

HASSOCKS PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the **Parish Council** held on 9th January 2018
at 7.30pm in the Parish Centre, Adastra Park, Hassocks.

Attendees: Parish Councillors Ian Weir (Chair), Nick Owens, Peter Gibbons, Georgia Cheshire, Jane Baker, Bill Hatton, Leslie Campbell, Darryl Sinclair, and Kate Bailey (arrived at 7.46).

Parish Clerk: Ian Cumberworth

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

MINUTES

PC17/124 APOLOGIES

Cllrs Judith Foot, Bill Hatton and Victoria Standfast

PC17/125 DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

Disclosure by Councillors of personal interests in matters on the agenda, Cllr Sue Hatton disclosed an interest in item 9.2 in relation to Downlands School Amphitheatre project.

PC17/126 MINUTES

The minutes of the Council meeting held on the 12th December were accepted as a true and accurate record of the meetings.

PC17/127 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were 3 Members of the public present who observed proceedings. One member of the public requested the Council consider options to address the issue of flooding on some sections of the footpaths within the park.

PC17/128 MINUTES

To accept the following Minutes.

To agree the minutes of the Planning Committee 11th December 2017 (agreed) and 2nd January 2018 (for noting).

PC17/129 FINANCE

The Finance report and payments totalling £22,805.66 for the period ending 30th November 2017 were approved.

PC17/130 Reports

- 130.1 District Councillors reports: - Cllr Gordon Marples (GM) apologised for not being able to attend recent meetings. GM updated members on the District Plan hearing scheduled for the 5th February 2018 and expressed his personal view that Jonathan Bore had taken the right steps to further consider the Hassocks site. GM went onto say that Mayfield Towns had managed to secure a meeting with Homes England where both Horsham District Council and Mid Sussex District Council will also be attending to express their views on Mayfields proposals.

A meeting is scheduled to be held this Friday to discuss (12/01) the various highways initiatives that are currently progressing within the parish.

GM informed Members that the proposed development of East Grinstead centre had begun and good progress is also being made with the regeneration of Burgess Hill.

GM also provided an update on the ongoing issue of fly tipping in London Road and he has been in recent contact with WSCC Highways with a view to achieving a solution to resolve this problem in the near future.

Cllr Sue Hatton (MSDC) indicated to members that she had reserved a seat at the forthcoming District Plan hearing and advised any other interested members would also need to as space will be limited. Cllr Hatton sought clarification of the venue for the Highways initiatives meeting being held on Friday. It was confirmed the venue would be the Parish offices.

Cllr Michelle Binks arrived at 7.45 indicated that she had no further points to raise:

- 130.2 County Councillor report: no report submitted

- 130.3 Rail matters – Cllr Campbell informed Members that he had nothing to report.

Cllr Gibbons informed Members that 184 trains had been cancelled in December of which 137 were cancelled outright and a further 47 failed to stop Overall the Annual figure is 2,901 cancelled of which 2271 failed to run and 630 ran but failed to stop. Cllr Gibbons indicated that although the level of cancellations had improved in 2017/18 for this year to date this equates to 7.94 trains cancelled each day as opposed to 13.31 trains per day for 2016/17 however the level of service remains unsatisfactory. Members debated the issue and discussed ways of how the Council could make representations expressing their dissatisfaction with ongoing service provision. Members felt it was important to engage with Catherine Cassidy from the rail group prior to making any representations. Members **RESOLVED** that Cllr Peter Gibbons and the Clerk would draft a letter to Nick Herbert (MP) setting out Hassocks Parish Councils views requesting that they are raised with the appropriate minister.

- 130.4 Youth Initiatives- Cllr Bailey confirmed that a club continues to be operated from the Adastra Park Pavilion on Friday evenings by a third party organisation who propose to continue to do so subject to them securing further funding. The Clerk indicated he understood ongoing discussions were taking place with WSCC to see whether they could secure further funding.
- 130.5 Police matters – Cllr Bailey updated members that the village has some ongoing anti-social groups which the police are currently actively dealing with.
- 130.6 Report from Councillors on meetings of outside bodies where the Council is represented-.none

PC17/131 CHAIRMANS REPORT –.

Cllr Ian Weir informed Members that he had nothing to report.

PC17/132 CLERK'S REPORT

- 132.1 **2017/18 WSCC Consultation Public Rights of Way.** The Clerk introduced a paper inviting members to consider whether Hassocks Parish Council wished to formally respond to this consultation. Members were informed that the Clerk was not able to advise of the content of the consultation as it could only be accessed online by completing a questionnaire. Members raised a number of concerns regarding Public Footpaths within the Parish and

RESOLVED to nominate three members Cllr Campbell, Cllr Cheshire and Cllr Weir to review the documents and liaise with the Clerk to formulate a response on behalf of Hassocks Parish Council.

- 132.2 **Earmarked Reserves** this report set out the current identified priority projects to be delivered from the Councils reserves which have been informed by the Business Plan. In light of Members decision regarding the precept for the forthcoming year it had realised a further £75,000 to be allocated towards existing projects or other priorities identified as part of the Business planning process which to date do not have any funding allocated. Members were also invited to consider reviewing the timing of some of the initiatives as at present all are identified to be delivered in 2018/19. The timing of the need for the funding would also inform potential investment decisions. Members discussed this and the Clerk acknowledged that although the investment return would be modest the main benefit would be to enable the Council to distribute its finances with a number of different financial institutions and therefore spread some of the risks. Members stated they were happy to be guided by the Clerk on the timings of some of these projects and that rather than define a specific year for each project the fund should just be identified as Earmarked Reserves and drawn down as and when the project is scheduled for delivery. Members then discussed potential options regarding the allocation of the additional £75,000 and in particular how it could be utilised

to support the Business Plan. The Clerk requested that Members consider establishing a Repairs fund to cover future replacements/repairs which to date are being covered by ad hoc expenditure from General Reserves. Members felt this would be a prudent approach. Members held a detailed discussion exploring a number of options regarding the allocation of the additional funds to the priorities of the Council.

RESOLVED (i) to allow the Clerk to determine the phasing of EMR schemes in consultation with Members and (ii) To allocate the £75,000 as follows - £15,000 Repairs fund, £8,000 to support land transfers legal costs in relation to land transfers in respect of section 106 agreements and the balance of £53,000 towards the Parks project.

132.3 Paperless Notification of Planning Applications from Mid Sussex District Council This report updated Members that the laptop had been acquired and that the Council was awaiting delivery. Although this was primarily acquired to enable the Planning Committee to view papers when MSDC cease to supply paper copies of plans to the Parish Council it would also be used as a backup machine to improve the resilience of the IT infrastructure.

It is proposed that the operation of the laptop and the use of the planning portal system will be trialled prior to going 'live', in a Planning Committee meeting to ensure any glitches are resolved. It is understood MSDC intention is to go live fully with this new arrangement at the end of March. The laptop was secured within the allocated budget therefore no requirement was needed to meet costs from General Reserves.

132.4 Main Modifications: DP9b: Strategic Allocation to the north of Clayton Mills Hassocks. Members were advised that the Council had received notification of a further half day hearing to be heard on the 5th February which has been set aside to specifically consider this site. The NPWG are due to consider this item on the 11th February 2018 and to determine the Councils representatives at the forthcoming hearing.

PC17/133 URGENT MATTERS AT THE DISCRETION OF THE CHAIRMAN for noting and/or inclusion on a future agenda.

The Clerk informed members that he had just received Cllr Justine Fishers resignation, members requested that the Council would like to put on record their thanks for all the hard work that Cllr Fisher undertook whilst on the Council. The Clerk confirmed that at present he had not received any expressions of interest in relation to the current vacancy.

PC17/134 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

To note that the date of the next Council meeting is **Tuesday 13th February 2018 at 7.30pm.**