

HASSOCKS PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the GROUNDS AND ENVIRONMENT Committee held on 24 January 2019 at 7.30pm in the Parish Centre, Adastra Park, Hassocks.

Attendees: Cllrs Jane Baker, Leslie Campbell, Frances Gaudencio, Peter Gibbons, Emma Woods and Ian Weir.

Co-optee: Sally Booker

In attendance: Ian Cumberworth – Parish Clerk

GE18/95 APOLOGIES. Apologies were received from Cllrs Bill Hatton, Sue Hatton and co-optees Tony Copeland and Penny Wadsworth.

Absent without apology: Kate Bailey

GE18/96 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST. There were no declarations of interest.

GE18/97 MINUTES.

RESOLVED to accept the minutes of the Grounds and Environment Committee meeting held on 22 November 2018.

GE18/98 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION. There were no members of the public present.

GE18/99 OFFICER'S REPORT. Members noted the Officer's Report.

GE18/100 PARKLANDS ROAD ALLOTMENTS. Tony Copeland had informed the Clerk prior to the meeting that there was nothing to report.

GE 18/101 ADASTRA PARK.

18/101.1 Height Barrier. Members were invited to consider correspondence received from Mr Peter Shayler of Showtime Amusements regarding difficulties with future access to Adastra Park following the installation of a height barrier in the North Field Car Park. After careful consideration, Members concluded that it would not be feasible to uninstall and re-install the barrier to facilitate access to the site. The barrier was installed earlier in the year and was installed to maximise the turning circle and is fully accessible for most reasonable sized vehicles. Historically as the fair's vehicles have become larger over the years and it has become more difficult for the fair vehicles to access the park via Orchard Lane. Members **RESOLVED** to retain the existing barrier in situ, which unfortunately means that the Council will not be able to accommodate the Showtime Amusements in future.

Members requested that when contacting the fair proprietor that the Clerk suggest some potential other sites within the parish that the proprietor may wish to explore to see if an alternative venue could be secured.

18/101.2 Rain Garden/Operation Watershed.

Members were informed that there had been some initial drainage issues with the rain garden and due to the timing of the project which was commissioned by HKD the seeding of the area had proved unsuccessful. In light of this, and the resulting appearance of the site this attracted a lot of adverse comments.

In an attempt to remedy the situation and improve the site, in consultation with the Chair of the Council, the Clerk agreed that the Council should make a contribution towards reurfing the area. In consultation with HKD's contractor it was agreed to pay up to £300 towards the supply and installation of the turf which equated to approximately half the cost. As a goodwill gesture, the contractor agreed to fund the remaining cost and fully cover the cost of supply and installation of the aggregate.

Members were informed that since this work has been completed park users have been far more positive about the installation.

Operation Watershed- the Clerk informed Members that a meeting had been held with representatives from WSCC (Operation Watershed), Ouse & Adur Rivers Trust (OART) the Clerk, Cllr Gaudencio, Baker and Bill Hatton. Following the meeting, the attendees were of the view that a scrape would not be suitable for the North field and would impact adversely on the useable space of the park. It was felt it was important for the look and feel of the park to be preserved. Subject to Grounds & Environment Members views, the Clerk reported that the sub-group was minded to write to OART informing them that the Council would not like to progress this element of the scheme.

Grounds and Environment members discussed the merits or otherwise of a scrape and agreed to support the sub groups view not to progress this aspect of work.

The Clerk informed members that the site allocated for tree planting was considered to have merit however further work will be required to determine the species of tree to be planted. Other aspects of the scheme involving the stream are continuing to be explored by OART.

It is understood representatives will be attending on site in the near future to spray an outline of the areas such as the tree planting to enable members to visualise the scale of the proposed installations.

18/101.3 Skate park/Wheel park Consultation.

Members were informed that just under 100 people attended the consultation event and of those that completed the questionnaires on the day, the main age groups represented were 6-10 years and 11-16 years. The overall responses comprised of 61% males and 37% females with a further 2% not providing this information. The Council consultant overseeing this event indicated that based on his extensive experience of these types of events that the number of consultees was good.

Members were informed that all of this data has been fed into the assessment process and the Council will hope to be making an announcement in due course regarding the successful design.

GE18/102 EAR MARKED RESERVES. The Clerk informed members that full council had agreed to allocate further funds from General Reserves to Earmarked Reserves to support ongoing priority projects. Respective Committees invited to identify any other projects that members would like to see supported, these would then be taken back to full council for consideration.

Members were informed that Policy Resources & Communications Committee had recently undertaken this initiative and identified a number of proposals and additional funding suggestions which were shared with the Grounds & Environment Committee members; areas suggested by Policy Resources & Communications (PR & C) included additional funding for the Park masterplan, Acoustics within the parish centre, Burial Ground, Public Rights of Way improvements and additional funding for the Repairs & Renewal fund.

Members debated options at length and in principal supported the areas suggested by PR & C. On this basis taking into account the current allocated reserves Members supported the following additional allocations from general reserves:

Park Development scheme	£26,900
Burial Ground	£ 1,100
Repair Fund	£ 8,000
Parish Centre acoustics	£ 3,000
Public Rights of Way	£ 6,000

Members **RESOLVED** to recommend the above allocations for consideration at full council

GE18/103 TRAFFIC AND PARKING. Sally Booker (SB) updated members that the consultation period had just closed and the detailed content of the responses had yet to be analysed by WSCC. It is understood that one hundred and four objections have been received and twenty in support. SB has been informed that thirty four of the objections have been received from Kymer Gardens although this road is not one where parking restrictions are being considered to be introduced. In addition twenty four relate to Downs View Rd and twelve Highlands Close. It appears that there is a relatively low level of objections on roads where work is being proposed. Once the detailed analysis has been completed by WSCC it will be possible to gauge the nature of the concerns/issues being raised.

(SB) went onto say interestingly 9 objections have been received from commuters.

It was noted that a planning application had been submitted to clean up the site (contaminated land) at Station Goods Yard and await for a planning application for development too come forward in due course. SB had indicated that previously this site had been considered as a potential site for a car park for the rail station.

MSDC are proposing to undertake a review of its car parks and although MSDC will not consider residents permits for on road parking it may be possible for them to consider a limited amount of permit provision for residents in designated car parks. It would be suggested that this matter be raised as part of the consultation.

SB informed members that residents in Parklands Road are in the process of carrying out a traffic survey which may inform any WSCC improvement scheme proposal.

Cllr Weir informed members that in light of the further analysis required on the consultation data it is likely that the matter would not be considered WSCC – CLC prior to June at the earliest.

GE18/104 PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY (PROW)

Members were invited to note correspondence received from the WSCC PROW Officer. Cllr Campbell informed members that this was a standard letter we receive each year and that the Council no longer receives specific reports from WSCC on footpaths within the Parish.

Cllr Campbell requested that if any members whilst using any of the footways comes across any damaged stiles/footpaths/fencing etc. if he can be made aware so that he can draw it to the attention of the PROW officer at county so that the necessary repairs can be scheduled in

GE18/105 URGENT MATTERS at the discretion of the Chairman for noting and/or inclusion on a future agenda. None

GE18/106 DATE OF NEXT MEETING. The date of the next meeting is Thursday 21 February 2019.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 8.35

SignedChairman Date.....