee 2nd November 2017.

PC17/107 FINANCE

The Finance report and payments totalling £17,996.92 for the period ending 30th September 2017 were approved. Members raised a number of queries regarding the nature of some of the specific transactions on the payments schedule which the Clerk provided further detail on.

PC17/108 Reports

108.1 County Councillor report: no report submitted.

108.2 District Councillors reports: - Cllr Gordon Marples (GM) and Cllr Michelle Binks sent their apologies but both submitted written reports to be read out at the meeting. Cllr Owens read out the following reports.

Cllr Binks: I attended the Air Quality Steering Group with representatives from WSCC and MSDC from which the following highlights were discussed:

- Stonepound Crossroads is the area of most concern with the highest level of Nitrogen Dioxide (NO₂) in Mid Sussex. From the beginning of the study in 2011 the levels were nearly 50 NO₂ug/m³ dropping around 44 NO₂ug/m³ last year. The European 'acceptable' level is 40 NO₂ug/m³ this downward trend has been deemed due to more efficient modern cars with engines cutting out, gearing towards electric cars, taxi and private hire cars need to be under a certain age to operate; there is currently no regulation for buses nor HGV's. Additional solutions were suggested such as a longer speed reduction to the lead up to Stonepound Crossroads from the south going north along Brighton Road and an improvement in the signage to cut engines and to trim trees where possible.

- With all new development a transport plan must be provided with an advisory route for HGV's.

- It was noted that WSCC are looking at putting a pedestrian crossing going north-south at Stonepound Crossroads.

- MSDC is looking to promote electrical vehicles. MSDC are considering electrical charge points in Hassocks at 'Bugden's' car park and Adastra Park. MSDC were going to get in touch with Hassocks Parish Council with this proposal. On this theme electrical charging points are going to be a request from MSDC at new development sites. A suggestion was also made to have a point at Hassocks Railway Station and MSDC will follow this up with Southern Rail.

- The proposal of further development of cycle routes in and around Hassocks were briefly mentioned. This is a project that MSDC have already been working on, as have other bodies. I'm a representative on the recently established Cycling Forum in Hassocks chaired by Chris Thompson.

I spoke to Richard Speller from WSCC regarding cycle routes in Hassocks. A suggested way forward is to hold a stakeholders meeting and collate all the information to then be able to draw up a business plan to move forward on this project. Moving this project forward will look at routes and funding options. I've contacted Chris Thompson who is actioning this.

I have answered many emails regarding the allocation proposal of the 500 homes off Ockley Lane. I attended the Parish meeting about the allocation proposal. I held a councillor surgery last Thursday where I had one resident come and talk to me about it. I have submitted my personal letter to the Planning Inspector. As you are aware the public consultation is now closed and we await the Planning Inspector's decision.

I have started working on a project to improve the facilities at Belmont Park which is MSDC land. This is a project I've been keen to get started for numerous years and now as District Councillor I look forward to following through with. I will keep the Parish Council updated with its progress as it happens.

I'm talking to officers at MSDC regarding the size of our dog bins to see if they can have greater capacity. I've briefly spoken to Ian Cumberworth, Parish Clerk, with the suggestion of increasing some of the collection frequencies but this will not be the case for now. I will keep the Parish Council updated with my progress,

I was honoured to represent MSDC officers and members where I laid a wreath on their behalf last Sunday as part of the Hassocks Remembrance Parade.

Cllr Marples: District Plan

I have submitted a personal response to the consultation. At its close, yesterday, there had been over 1,000 responses.

The "Save Hassocks" signs all over the village are flyposting and therefore illegal. On one stretch of Ockley Lane, there were/are about 7 posters within 100 metres and, apart from anything else, they could be a distraction for drivers at that point.

Most of the posters are on roadside verges which are part of the highway and therefore the responsibility of the highways authority, the County Council.

When they first appeared, I liaised with MSDC officers who accepted my recommendation that, whilst illegal, they should be allowed to remain for the duration of the consultation period. I did not see any point in being heavy handed, particularly with feelings running high.

Because of the legal position and concerns about precedent MSDC has written a friendly letter to the main organiser asking for them to be removed now that the consultation has lapsed. The person concerned

should have received that letter to-day and I hope will feel that the District Council has acted reasonably.

Remembrance Sunday

Unfortunately, a football match had been organised, with a kick off time at 11.02 am, on the recreation field at Clayton. It created a number of issues, including disturbance and parking.

Some years ago, I arranged for no matches to be played there on this commemorative day and I do not know what went wrong but, having spoken to the referee and home team manager, I ascertained that the Sunday League had issued authorisation.

Ben Toogood with whom I made the arrangement to prevent football on this day has left the Council and his "number two" is on leave this week.

I am dealing with it and will report back to the parish council.

Fly Tipping on London Road

I have reported this problem previously. The site is on the eastern side of London Road, by the bus shelter. A large amount of white and household goods have been dumped over the fence of a housing association tenant who is, apparently, responsible. There is more rubbish in the rear garden.

When the greenery dies down, the rubbish near to the road will be an even greater eyesore.

MSDC officers are liaising with their social housing counterparts who have accepted responsibility. The latter will clear the greenery so that MSDC contractors can get a truck in there to clear it up.

It may be some days yet before we see things restored and I am keeping the complainant informed.

Public toilets in Adastra Park

Contractors were on site to-day to clear moss etc. from the roof and this marks the completion of the modernisation of these important facilities.

I previously reported that £25,000 for the works had been budgeted and costs will come in below this level.

Local crime

I do not know whether the police will present a report this evening but the early morning break-in at the men's hairdresser's opposite Sainsbury's at the end of last week is a concern, given the various things stolen, including two charity boxes and two barber's chairs!

With the raids at the station, perhaps it is time for the police to send more patrols to Hassocks?

- 108.3 Rail matters – Cllr Campbell informed Members that he had nothing to report.
Cllr Gibbons informed Members that 192 trains had been cancelled in October and although ASLEF have settled their dispute with Southern it is unlikely the settlement will have any impact on performance as they were not on strike. The RMT remain in dispute with Southern.
- On a positive note there has been an improvement in levels of staffing at the station and the ticket office has been opening on Sundays.
- 108.4 Youth Initiatives- Cllr Bailey confirmed she was no longer involved due to work commitments but was aware that the club was likely to operate in the Adastra Park pavilion for the next couple of weeks, but beyond this would be subject to funding.
- 108.5 Police matters – Cllr Baker updated members re an incident she experienced earlier in the year and a recent meeting with a Senior Police officer who indicated that some of the increase in crime figures may have been influenced by a change in the way the Police’s crime P.I’s are now recorded. JB also raised concerns over the apparent lack of Police presence in Hassocks which the officer undertook to make further enquiries.
- 108.6 Report from Councillors on meetings of outside bodies where the Council is represented- Cllr Bill Hatton indicated he recently attended the Burgess Hill Strategic Partnership meeting earlier this week. BH confirmed that the Burgess Hill expansion of the Town Centre was progressing well and a huge amount of expansion is proposed and MSDC are trying hard to bring these complex projects to fruition.

PC17/109 CHAIRMANS REPORT –.

Cllr Nick Owens informed Members that HPC had submitted its response to the District Plan Inspectors enquiry.

PC17/110 CLERK’S REPORT

- 110.1 **2017/18 WSCC Integrated Works Programme for Hassocks.**
Members considered Grounds & Environment Committee’s recommendation (GE17/57.3) to make available a maximum of £3,000 to support the application for a second Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) in Hassocks subject to confirmation of the additional funding from West Sussex County Council.

The proposed TRO would cover further parking restrictions identified by HPC’s parking group. Some members expressed reservations over some of the elements of the proposed schemes although it was acknowledged that a lot of work had been invested by this group to identify parking issues that required solutions.

A number of members expressed the view that as a matter of principal they were unhappy that HPC was being asked to part fund TRO which should be funded by County to facilitate the schemes development.

However reluctantly Members accepted that to enable these initiatives to progress they have been advised by WSCC that funding support from HPC would be required. Currently no budget is in place to cover these costs therefore this would be required to be met from General Reserves.

After careful consideration Members **RESOLVED** to agree the release of up to a maximum of £3,000 from General Reserves subject to the other funding (£7,000) being met by WSCC to support the Traffic Regulation Order.

- 110.2 **Tennis Courts – Adastra Park.** Members were informed that it had recently been necessary to close the courts due to the on-going moss issues causing the courts to become slippery in inclement weather. The Council has undertaken a programme of moss treatments throughout the year with mixed success.

The courts have recently had a number of tree works undertaken to lift the canopies, however in light of the ongoing moss issues members were requested to consider the option of commissioning a pressure wash to bring the courts back to a safe playable condition to allow them to be reopened. Indicative costs have been obtained which identified a cost in the region of £750 - £1,250. No funds have currently been budgeted for this expenditure therefore they would have to be funded via General Reserves. If the courts remain closed this will impact adversely on one of the Council's income streams. The Clerk confirmed that the higher level of cost would include a pressure wash and moss treatment where the lower cost covered pressure washing only. Members debated the options and **RESOLVED** to authorise the Clerk to commission a pressure wash and moss treatment to optimise its effectiveness to enable the courts to be reopened. This would be funded via General Reserves up to a maximum of £1,250.

- 110.3 **Paperless Notification of Planning Applications from Mid Sussex District Council** HPC have been notified that MSDC are to move away from issuing paper plans early next year therefore Planning Committee recommendation P17/85 requested that Full Council approve the purchase of laptop to enable the Committee to view electronic documents. The intention is once this arrangement becomes fully operational documents will be viewed via the planning portal.

Although no specific budget has been allocated the Clerk requested members consider utilising the provision of £1,000 set aside in (code 170/4125) Adastra Pavilion Equipment including Computer /Photocopier which is unlikely to be spent. The acquisition of a laptop would also improve the resilience of the current IT facilities in the office in the event of a PC being non-operational for a period of time.

Members were requested to consider either utilising the budgeted funds up to £1,000 (code 170/4125) or release funds from General Reserves.

Members considered the request and **RESOLVED** To utilise the budget provision of £1,000 in code 170/4125 and authorise the Clerk to expend up to this value to acquire a laptop that is compatible with the Council's existing IT infrastructure..

PC17/111 URGENT MATTERS AT THE DISCRETION OF THE CHAIRMAN for noting and/or inclusion on a future agenda.

There were none.

PC17/112 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

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