

## HASSOCKS AMENITY ASSOCIATION

### Minutes of the 244<sup>th</sup> meeting held on Tuesday, 28<sup>th</sup> February, 2012

**Present:** Margaret Ford (in the Chair), Bob Kenhard, Fred Maillardet, Emily Burgess, Charlie Townsend, Peter Gibbons, Frances Gaudencio, Janet Slaughter, Louise Castleton, Heather West, Diana Goodbourn, Judith Poncelet and Catherine Cassidy.

1. **MF welcomed** our new committee members, Frances with the background of Access Committee and a governor of Windmills Junior School and Louise who is a member of the W.I. Bob has joined us because he is leading the South Downs Farm project. The 2 head students from Downlands are Emily Burgess and Charlie Townsend.
2. **Apologies:** Danny Donovan, Juliet Strange, who is in Auckland and Jacqui Whatford is having her birthday and Colin Wilsdon has been busy all day at meetings.
3. **Minutes** of the last meeting were approved and signed.
  - a) bridleway/cycle path from the tennis courts to Misty Bridge. CW and Leslie Campbell will be walking the path soon.
  - b) Raised beds; December 29<sup>th</sup> Mid Sussex sent an official letter (Sec 215) to the landowners. There has been no reply. Gordon Marples suggested the legal owner may be County Council and is checking this out.
  - c) Planning applications; 22 Keymer Road will be a small supermarket and Stafford House had the houses to be built reduced by one by MSDC.
  - d) Car parking; following the survey of car parks and roads a meeting was held today with MF, PG, County and Parish Councillors. A further meeting, this time with County and District Council staff is planned.

During discussion, it was felt that there had been little opportunity for residents to air their opinions. A questionnaire might be one solution, but in the meantime it was agreed that MF should write a short piece for Talk About highlighting some of the many issues involved.
4. **Chairman's Report:** The winter newsletter was delivered in January and we are grateful to Simon Strange for printing. A successful noticeboard at the end of Chancellors Park, but always notices which are not appropriate have to be regularly removed. Hurst Gymnastics Club has a new noticeboard at the end of Dale Avenue and we have been offered use of this by Andrew Hair who has printed a poster for us. The Turner's wild bird field wheat planting is popular with the birds during this cold weather. Unfortunately the footpath is very deep in mud. MF will ask CW who we should approach regarding improvements to the surface.
5. **South Downs Farm and land;** Bob Kenhard reported that the campsite should open March 28<sup>th</sup> and the auction of the house at Southdown Farm is on Feb 29<sup>th</sup>.

(Later, PG was at the auction and informed us there were no bids, the auctioneer started at £500,000)
6. **Spitalford Bridge;** The Vintage Bridge shop wanted to clean the Herring Stream and volunteers have worked for 3 Sundays, collecting masses of rubbish, right up the stream behind Parklands. MF provided 3 pairs of working gloves from HAA and now trout can be seen swimming there.
7. **Diamond Jubilee;** MF reported that the three memorial stones on the bridge are 1817 Built by Public Subscription; 1887 rebuilt by ?Hammond; and in the 1900's ESCC widened the bridge. If finances can be raised, perhaps by a Jubilee Fund, it would be good to have the wall adjacent to the chip shop rebuilt and a Hassocks sign on the bridge, with the bridge and the memorial stones restored. CW is

making enquiries to Highways on our behalf. Frances Guadencio offered her help if this project goes ahead.

**8. Youth Slot** Charlie spoke about 30 students going to Brussels European Parliament and asked for zoos in Europe to improve caring for animals. Virginia McKenna came to Downlands and thanked them for their efforts. There will be a German trip to Odenwald and they had a weekend trip to Le Touquet and also a skiing trip to Austria.

**9. Rail Group;** The Station car park is the only one in our village where one has to pay, so CC has asked for a reduced rate after 4pm and also that Saturday should be the same price as Sunday of £1 all day.

Bids for contracts for the station rebuild have come in and hopefully around Easter time the Contractors and Southern Rail will have a public information session at the Hassocks Hotel. The building work will take about 5 months, there will be a one month break before the access lifts will be built. On the car park side much of the space will be taken over temporarily and Chris Bere and Les Campbell are asking Jonathan Tate for use of Southdown Nursery car park and maybe the football car park during this time.

Trevor Humber is looking into getting paintings by schools on the underpass walls when the works are completed.

F.C.C. Blackfriars Station is now open north and south of the Thames and the remaining finishing off works should be ready in time for the Queen's river trip.

F.C.C. may be able to run a later train to Hassocks and on to Brighton.

The Thames Link franchise is being renewed in 2013 until 2018 and will be taking over Southern in 2015 and parts of South Eastern railway.

In future the franchises will be for about 15 years.

Hassocks station has a new permanent second member of staff.

When the Olympics are performing our trains will run later at night.

**10. Treasurer's Report;** DD sent a draft income and expenditure account for us to see. We have £985 surplus income over expenditure.

**11. Membership Secretary's Report;** JP has been sending next year's membership cards out and has included a note asking if those with a standing order would like to increase it.

**12. A.G.M.** a date of June 28<sup>th</sup> was agreed upon, at the Hassocks Hotel and we are working toward someone speaking about the Herring Stream and wild birds. (**Venue booked**)

**13. A.O.B.** Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> June FM told us of an open day at the Windmill and we could have a stand there, 2 – 5 pm.

Next meeting: **Thursday 10th May.**