

## HASSOCKS PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the **Parish Council** held on 9<sup>th</sup> July 2019  
at 7.30pm in the Parish Centre, Adastra Park, Hassocks.

Attendees: Parish Councillors Ian Weir (Chair), Sue Hatton, Peter Gibbons, Bill Hatton, Leslie Campbell, Frank Rylance , Frances Gaudencio, and Bob Booker

Parish Clerk: Ian Cumberworth

### MINUTES

#### **PC19/59 APOLOGIES**

Cllr Jane Baker  
Cllr Georgia Cheshire  
Cllr David Hammond

District Councillor Alexander Sparasci and County Councillor Kirsty Lord

Absent without apologies Cllr Kate Bailey, Cllr Nick Owens

#### **PC19/60 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.

#### **PC19/61 MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on the 11<sup>th</sup> June 2019 were accepted as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

#### **PC19/62 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

There were two members of the public present who observed proceedings but did not wish to speak.

#### **PC19/63 MINUTES**

To accept the following Minutes:

To accept the Planning Committee minutes for the 10 June 2019 and to note the minutes for 1 July 2019.

To note the minutes of the Policy Resources & Communications Committee for the 18 June 2019.

To note the minutes of the Grounds & Environment Committee for the 27 June 2019.

## **PC19/64 FINANCE**

Members considered the finance reports and the supporting bank statements and reviewed the payment list. The Finance report and payments totalling **£76,372.13** for the period ending 30th May 2019 were considered. Cllr Frank Rylance sought clarification on a payment to Dowsett Mayhew in respect of the Neighbourhood Plan. Cllr Bill Hatton (BH) informed members that a significant amount of work has been ongoing in respect of the Neighbourhood Plan with the support of our Planning consultant. This has involved the compilation of the Regulation 15 Plan and all its extensive supporting evidence and the attendance of various meetings. The plan has now been submitted to MSDC to go out for consultation. BH expressed the view that he felt that the Council had received exceptional support from the consultant and it was important that professional advice was used in pulling the plan together. Cllr Rylance thanked BH for his explanation and was satisfied with the response.

## **PC19/65 Reports**

### **65.1 District Councillors reports: -**

Cllr Sue Hatton (SH) informed members of the changes to MSDC Cabinet: Johnathan Ashe Edwards (Leader) (Judy Llewellyn Burke, Vice Leader) Stephen Hillier as Cabinet Member for Economic Growth and John Belsey as Cabinet Member for the Environment.

SH indicated that there were three items for information on the agenda, for a recent Council meeting regarding

Haywards Heath College - which will be re-opened in 2020 and run by Chichester College Group.

Environment and Climate Change - how the Council are contributing to doing something about it

Burgess Hill Growth Area - New River Retail etc. are modifying the plans to take account of changes to retail demand and the project was going ahead.

Mayfield Development: a new application will be forthcoming, although this does not fall within Mid Sussex but adjoining Horsham District Council's boundary. Parish Councils directly affected by this potential development have formed a Group to discuss the impact on them in the event of the application being approved; SH indicated that from Hassocks perspective consideration might like to be given as to whether Hassocks PC wish to be represented on this group particularly in regard to the impact on the highway infrastructure and routes to our station It is thought that Hassocks Station would be the preferred rail route from the new development therefore this could impact on parking within the village.

Members considered this item and concluded that the Council would wish to be represented on this group - however it was acknowledged that this was still in the very early stages therefore the Council would need to consider the matter in more detail in September. All Members voted in favour that in principal they would wish to be involved within this group of parishes and that at a later point determine the role and member representation. It is likely once more detail is obtained that the matter would be considered by the Planning Committee initially.

It was agreed that contact would be made with the group to express our interest in joining them to ensure we are included on future circulation lists. This is to be co-ordinated by the Clerk

Goddards Green sewerage plant - £10.9 M pounds is being put into upgrading the facility with funding from a wide range of sources.

MSDC Councillors have also recently attended meetings with constituents re: worries about the bund south of the 500 strategic site.

Ongoing problems at Clayton Rec are due to be discussed at a meeting to be held with MSDC representatives and hopefully Parish Councillor Baker later this week to discuss the issues. In addition SH attended a meeting on site at Friars Oak with representatives from WSCC highways and Cllr K Lord to discuss highways issues re the new application for Friars Oak Field.

## 65.2 **County Councillor report –**

Stonepound - the proposed roadworks plan is now finalised with Hurst Rd closing on the 24th July for the duration of the summer holidays rather than the original proposed 14 weeks.

Buses will be diverted - 33 timetable is now available and we await the Metro bus route. The weekly X3 will not run from Hassocks to Holmbush therefore residents will need to connect at Hurstpierpoint or Burgess Hill. KL had spoken to the practice manager at the doctor's surgery to ensure they are fully briefed.

Delays will be expected throughout the autumn as work continues at Stonepound until November and then at the London Rd crossing from November to January 2020.

KL has requested details of the impact on Stonepound Rd, Stanford Ave, Station Approach and South Bank and requested that the necessary signage is put in place, including signage urging diversions via A2300 and A23 by through traffic being put in place in Burgess Hill and on A23 before Pyecombe. New Way Lane and College Lane are concerns for rat runs and may be signed as resident's access only.

Parking scheme – Meeting had been held with the Chair of HPC, Sally Booker and District Councillors to discuss the current position on the parking proposals. The matter is being raised with County. KL reported

that she had been inundated with comments/complaints from residents following recent problems at North Court and Downs View Rd.

Highways – a number of improvements which KL proposed in the last two years are finally being implemented or are due to be implemented. Woodsland Rd is almost complete - a few white lines and one grating remain to be fixed. Chancellors Park pavement and road has been levelled and resurfaced where damage due to tree roots was becoming significant. Depressions in the carriageway in the Sainsbury's/Adastra Deli area are scheduled for repair in October. Dropped kerb is to be installed to aid crossing on Keymer Rd between the roundabout and railway tunnel and improvements including completion of the pavement and a dropped kerb on corner of Little Copse Rd and Friars Oak Rd are due.

Youth Club - first open evening to Yr. 6 was successful. Now urgently trying to finalise meeting date(s) for potential management committee members.

Clayton - met with Cllr Baker (HPC) and Richard Speller of Highways to discuss pedestrian and bus stop improvements along the A273.

Children's Services - ongoing work in this area at county council at both full council and through membership of the relevant select committee. Decision to be taken in September by the Commissioner over whether WSCC retains these services or whether they are taken away.

- 65.3 Rail matters – Cllr Gibbons (PG) indicated that the level of cancellations in June was the worst so far this year. It was reported that there were 294 cancellations in June of which 186 were cancelled outright and 108 ran but failed to stop. PG re-iterated that Govia Thameslink continue to not publish performance data in the required format to comply with the new requirements that became effective from 1<sup>st</sup> April. Members discussed the options available to raise the issue of both performance and the non-compliance of Thameslink Govia with regard to revised performance standards. BH stated that Cllr Gibbons had accumulated a wealth of data on the ongoing rail performance and that the Council should utilise this to raise the profile of this ongoing issue with the rail service being received by the village. Cllr Rylance supported this and suggested that the Council raise this issue through the press and in particular members expressed a view regarding the failure of Thameslink to publish performance data in the new format. Cllr Gibbons indicated that this was a requirement of their franchise and other operators are compliant and publishing data in the required format. In addition they are also supposed to publish this data on the station which is not happening. Cllr B Hatton suggested that we approach the media as it appears that Nick Herbert (MP) has done as much as he can.

Members discussed how the figures might be represented to the media and which media sources should be contacted. It was suggested that it may helpful to contact the MSDC press office for potential contacts.

Members felt that any press release should be short and to the point supported by the statistics provided by Cllr Gibbons. Members agreed that Cllr Gibbons and the Clerk would pull the information together and establish media outlets to contact with the finalised press release.

65.4 Youth Initiatives – Cllr Gaudencio (FG) picked up on this issue previously raised in Cllr Kirsty Lords (WSCC) report regarding the difficulty of getting people together for a management committee meeting however (FG) was keen to encourage a Parish Council member to take a lead in this area to support this group. FG indicated that she would speak to Cllr Hammond and Cllr Cheshire to see if they would be interested in taking this on.

65.5 Police matters – The Clerk informed members that there is a scheduled meeting with the police in the near future with representatives from the village to discuss police matters /initiatives. The meeting has been initiated by the police.

66.6 Report from Councillors on meetings of outside bodies where the Council is represented –

Cllr Sue Hatton informed Members that Adastra Hall Management Committee had secured funding towards the replacement of windows/doors etc. in the hall and work was scheduled to commence w/c 29<sup>th</sup> July 2019.

Cllr B Hatton attended the New River exhibition in Burgess Hill where the development will now include an increased amount of residential provision alongside the reduced retail offer which reflects the current state of the retail sector. BH indicated that MSDC deserve support in this initiative as they are trying hard to do something and it's a creditable effort which the Parish should support if required.

**PC19/67 CHAIRMANS REPORT** – Cllr Weir reminded members that the 'official' skate park opening was on the Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> July 12-2 and all Councillors were invited.

IW confirmed that he was also intending to attend the MSALC conference later in the week where he will be presenting an item on Community Infrastructure Levy. Cllr B Hatton sought confirmation from the Clerk as to whether we had received a response to our letter to MSDC regarding CIL. The Clerk confirmed that we had and he agreed to circulate the original letter and their response to members.

**PC19/68 CLERK'S REPORT**

68.1 **Co-opting onto the Council** – Members were invited to consider an application received from Alex Simmons to be co-opted onto the Council. Alex provided a short presentation as to why he wished to join the Council to assist members in their deliberations. Members RESOLVED that Alex Simmons be duly elected onto the Council. The Clerk then signed the Declaration of acceptance together with the new Councillor and welcomed him to the Council.

68.2 **Mid Sussex Applauds Awards** the Clerk introduced a report setting out MSDC revised awards scheme and invited members to consider this and determine whether they wished to propose any nominations. In addition the Clerk went through the criteria for consideration. Members indicated that this revised scheme was more cumbersome and it may prove more difficult to identify and obtain suitable nominations from parishes, but it would be expected that it could lead to an increase from the public. Members felt unable to come to a decision at the meeting and requested that the Clerk send out a round robin email inviting nominations and then to review the responses which should set out why those nominations should be considered.

**PC19/69 URGENT MATTERS AT THE DISCRETION OF THE CHAIRMAN** for noting and/or inclusion on a future agenda. - None

**PC19/70 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

To note that the date of the next Council meeting is **10 September 2019 at 7.30pm.**