

HASSOCKS PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the **GROUND AND ENVIRONMENT** Committee held on 5 October 2017 at 7.30pm in the Parish Centre, Adastra Park, Hassocks.

Attendees: Cllrs Jane Baker (Vice Chair), Peter Gibbons (Chair), Bill Hatton, Chris Hobbs, Darryl Sinclair and Ian Weir.

In attendance: Tracy Bates – Deputy Clerk
Ian Cumberworth – Parish Clerk
Cllr Frances Gaudencio
Sally Booker
Tony Copeland

GE17/51 APOLOGIES. Apologies were received from Cllrs Leslie Campbell, Georgia Cheshire and Sue Hatton and Penny Wadsworth. Absent without apology, Cllr Kate Bailey.

GE17/52 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST. Cllr Darryl Sinclair declared a personal interest in item 7.1 Traffic and Parking. WSCC integrated works programme.

GE17/53 MINUTES.

RESOLVED to accept the minutes of the Grounds and Environment Committee meeting held on 31 July 2017.

There were no matters arising.

GE17/54 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION. There were no members of the Public present.

GE17/55 OFFICER'S REPORT. The Deputy Clerk informed Members that there had been two further incidents of anti-social behaviour recently in Adastra Park, in addition to those noted in the report. The Keymer and Hassocks Sports and Social Club had informed the office that Police had been called to an incident over the weekend. Also a Memorial Bench in Adastra Park had been damaged. This was noted by Members.

GE17/56 PARKLANDS ROAD ALLOTMENTS. Verbal Update (Tony Copeland). Tony Copeland confirmed that the leaky tap on the allotments was now repaired although this would need to be monitored. The security planting was now well in and should provide a good level of protection. The Deputy Clerk took the opportunity to thank Tony on behalf of the office staff for all of his hard work in helping to ensure that the allotment management runs smoothly. Members also passed on their thanks to Tony for his commitment and support.

Tony Copeland left the meeting.

GE17/57 TRAFFIC AND PARKING.

17/57.1 **WSSC 2017/18 Integrated Works Programme – Hassocks – Traffic and Parking Improvements Scheme.** Members were invited to note detailed drawings provided by West Sussex County Council (WSSC) outlining traffic and parking improvements to be carried out in Hassocks 2017/18.

Cllr Peter Gibbons raised concerns about the use of imprint surfacing. Should these areas require work at a later stage, the imprint will be replaced with tarmac and therefore will look untidy and be less effective. Therefore it was suggested that the surface would be better painted. Cllr Gibbons also drew attention to an anomaly in that the proposed parking restrictions along Grand Avenue. A 'No Waiting' sign and proposed single yellow line, breaking up the long section of restricted parking on the eastern side is shown as 'Mon to Fri 8am to 6pm'. It was agreed that this should be changed to 'Mon to Sat 8am to 6pm' to bring it into line with the other parking restrictions on this road.

Cllr Frances Gaudencio informed the Committee that Traders at the western end of the High Street had asked for some pavements to be narrowed back to allow for a wider road and therefore for traffic to flow more easily. Cllr Chris Hobbs noted that there was no provision for a roundabout at the end of Grand Avenue. Therefore he suggested that if there are no plans for a roundabout, then parking needed to be addressed on the stretch of road outside of McColl's newsagents opposite Grand Avenue.

It was felt that a STOP sign would be preferable at the junction of Lodge Lane/B2112 New Road. This location has been the site of several accidents.

17/57.2 **Verbal update** (Sally Booker/Cllr Ian Weir) Sally Booker informed the Committee that she was to attend a meeting with Richard Speller (WSSC Highways), alongside Cllr Ian Weir and County Councillor Kirsty Lord. SB would raise the above points at the meeting.

SB also clarified to the Committee that the Works Programme as included on Appendix 2 of the agenda had been finalised and was going through. However there are several further matters that had been previously raised by the Traffic and Parking Group which have not been included in this phase of works. Therefore the group are in the process of putting together a second phase of proposals to improve traffic and parking in Hassocks and Keymer. These include:

Further parking restrictions

A mini roundabout at Grand Avenue/Keymer Road

Single yellow lines on sections of Dale Avenue

Bollards on pavement at the corner of the Parklands Road/Keymer Road junction

Reduction of pavement width along Keymer Road

These proposals would require a further Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) and the full cost of all processes in order to obtain an Order is in the region of £10,000. SB informed the Committee that WSSC would potentially cover £2,000 of the overall cost and West Sussex County Councillor Kirsty Lord believed that £5,000

could be made available from WSCC S106 money. Therefore, assuming these funds were confirmed, SB asked if the Committee would consider recommending a contribution from Hassocks Parish Council to cover the £3,000 shortfall. This request was considered by the Committee.

- 17/57.3 It was **RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND** to Full Council that Hassocks Parish Council make available a maximum of £3,000 to support the application for a second Traffic Regulation Order in Hassocks. Subject to confirmation of the additional funding from West Sussex Council.

The Parish Clerk requested additional information about the application in order to write a report for Full Council.

A brief discussion took place regarding the traffic implications of the Mid Sussex District Plan proposed modification to allow a 500 dwelling development North of Clayton Mills. It was agreed that if the development were to be approved, the creation of a link road, running under the railway east to west, between London Road and Ockley Lane, would be needed. It was also fully agreed that such a road should be built prior to the commencement of any development.

- 17/57.4 **SID Locations.** Members were invited to consider four potential locations for the siting of a temporary Speed Indicator Device (SID) in Hassocks. A number of potential sites had been identified at the recent Full Council Meeting held on 12 September 2017, and it had been agreed that the G&E Committee would determine the final locations.

The potential sites for consideration were Underhill Lane/Lodge Lane junction, Ockley Lane/Keymer Road, Grand Avenue, Brighton Road, B2112, A273 and Hurst Road. Each location was considered and it was agreed that only sites with a 30 mph speed limit would be considered. There was some uncertainty as to whether the permanent Speed Indicator Devices located around the village recorded data, however the general consensus was that recording did not occur.

- 17/57.5 After some discussion the **AGREED** locations for the temporary Speed Indicator Device were confirmed as:

1. From the mini roundabout on Grand Avenue heading east towards the Thatched Inn.
2. On the Brighton Road next to Sandy Lane.
3. On Hurst Road, near Talbot Field heading west towards Hurstpierpoint.

- GE17/58 ADASTRA BOWLS CLUB.** Members were asked to note the purchase of materials for Autumn maintenance of the Adastra Bowling Green totalling £738.20 plus VAT. This was noted.

Members were invited to approve a request for the purchase of materials for Spring maintenance on the Adastra Bowling Green totalling £810.80 plus VAT. (Details were provided in Appendix 4 of the agenda).

17/58.1 It was **RESOLVED** to approve the purchase of material for the Spring maintenance of the Adastra Bowling Green at a cost of £810.80 plus VAT.

GE17/59 ADASTR PARK. TREE MAINTENANCE. Members were invited to consider and approve a request to carry out tree maintenance to overhanging trees along the western border of the south field in Adastra Park at a cost of £550.00. After a brief discussion

17/59.1 It was **RESOLVED** to approve the removal of overhanging branches from trees situated alongside buildings in the South Field of Adastra Park, to be carried out by James Wilson Tree Surgery at a cost of £550.00 (exclusive of VAT). To be taken from the Adastra Park Tree Maintenance Budget.

The Clerk also informed Members that a further report was to follow at the next G&E meeting regarding tree work in the Adastra Park Garden of Remembrance.

GE17/60 FLORAL DISPLAYS. Members were invited to approve the continuation of the hanging basket scheme and the lamp column displays for 2018 by Greenscene Landscapes.

17/60.1 It was **RESOLVED** to approve the continuation of the hanging basket scheme for 2018 up to 31 baskets by Greenscene Landscapes, as per the Terms and Conditions previously agreed.

17/60.2 It was **RESOLVED** to approve the continuation of the lamp column floral displays in 2018 and 2019, by Greenscene Landscapes at a total cost of £1204.07 plus VAT and for 2019 £1240.19 plus VAT.

GE17/61 ADASTR PARK. RAIN GARDEN. Following previous presentations from HKD Transition, Hassocks Amenity Association (HAA) and the Ouse and Adur Rivers Trust (OART) on potential Flood Management schemes in Adastra Park. Members were invited by the above groups to consider whether the Committee was in a position to confirm final approval for the installation of a rain garden in the south west corner of Adastra Park.

Members reviewed the information provided and considered the proposal for the installation of a rain garden. Some concern was raised over the suggested location with regard to the risk of water being directed towards the football pitches. However it was noted that this location had been carefully surveyed and selected by experts in this field and therefore if this was a potential risk it would have been noted. Members agreed that Hassocks Parish Council supported the installation of Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDS) and therefore

17/61.1 It was **RESOLVED** to approve the installation of a rain garden in the proposed location in the South West corner of Adastra Park.

17/61.2 It was also **AGREED** to elect a small working party with delegated responsibility. The working party would consider finer details and design, and liaise with the SUDS team to enable the project to progress smoothly and within an expected timeframe. The working party would report back to the G&E Committee.

Cllrs Frances Gaudencio, Jane Baker, and Chris Hobbs agreed to be on the working party with Cllr Ian Weir as a reserve member.

GE17/62 ADASTRA SKATEPARK AND PLAY FACILITIES. Verbal update (Parish Clerk). The Parish Clerk informed the committee that he had been in contact with an Officer from a nearby large Local Authority which has responsibility for several very large open spaces and parks. The Authority is in the process of changing its approach to redeveloping play areas and is moving away from carrying out widespread public consultations due to having in-house specialists with extensive expertise in the area. Unfortunately the Authority was not in a position to provide direct assistance with the plans for Adastra Park, however offered to share examples of specialist plans which could be used for guidance. The use of specialist landscape architects was also recommended. The Parish Clerk noted that HPC still had the option of using the original consultants who had carried out the initial review of the Park.

The Clerk noted that to date there had not been a clear agreement from Members as to the size and scale of any potential Park re-development. The current working drafts of the Business Plan show a clear difference of focus between Members and this needs to be resolved in order to allow for future budgeting and planning.

Members were disappointed that it had not been possible to make more progress with this project. Cllr Chris Hobbs proposed that the Plan could be developed internally initially, using a 'shopping list' style approach as a basis, which could then be used to build a more detailed long term plan guided by cost and priorities.

An in depth discussion took place and concern was expressed over the lack of progress in providing a skate park. It was agreed that a skate park should still feature as part of the plan, however it was also noted that the Council has subsequently been made aware of a range of differing views from residents and these need to be considered alongside a skate park.

The danger of overdeveloping the park was raised as a potential risk, and therefore something that needed to be borne in mind with any proposed development.

17/62.1 After further discussion it was **AGREED** that a working party would be created to look at various options for developing Adastra Park and that a draft proposal would be drawn up and presented to the G&E Committee at its meeting in December. Cllrs Jane Baker, Frances Gaudencio, Chris Hobbs and Bill Hatton volunteered to be on the working party in the first instance, and that an invitation was open to any other Councillor who expressed an interest in joining this group.

GE17/63 DRAFT BUSINESS PLAN. Members had received a copy of a draft Business Plan with suggested amendments by Cllr Peter Gibbons. These amendments were reviewed and adjusted in agreement with the Committee.

GE17/64 URGENT MATTERS at the discretion of the Chairman for noting and/or inclusion on a future agenda. There were no urgent matters.

GE17/65 DATE OF NEXT MEETING. Thursday 2 November 2017 at 7.30pm.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 9.45 pm.

SignedChairman

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