

HASSOCKS AMENITY ASSOCIATION

Minutes of meeting held on Tuesday 30th April 2013 at 7.30 pm

Lindsay Cross presented her almost complete drawing of the birds that can be seen in the Turner's field. She was congratulated on a most attractive poster. The plan is that her final drawing will go to Sussex Signs electronically, and they will print it on aluminium and encapsulate it. The Monday Group will mount it by the HAA seat in the field.

Ian Weir, Parish Councillor and chair of the Parking Group was welcomed, as was Virginia Pullan, a landscape architect, and Roy Ticehurst who would in future have a watching brief on environmental matters.

1. **Present.** Margaret Ford (Chair) Juliet Strange (Secretary) Janet Slaughter, Heather West, Bob Kenhard (Treasurer), Judith Poncelet, Fred Maillardet, Catherine Cassidy, Ian Weir (Parish Council) Colin Wilsdon Peter Gibbons, Louise Castleton, Virginia Pullan, Roy Ticehurst and Dan and Charlotte from Downlands School.
2. **Apologies for absence:** Diana Goodbourn, Frances Guadencio, Jacqui Whatford and Penny Wadsworth (Parish Council)
3. **Minutes of last meeting and matters arising:**
The minutes of 30th January were signed as a correct record of the meeting. All matters arising were included in the agenda.
4. **Youth Slot.**
 - a. The newly formed U3A ICT group are using the facilities at Downlands School to improve their computer skills with the help of the students.
 - b. Downlands has retained its Eco. Status for another year.
 - c. The School Fayre is on 22nd June. More helpers are always welcome to help run this event.
5. **Chairman's report**
 - a. Community Field. It had been suggested at the HCP (Hassocks Community Partnership) meeting that an application should be made to Downlands School to use the field behind Dale Avenue. As a community field. This was especially desirable as the community can no longer use the field behind Stafford House. Margaret Maillardet has been persuaded to represent HAA on the working party on this project.
 - b. Footpath 12k. It had been hoped that this path would have been resurfaced by the time of the meeting but a local landowner has objected to machinery being on his land. This person has suggested applying for a diversion of the footpath so that it comes out onto Lodge Lane opposite Park Avenue. It was agreed that HAA should write to the County Council asking them to continue to find a solution to the problem without diverting the path. County have already decided to use contractors for this work rather than volunteers.
 - c. Car Parking. 27% of the residents of Hassocks returned the recent survey on parking. This was a very positive response. The Parish Council are working on a solution to the many problems the survey has highlighted.
 - d. Lagwood. The Guides are going to put nests for dormice in the wood.
 - e. On 18th/19th May seven scythes are going to cut the long grass in the 'pheasant' field. Volunteers are needed to help 'rake up' the grass on the day. Sue and Paul Milnthorpe have been most forthcoming about all things connected with the wood and will come to speak at the AGM in June.
 - f. Downlands Fayre 22nd June. It was decided not to have a stand this year.
 - g. Stained Glass from the old Station. Margaret F. had been contacted by York Railway museum saying they had some stained glass labelled Hassocks on it. It is hoped to have the glass returned to us to use in the new station building. It was thought it would be decorative rather than functional.
 - h. Sussex Lantern. Southdown Farm Lodge Lane. The trustees of Sussex Lantern had a meeting with members of the committee to outline their plans for the site. These include holiday chalets, riding for the disabled, a sensory garden, tennis court and other facilities for those less able bodied. The camp

site will continue to operate as it is now. They plan to take the large metal frame down and generally tidy up the site.

6. Treasurer's Report.

- a. Annual accounts. These are recorded with the minutes of the meeting.
- b. Budget 2013/14. The treasurer told the meeting that we need to decide which projects to support in the coming year(s) as our funds were limited.
- c. Spitalford Bridge. Bob Kenhard and Colin Wilsdon attended a meeting with West Sussex County Council which included Lydia Shilbach who had volunteered to do preliminary work with us. The current plan was to start by cleaning the north-side parapet this year, to show some action has been started on the project. Work cannot be started on the southern parapet until the root of a tree has been removed and the crack repaired which is the responsibility of the County council.
- d. Raised beds outside pet shop. Estimates had been got to replace the top course of bricks on one of these beds. It will cost £1320 to replace the bricks and tidy up the bed.
- e. Lottery. Several other organisations have shown an interest in running the village lottery with the HAA. Age Concern, HCP and the scouts are all happy to be involved. This will now go ahead. It was agreed to wait until money was received from the lottery before embarking on the raised bed improvements.
- f. The bed outside Marchants Woodlands Rd. Marchants are prepared to clear this bed. Catherine suggested involving the Conways and Dennis South. Louise had already offered to help with the station planting. It was suggested Tates be approached to supply the plants. The Conways and Dennis South to be consulted on this project.

7. Membership Secretary's report

- a. 240 households have renewed. It was encouraging that many people are now happy to use e.mail to renew their membership and receive newsletters. There had been a problem with the discount cards from Tates but this has now been resolved.

8. AGM 10th June

- a. The Milnthorpes, who own Lagwood, have agreed to speak for 20 minutes.
- b. Margaret is to ask David Knight of Budgens to be one of the speakers.
- c. Diana will organise a raffle on the night.
- d. Publicity – The newsletters and flyers will be available from 1st June.

9. Rail Update.

- a. The new station will open on 13th June with a formal opening in July.
- b. Network rail will start work on the lifts shortly after the station opens and expects to take 8 months to complete the work. There will be significant disruption during that time.
- c. Catherine reported on a recent trip to Germany when she was invited to join a team designing the trains which may be supplied to Thames Link.
- d. Hassocks Station usage has gone up 50% since the feasibility study was carried out before the start of the station rebuild project.
- e. Hassocks has been awarded £200,000 for a cycle hub. It is hoped to link this with the HCP cycle hire.
- f. There are plans to introduce a 'key card' system for train tickets, rather like the oyster card in London.

10. Date of next meeting.

- a. AGM 10th June Adastral Hall
- b. Committee meeting Thursday 4th July 7.30 pm.