

**HASSOCKS AMENITY ASSOCIATION**

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 26th NOVEMBER 2014 AT 7.30 PM**

	Margaret Ford (Chair)	*	Colin Wilsdon
	Fred Maillardet		Catherine Cassidy
*	Frances Gaudencio	*	Peter Gibbons
	Jonathan Soper		Paul Mercer
	Peter George (Observer)		Georgia Cheshire
*	Amanda di Clemente		Virginia Pullan (Co opted)
	Janet Slaughter		Juliet Merrifield (HDK Transition)
	Judith Poncelet		Jean-Phillippe Horn (Head Boy, Downlands )
	Bob Kenhard	*	Emma Hudson (Head Girl, Downlands School)
	Nada Guarduglini (Minutes)		

\*Absent

<b>1.</b>	<b>Apologies</b>	
	The following committee members gave their apologies: Amanda di Clemente, Frances Gaudencio, Colin Wilsdon, Emma Hudson and Peter Gibbons.	
<b>2.</b>	<b>Minutes of the last meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> October 2014</b>	
	The minutes were agreed with the following amendments: • Amanda di Clemente sent apologies.	NG
	<b>RESOLUTION: The minutes of the last meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> October were accepted by the Committee.</b>	
<b>2a.</b>	<b>Matters Arising</b>	
	It was noted with regret that Frances Gaudencio wished to resign from this committee. However, members were delighted to know that her expertise would in future be available to the Parish Council as she would now be serving on their working group on the Neighbourhood Plan.	
<b>3.</b>	<b>Neighbourhood Plan</b>	
	Virginia took members through her revised draft of her local landscape capacity study. This relates to the strategic housing land availability assessment carried out by MDSC for the Local Plan. She confirmed that it had now been received by the Parish Council.  Janet Slaughter has compiled a questionnaire for young people asking what facilities they would like in the village to feed into the Neighbourhood Plan. 25 students at Downlands School, of mixed gender from each year group will be given the Survey. The Survey will also be given to the Guides and Scouts. This should give around 200 respondents. The aim is to have the analysis completed by January 2015.	
<b>4.</b>	<b>Youth Slot</b>	
	Juliet Merrifield reported that the HDK Energy Solar Project open event on 8 <sup>th</sup> November was well attended. The share offer has now closed only 10 days after opening. There is a waiting list and the HDK Energy team are working on a new project for potential investors.	

	Jean Phillippe reported that the School has been excited about their visitors from an Indian partner school. Students have been in communication via Skype. It has been interesting comparing education and lifestyles of students.	
5.	<b>Greening the Village</b>	
	<p>It was agreed to again contribute £500 to the Parish Council for the Tree Planting Scheme.</p> <p>Georgia and Fred will work together to get a plaque for the flower bed outside the Pet Shop, in order to inform the village that HAA are responsible for the planting.</p> <p>Georgia Cheshire has been invited to attend the Parish Council Environment Committee and is looking forward to attending on 26th January 2015.</p> <p>Catherine Cassidy will liaise with Georgia Cheshire with regard to doing some planting at the mini roundabout near the Station. The Albourne Trust is maintaining the station planters to a very high standard..</p> <p>Three of the concrete tubs at Grand Avenue are awaiting removal to Keymer Parade. All necessary permissions have been obtained. WSCC Highways (Roger Harding) had agreed to do the transportation.</p> <p>Nada Guarguaglini is in the process of getting permission for planting around the Keymer Finger Post at the corner of Ockley lane and Keymer Parade.</p>	BK GC/ FM CC/ GC
	<b>RESOLUTION: Bob Kenhard to pay invoice for the Tree Scheme and for the plaque at the Pet Shop Flower Bed.</b>	
6.	<b>The Village Centre</b>	
	<p>Fred Maillardet presented a discussion paper written by himself and Peter Barham, which was circulated prior to the meeting. This ambitious vision should feed into the Neighbourhood Plan. Fred advised that if the community did not take action a developer will. The exact boundaries of the site extending from National Tyres including the long stay car park and Age Concern are to be confirmed.</p> <p>A general discussion followed. Points made included the incorporation of a youth centre if the Beacon Centre plans failed, the need for a name other than 'village centre' to describe the focal point, and the opportunity to showcase 21<sup>st</sup> Century building with low carbon, renewable heat and solar options. It was suggested that it would be useful to know from the Land Registry who the freeholders were that owned the retail outlets surrounding the site. It was regrettfully recognised that the Pavilion Electrics site including the area behind and the access road would be ideal for an Express Supermarket.</p> <p>Georgia Cheshire agreed to mention the discussion paper and the Community Right to Buy Scheme at the next Neighbourhood Plan Parish Council Group meeting.</p>	

	<b>RESOLUTION:</b> Fred to work further with Peter Barham and circulate a further paper and sketches before the next meeting. Georgia would report back regarding the Parish Council's Neighbourhood Plan discussions.	FM
<b>7. Treasurers Report including Spitalford Bridge</b>	<p>Bob Kenhard tabled the Treasurer's Report. Current funds stand at £17,063.71. This is all accounted for under various projects; Lottery, Rail Group, Spitalford Bridge, Beacon Centre, Tree planting, Greening the Village and Overheads including Secretary. Funds not allocated are £484.67.</p> <p>Spitalford Bridge refurbishment project is a slow process but it is moving in the right direction. The freeholders of the Chip Shop have agreed to the work but require a RICS survey 'Schedule of Conditions' report which will cost HAA £420. Because the initial project started over 18 months ago the original quotes for work are out of date and need to be reviewed.</p> <p>Judith Poncelet reported that HAA Membership has reduced in number from the same period last year. Bob Kenhard added that there have been some generous donations from members. Jonathan Soper discussed the idea that HAA membership forms could be added to the Neighbourhood Watch Pack given to residents. There are currently 43 Street Coordinators in Hassocks who link up with PCSO Sarah McNamara. It was agreed that Jonathan would use Woodsland Road as a trial street, the approach would be face to face. Jonathan will report back at the next meeting.</p>	<b>JS / JP</b>
	<b>RESOLUTION:</b> The Treasurer's Report was received and accepted by the Committee. Neighbourhood Watch membership marketing to be discussed at next meeting.	
<b>8. Secretary's Report</b>	<p>Nada Guarguaglini tabled a diagram showing the skills she has been using, organisations she has been liaising with and projects she has been involved in during the months September to November 2014. The diagram also gave some statistics i.e. that she had worked 37 hours during the period. It was noted that this autumn term has been very busy with 3 committee meetings and that HAA was working on some large projects such as the Neighbourhood Plan and the Lottery.</p> <p>Nada reported that her impression of that HAA was that the Association was doing wonderful community voluntary work and she mentioned Oldland Mill among other projects. However more members and committee members are necessary to spread the work load. The Chair, Margaret Ford reported that she is still working a minimum of 3 hours a day on HAA projects.</p>	
<b>9. Village Lottery</b>	<p>Bob Kenhard informed the Committee that 286 numbers had been sold so far which was a reduction in numbers from the same period running up to Christmas last year. At least 500 numbers need to be sold. Many Community Organisations have been approached to give out leaflets in the village and Facebook has also been used to remind residents about the Lottery and how to apply. It is hoped that the light up Hassocks event on 28<sup>th</sup> November will attract more publicity and that residents will sign up. HAA will also be at Budgen's on Sat 29<sup>th</sup> November to do more Lottery publicity. A volunteer rota was passed round the committee.</p>	

<b>10.</b>	<b>Rail Report</b>	
	<p>Catherine Cassidy updated the Committee on rail matters. She explained that Govia who is running Thameslink and 1<sup>st</sup> Capital Connect are working on Southern being integrated by July 2015. From 4<sup>th</sup> January 2015 there will be no Thameslink trains stopping at London Bridge for 3 years. There will be major engineering works from 20<sup>th</sup> December – please check before you travel. There will be a new timetable from 4<sup>th</sup> January 2015.</p> <p>Unfortunately there has been bad performance since the new franchise took over. Services are running late and passengers are missing vital connections.</p> <p>Plans for a building on the down platform for Hassocks Community Cycle Hire were now well advanced. There was good hope that it will be open in the Spring of next year.</p> <p>The new timetable has not had any public consultation and Peter Gibbons has been reviewing it and identified that the 10.05 to Brighton had been removed from the timetable meaning that vital connections to the south coast would be missed. Peter and Catherine have been working on getting this and an evening service from London reinstated.</p> <p>There is a public consultation on the Dec 2015 Timetable which needs to be commented on by the end of January 2015. There is also a Network Rail Consultation on the Sussex Route for 2018-2025. Sussex needs to have proactive MP's putting pressure on the railways for more services.</p> <p>Jonathan Tate has agreed to a Hassocks station exhibit when the Southdowns Nursery new Railway Heritage Centre opens, probably in October 2015.</p> <p>Ideas are needed as to how to get more commuters involved in the Rail Group.</p> <p>Although there are many challenges for the Rail Group there have also been great achievements. The Committee formally thanked Catherine Cassidy and Peter Gibbons for their hard work.</p>	
	<b>RESOLUTION: Ideas for Communication with Commuters to be discussed at another meeting.</b>	
<b>11.</b>	<b>Any Other Business</b>	
	<p>Jonathan Soper informed the Committee that the pavement between the Hassocks Hotel and the mini roundabout is very uneven and slopes. The condition of the pavement is a concern especially at night.</p> <p>It was mentioned that the HAA would benefit from having a Publicity Sub Committee.</p> <p>Bob Kenhard gave an update on the Beacon Centre. Negotiations continue between Asprey homes and WSCC. There is also a charitable obligation on the site.</p>	
	<b>RESOLUTION: It was agreed that the Pavement issue outside the Hassocks Hotel should be raised with the relevant authority. A Publicity Sub Committee and The Beacon Centre to be followed up at the next meeting.</b>	NG

<b>12.</b>	<b>Date of the next meeting</b>	
	The next Committee Meeting will take place on Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> February 2015 at 7.30. Venue to be confirmed.	
	The meeting closed at 10 pm.	

Signed: ..... Chair - Margaret Ford Date: .....