

HASSOCKS PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the **Parish Council** held on 10th April 2018
at 7.30pm in the Parish Centre, Adastra Park, Hassocks.

Attendees: Parish Councillors Ian Weir (Chair), Nick Owens, Peter Gibbons, Jane Baker, Leslie Campbell, Darryl Sinclair, Kate Bailey, Victoria Standfast, Frances Gaudencio, Mark Higgins and Emma Wood

Parish Clerk: Ian Cumberworth

Visiting Member: Michelle Binks (District Councillor)
Gordon Marples, (District Councillor) apologies
Kirsty Lord (County Councillor) – not present

MINUTES

PC17/158 APOLOGIES

Cllrs Judith Foot, Georgia Cheshire, Bill Hatton and Sue Hatton

PC17/159 DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

Disclosure by Councillors of personal interests in matters on the agenda.
None

Cllr Gibbons declared an interest in item 9.4 as a trustee of Hassocks amenity association (HAA).

PC17/160 MINUTES

The minutes of the Council meeting held on the 13th March 2018 were accepted as a true and accurate record of the meeting subject to the amendment that Cllr Georgia Cheshire was recorded as present whereas her apologies had been received and she was not present at this meeting.

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PC17/161 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was 1 Member of the public present who observed proceedings.

PC17/162 MINUTES

To accept the following Minutes.

Planning Committee 26th March 2018 (for noting), and Grounds & Environment Committee 29th March 2018 (for noting).

PC17/163 FINANCE

The Finance report and payments totalling £14,816.87 for the period ending 28th February 2018 were approved.

PC17/164 Reports

- 164.1 District Councillors reports: - Cllr Michelle Binks (MB) informed members that the District Plan was formally adopted by Mid Sussex District Council on 28th March 2018.

MB has organised a further public meeting on the 18th April at the Friars Oak Public House at 19.30 to progress potential improvements to the Belmont Park.

Currently in the process of organising with Downlands School and HKD a cycle bus from Hurstpierpoint on the 24th May 2018 in support of walk to school week.

MB raised the issue of some land adjoining the scout hut that goes south towards the stream which is believed to be owned by Hassocks Parish Council as there may be opportunities where the scout group could assist in undertaking some conservation work in this area but further investigation will be required at this stage.

MB confirmed that she had recently attended some training on the implications of the new Data Protection legislation.

- 164.2 County Councillor report: no report submitted.

- 164.3 Rail matters – Cllr Gibbons informed Members that with the introduction of the new rail timetable Hassocks will no longer be served by Southern during peak hours. This service will now be provided by Gatwick Express and Thameslink. The new timetable will result in a slightly earlier train service from Hassocks and a later service returning from London. Members discussed various aspects of the new timetable and it was observed that Downlands had raised concerns that trains in the morning prior to school hours will no longer stop at Wivelsfield which will mean any pupils currently using this service will have to travel to Burgess Hill to pick up a connection. Trains will stop in the afternoon after school hours.

A general discussion took place around the service being provided. Cllr Gibbons indicated that Office Regulator reports a decrease in train journeys from Hassocks of 7.28% in 2016/17

At a previous meeting Members resolved (**PC/17/130.3**) that the Council write to Nick Herbert MP expressing the Council's dissatisfaction of the level of ongoing service, the Clerk was asked whether we had received a formal response yet. The Clerk indicated we had received an initial acknowledgement but we had not yet received a formal response. Members requested the Clerk follow this up with Nick Herbert's office.

- 164.4 Youth Initiatives - Cllr Bailey confirmed that the scheduled meeting was cancelled and has been rearranged.

164.5 Police matters – Cllr Bailey updated members that the village continues to have some ongoing anti-social groups which the police are currently actively dealing with.

164.6 Report from Councillors on meetings of outside bodies where the Council is represented-

Cllr Weir informed members that he recently attended a meeting of the Burgess Hill Strategy Group. The role of the group is to oversee the delivery of a 20 year project to deliver what they say is the most ambitious programme in the sub regions. The initiative is proposing to deliver the following key objectives.

- 15,000 jobs in the high value sector
- Transform the town centre
- Improve public transport
- Installation of full fibre infrastructure, this would include provision on new strategic sites.
- £60 M public sector funding for infrastructure such as dualling the A2300, expansion of Triangle Leisure Centre and sewage works improvements together with £990M private sector funding for housing, science park and other infrastructure.

Hassocks Parish Council are normally represented by Cllr Weir and Cllr (B) Hatton at this forum. This meeting focused very much on the vision, when detailed packages come forward for consideration we may be able to influence some of the benefits for the residents of Hassocks.

PC17/165 CHAIRMANS REPORT

Cllr Ian Weir informed Members that he had been invited to attend the opening event for the Hassocks Community Organisation. A number of other members also confirmed they had received a similar invite.

PC17/166 CLERK'S REPORT

166.1 **Meeting Schedule 2018/19.** The Clerk introduced the paper in Appendix 2 setting out the proposed meeting programme for the new Municipal year. Attention was drawn to a Grounds & Environment Committee meeting listed to be held on the 27th December which should have been omitted from the document. Members were invited to comment on the proposed dates and suggest any amendments. Members discussed the proposed schedule and subject to the amendment regarding the Grounds & Environment meeting in December **RESOLVED** to approve the proposed timetable of meetings for 2018/19

166.2 **Hassocks Community Organisation** Members were invited to consider nominating representative(s) of the Council to be represented on the newly formed groups Committee. The Clerk informed members that although Cllr Cheshire was not present at tonight's meeting she had previously contacted him and indicated that she would be keen to be considered for this role. Members were happy to nominate Cllr Cheshire and it was also felt prudent to have a second representative so that in the event one member was unable to attend the other would step in. Cllr Gaudencio

indicated that she would be prepared to fulfil this role. Members voted on the respective nominations and **RESOLVED** that Cllr Georgia Cheshire be nominated as representative for the Council and that Cllr Frances Gaudencio would fulfil this role in her absence.

166.3 **Annual Meeting** Members views were sought on the format they wished the meeting to take this year and whether they wished to vary it from last year. After careful consideration members felt that last year's model should be adopted however it was **AGREED** that the format of the 2018/19 Annual Meeting will be considered by Policy Resources & Communications Committee later in the year

166.4 **Land West of London Road, Hassocks DM/17/4307** – Members were invited to note the proposed change in the number of properties (Appendix 3) to be constructed on London Road and indicate whether they wish to make any further comments. Members were informed that the Parish had previously considered the original application at Planning Committee and had opposed the development. Cllr Nick Owen confirmed that some but not all of his Committees concerns had been acknowledged. Members noted the amendment and **AGREED** that the Council had already submitted sufficient representations on this development .

166.5 **Adastra Park Masterplan** – Members were requested to note that the Grounds & Environment Committee agreed to hold a consultation/engagement in Adastra Park on the 7th May 2018 to coincide with the May Day event. This will be the first stage of consultation.

166.6 **Temporary Road Closure – Farnham Avenue 9th June 2018 – Big Lunch Party** – Members were requested to consider the attached application set out in appendix 4 and indicate whether they wished to make any representations. Members were satisfied with the application and **AGREED** not to make any representations.

166.7 **Insurance** – The Clerk introduced a report seeking member's views on the proposed approach to taking the insurance contract to market. The Council had previously extended its current contract by one year however the intention now was to market test this contract. Members were requested to consider the proposal to use a broker Came & Company who specialise in Parish/Town council insurance provision to seek quotations on behalf of the Council. Alongside this the Council would also invite our existing provider to submit a competitive quote. It was proposed that the Council award the contract for a 3 year period. When assessing the results of the exercise in considering the successful policy the Council should consider not only the price but the level of cover being provided. Cllr Baker sought clarification on whether the policy would cover volunteers. The Clerk informed members that it is understood that Came and Company policies would be all encompassing and allow the Council to use volunteers without additional premium whereas our existing provider may require additional premium as it does not form part of their standard policy.

Members **AGREED** to the proposed approach to market test insurance provision and to enter into a 3 year term arrangement.

PC17/167 URGENT MATTERS AT THE DISCRETION OF THE CHAIRMAN two items were raised one for noting the other for inclusion in a future agenda.

(for noting) members were informed that the published minutes of Full Council 9th January 2018 currently state Cllr Gaudencio as being absent, this should be amended as Cllr Gaudencio was present at this meeting and is evidenced by the signed attendance register.

(future agenda) The Council has recently received an update to the MSDC London Bridge protocol which sets out the actions to be taken in the event a member of the Royal family passing away. Within this document there are some suggested arrangements Parishes may wish to consider, including adopting a book of remembrance. Members will be asked to formally consider whether they wish Hassocks Parish Council to adopt the relevant elements relating to Parish Councils. Members welcomed the opportunity to do so and will consider this formally at the next full council meeting.

PC17/168 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

To note that the date of the next Council meeting is **Tuesday 8th May 2018 at 7.30pm** which will follow the **Annual Parish meeting at 7.00pm.**