

HASSOCKS PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the **Parish Council** held on 13th November 2018
at 7.30pm in the Parish Centre, Adastra Park, Hassocks.

Attendees: Parish Councillors Ian Weir (Chair), Peter Gibbons, Kate Bailey, Jane Baker, Judith Foot, Bill Hatton, Leslie Campbell, Emma Wood, Sue Hatton, Georgia Cheshire, Mark Higgins, Frances Gaudencio, Victoria Standfast and Nick Owens.

Parish Clerk: Ian Cumberworth

Visiting Member: Michelle Binks (District Councillor)

MINUTES

PC18/52 APOLOGIES

Gordon Marples (District Councillor)
Kirsty Lord (County Councillor)

PC18/53 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

PC18/54 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on the 9th October 2018 were accepted as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

PC18/55 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was 1 member of the public present who did not wish to speak but observed proceedings.

PC18/56 MINUTES

To accept the following Minutes.

To note the minutes of the Planning Committee 22nd October 2018

To note the minutes of Grounds and Environment Committee 25th October 2018.

To agree the minutes of the Neighbourhood Plan Working Group for 4th October 2018 and to note the minutes for 1st November 2018

PC18/57 FINANCE

Members considered the finance reports and the supporting bank statements and reviewed the payment list .The Finance report and payments totalling **£19,698.04** for the period ending 30th September were considered and approved.

PC18/58 Reports

58.1 District Councillors reports: - Cllr Sue Hatton informed members that she had recently attended an AQMA meeting with Cllr Binks and Cllr Lord in connection with Stonepound crossroads. The available figures related to 2016/17 which showed an improvement in air quality but there is still some way to go before it meets the required levels. Some concerns were raised by members present at this meeting that future readings will reflect the increase in vehicle movements due to the significant level of current and proposed development scheduled along London Road.

Cllr Hatton (SH) indicated that District Council members attended the Remembrance parade on Sunday and laid a wreath.

SH confirmed that the District Councillors have a pre-application meeting on 16 November to discuss the proposed Golf course / clubhouse and course redesign.

Cllr Michelle Binks (MB) informed members that a meeting will be held in December of the WSCC Cycle forum where there will be an opportunity to raise issues/suggestions regarding cycle ways in Hassocks and agreed to supply details to Parish Councillors if they also wished to attend.

MB indicated that Bellway are about to submit a full application for the golf course site in the near future which will entail a 2 year build likely to commence in February 2019 subject to planning approval.

Ongoing discussions have been held with residents adjoining the Saxon Mills development site (formerly known as Ham Fields) and the contractor (Barretts) have recently held a resident liaison meeting to consider residents' concerns.

MSDC have recently ratified their Commercial Investments policy.

(MB) informed members that 'The Remembrance Beacon' event took place of Sunday evening (11th November) which was really well supported and went well; it was estimated that around 200 people were in attendance and the weather remained fine throughout the duration of the event.

58.2 County Councillor – Kirsty Lord (KL) had sent her apologies but provided a brief paper for the Clerk to read out.

KL reminded Members that WSCC were currently running a bus user survey/consultation which includes the 33, 270 and 272 services. It closes

on the 18th November and requested Members to share this with residents. The Clerk informed Members that this has been previously posted on the Councils website, posters displayed on notice boards and flyers placed in the parish offices for the public.

KL also attended the AQMA meeting with District Councillors S Hatton and Cllr Binks.

KL has requested WSCC to explore options on improving pedestrian crossing at Stonepound, specifically north-south crossing. Due to the complexities of the site County have been requested to look at pedestrian safety in the broader area including issues of speeding on the A273 and the need for a pedestrian crossing at Station approach and South Bank and ensuring ease of access to the different bus stops around the Stonepound crossroads. KL sought a member of the Parish Council to work alongside her on this project.

Members were extremely supportive of this initiative and Cllr Gaudencio indicated that she would be happy to work with Cllr Lord on this project. Members confirmed they were happy for this proposal.

- 58.3 Rail matters – PG informed Members that in October there were 573 cancellations of which 501 either never ran or failed to pass through Hassocks and 72 that should have stopped but didn't.

Overall 5,286 trains have been cancelled from the 1st January to 31st October 2018 and no trains have run on 18 days within this period due to engineering works

- 58.4 Youth Initiatives - Cllr Bailey updated Members that Bob Kennard who was previously associated with the Beacon centre had obtained some further funding for Youth initiatives. KB has provided contact details of organisations providing youth provision within the parish to facilitate the distribution of this funding.

- 58.5 Police matters – Cllr Bailey informed members that Sussex Police are currently undergoing a significant recruitment programme (circa 200 additional officers) which has been funded by the previous increase in the police precept that forms part of residents Council Tax bill.

- 58.6 Report from Councillors on meetings of outside bodies where the Council is represented - Cllr Frances Gaudencio attended the Mid Sussex Association of Local Councils (MSALC). Reservations were expressed by representatives at that meeting regarding the current SHELAA (Strategic Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment) and the effect on those parish councils with made Neighbourhood plans. Representatives at the meeting raised concerns that the process undermined localism and the ability to shape parishes via the planning process. With elections scheduled for next year the group also discussed ways of attracting and retaining new council members, most expressed the view that single issues invariably encouraged people to join as members.

Cllr Ian Weir (IW) recently attended a business breakfast meeting at Downlands School with local business representatives where they heard a presentation on management styles.

The purpose of the meeting was to also to provide opportunities to network and make local businesses aware of opportunities to support activities and initiatives at the school (e.g. Work Placements).

(IW) confirmed that he along with Cllr Cheshire represented the Parish Council at the Remembrance Parade, Service and Wreath Laying on Sunday and that the Parade stopped off at Villa Adastra to sing Happy Birthday to Dilys Armistice Fox who was born on Armistice Day. He attended the Beacon event that evening which he thought was excellent and pleasantly surprised how well attended the event was.

PC18/59 CHAIRMANS REPORT – none

PC18/60 CLERK'S REPORT

60.1 SECTION 106 GRANT AGREEMENT MSDC

Members were reminded that earlier in the year the Council had been successful in securing £75,000 towards the skate park project from MSDC. To enable the Council to access these funds MSDC have requested Hassocks Parish Council enter into a standard agreement that sets out various conditions of funding.

For the Council to enter into this agreement Standing Orders require that firstly the Council pass a resolution authorising the Council to enter into the agreement and secondly to nominate two members to sign the agreement on behalf of the Council.

Members **RESOLVED** that in accordance Standing Order 37(a): *Sealing of Documents 37(a) a document shall not be sealed on behalf of the Council unless its sealing has been authorised by resolution and 37(b) any two members of the Council named in a resolution moved under the provisions of paragraph (a) of this Order may seal.* - That Cllr Ian Weir and Cllr Jane Baker be authorised to enter into the agreement and to sign and seal the agreement on behalf of the Council.

60.2 ADASTRA PARK –FLINT WALL

Members were advised that a section of the retaining boundary wall adjoining a public footpath has developed a significant bulge causing the wall to split. The Clerk therefore sought expert advice as to the stability of this section of wall. Although the Council were informed that the wall is not in imminent danger of collapse it was suggested that it would be prudent to undertake a repair. The Council were advised that any repair undertaken should be carried out using lime mortar which was the original construction material used when the wall was first built.

Members were therefore requested to consider commissioning a repair to the affected 5 metre stretch of wall, they were informed that a number of

quotes have been sought based on using lime mortar. Those received to date would indicate that the Council would need to set aside up to £2,200.

The Clerk advised Members that if they were minded to approve the repair it is proposed that up to £1,750 could be funded from the Adastra Park repairs budget (180/4110) with the balance of £450 funded from general reserves.

Members discussed the proposal and felt it was important to use the original material (lime mortar) in any repair to retain the integrity of the wall and that in light of its proximity to a public footpath repairs should be commissioned.

Members therefore **RESOLVED** to authorise the Clerk to enter into a contract with an appropriately skilled contractor to undertake these remedial works up to a maximum value of £2,200 to be funded from the Adastra Park Repairs fund and general reserves.

60.3 **INVESTMENT POLICY (Appendix 2)**

The Policy had previously been considered and recommended for approval by the Policy Resources & Communications Committee (PRC18/23.3). The document sets out the proposed governance framework for banking and investments which should be incorporated within our Standing Orders/Financial Regulations.

Council were requested to approve the incorporation of the Investment Policy into the Council's Standing Orders.

RESOLVED to formally adopt the Investment Policy and to incorporate within the Council's Standing Orders/Financial Regulations.

60.4 **GRANTS**

Members were informed that the Council had received letters of thanks from Jack & Jill playgroup and the Hassocks Community Speed Watch group.

60.5 **STAIRLIFT**

Members were informed that the current stair lift was installed in the Parish offices in excess of 10 years ago; although regularly serviced in the last few years it has developed an intermittent fault which has not been possible to fully resolve despite a number of companies attempting to repair, therefore the chair is currently unreliable.

It has been subsequently established that the fixing attaching the chair to the running rail has developed a hairline crack.

The original manufacturer is no longer trading and it is understood that there is no compatible chair on the market that can operate on the existing running track. The Council have been advised that they would be required to replace the whole system (track and seat). A quote has

been obtained from the Council's service provider who have indicated that it would cost £4,365 (net).

Members were informed that the running rail mechanism would be 'bespoke' specifically for the parish offices stairwell.

Members were therefore requested to consider this proposal.

The Clerk informed Members that last year the Council had set aside £15,000 in a repair fund to cover these sorts of eventualities within its earmarked reserves therefore funds were available to the Council.

Members were therefore requested to consider the proposed replacement and authorise the Clerk to accept the quotation with the cost being met from earmarked reserves (repair & renewal fund).

Members were fully supportive of the replacement of the Chair as it was felt important that meetings should be accessible to all. They sought clarification on warranties, weight restrictions and whether the price included making good after the removal of the existing system e.g. holes in wall and existing carpet. The Clerk provided further information and confirmed that the quote did not cover making good after the removal of the old system. Members therefore felt it appropriate to also make provision to make good the affected areas after installation.

Members therefore **RESOLVED** to approve the replacement of the chair lift in the sum of £4,365 (net) and authorise the Clerk to expend up to a maximum of £5,000 net in total to include the cost of any making good costs. The cost of this to be funded from the Repairs and Renewals fund held in Earmarked Reserves.

PC18/61 URGENT MATTERS AT THE DISCRETION OF THE CHAIRMAN for noting and/or inclusion on a future agenda.

There were none.

PC18/62 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

To note that the date of the next Council meeting is **Tuesday 11th December 2018 at 7.30pm.**