

HASSOCKS AMENITY ASSOCIATION

The 45th Annual General Meeting held at Adastra Hall Hassocks On Monday 10th June 2013 at 7.30 pm

Present. Margaret Ford in the Chair and about 90 attendees.

1. **Apologies for absence.** Heather West and Louise Castleton
2. **Minutes of previous meeting and matters arising.** The minutes of the meeting on 28th June 2012 were signed as a correct record of the Annual Meeting. There were no matters arising.
3. **Chairman's report.**

The chairman reported on the activities of the year which has moved to a greater emphasis on green issues.

 - a) There had been a major, immediate and mammoth fund raising campaign to purchase Lag Wood which raised £90,000 in nine days. Although we were unsuccessful in our bid we could not be more happy than it had been bought by Paul Roberts and Sue Milnthorpe who later gave a talk on their love of the wood and all the many things they had already found growing there. They are happy to continue to allow the public to use the wood and the adjoining pheasant field.
 - b) The chairman reported on the slow but steady progress on the restoration of Spitalford bridge.
 - c) It is hoped to start a Hassocks village lottery, together with other local groups, to provide much needed funds for both our Association and other local charitable groups. The Chairman thanked Bob Kenhard for all his hard work on both the above projects.
 - d) The raised flower beds outside the pet shop are in a bad state of repair and it is hoped the HAA will spearhead an initiative to improve them, a leader is needed to for the group of willing volunteers who have come forward showing an interest in this project.
 - e) Sussex Lantern who own the large site in Lodge Lane, have told us they will remove the large metal construction which is blotting the landscape at the moment. They have new plans for the site.
 - f) There is to be a bird identification board in the field owned by the Turner family behind Downlands School. This will be built by the Monday group using artwork by a local artist Lindsay Cross.
 - g) The Parish Council have been working on ways to improve the parking in Hassocks. It was noted we had not had the opportunity to comment on the Neighbourhood plan to date.
(A full copy of this report is recorded with the minutes.)
4. **Treasurer's report.** A full copy of the accounts is recorded with the minutes. A summary of our assets is as follows; Bank Current £265.37, Bank Deposit £6951.66 Project Reserves, Station Group £2337, Spitalford Bridge £2841 Balance £2093.03 Proposed by Rita Knott and seconded by Jennifer Ritson the accounts were adopted by the meeting.

Bob Kenhard went on to tell the meeting of the progress so far with our proposal for a Village Lottery and the Spitalford Bridge project. Both are at an early stage. Regarding the bridge, it was hoped that the first stage, cleaning the brickwork, would be achieved by the end of this year. The second stage, the building of a viewing area was much more difficult to achieve, but recently encouraging progress had been made due to increasing support from WSCC, and the expertise of a new member of the team, Lydia Schilbach, an architect with experience of community projects. The Village Lottery was likely to be a joint venture with Light Up Hassocks, the Scouts and Age Concern'

The audience responded with an emphatic 'yes' when asked if he had their support for both projects.

5. **Membership Secretary's report**

There are currently 280 households who are members of the Association. Many people are donating up to £10 as membership subscriptions. Following a drive to convert to electronic mail, two fifth of the membership are now contacted by e.mail. Thanks were expressed to both Judith Poncelet and Bob Kenhard for all their hard work with this.

6. **Election of Officers:**

- a. Chairman – Margaret Ford proposed by Janet Slaughter and seconded by Bob Kenhard.
- b. Other officers Secretary – Juliet strange, Treasurer – Bob Kenhard, Membership – Judith Poncelet These were re-elected en bloc.
- c. Members of the committee. Fred Maillardet, Catherine Cassidy and Colin Wilsdon were all at the end of their three year term but were prepared to stand again. Roy Ticehurst had been co-opted during the year to fill a vacancy on the committee; he is prepared to stand on the committee for the remaining two years. All these were duly elected en bloc.

7. **The Rail Group** – Catherine Cassidy gave a very interesting and informative talk on the long journey it has taken over the last thirteen years, to get the new station building in Hassocks. The completed station is due to open this week and then work will start to install the lifts on either side of the station.
8. **AOB** Paul King, from the floor, asked whether the lifts would work twenty four hours a day. It was thought they would; when there were no staff at Hassocks station they would be controlled remotely from Croydon.

The meeting closed at 8.30 pm and was followed by two very interesting presentations;

1. **Discovering Lag Wood** Sue Milnthorpe and Paul Roberts, the new owners of Lag Wood
2. **Responsibly Green.** David Knight, owner of Knight's Budgen Supermarket.