

HASSOCKS AMENITY ASSOCIATION

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 14th OCTOBER 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		
	Judith Poncelet		
	Bob Kenhard		
	Nada Guarguaglini (Minutes)		

*Absent

1.	Apologies	
	The following committee members gave their apologies: Janet Slaughter and Peter Gibbons.	
2.	Minutes of the last meeting held on 15th September 2014	
	<p>The minutes were agreed and signed with the following amendments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Liz Mercer was not in attendance at the meeting. • 'There is £700 left from the <i>rail group funds</i>' (delete historic countryside agency) • 'there are still snagging issues at the station from the recent <i>renovations</i>' (delete refurbishment) • 'There <i>will also be</i> a change in timetabling' (grammatical) • 'The Committee await the result of their application for <i>£5000</i>' (delete £500) 	NG
2a.	Matters arising from the last minutes.	
	Catherine Cassidy gave an update on rail matters. Hassocks Station achieved a Highly Commended Award in the medium station entry of the National Rail Awards. Congratulations to all those involved in the renovations. There are plans for the certificate to be displayed and for a celebration event once the takeover by Govia Thameslink is established.	
	Bob Kenhard gave an update on the Village Lottery and Spitalford Bridge projects. The Lottery applications are doing well with 90 numbers taken up already mostly from HAA members. There is a marketing campaign underway in the coming weeks. Bob was also pleased to report that £5,000 was allocated from the Community Initiative Fund to support the renovation of the bridge in the village.	
3.	Community Development – Meeting with John Rose – Age Concern	
	The Chair informed the committee about a meeting with John Rose to discuss closer co-operation between various voluntary groups in the village. John has offered to host a community development meeting at Age Concern. The pressures on the HAA committee were discussed and it was decided that the Neighbourhood plan and Village Centre must take precedence. Community development was an important part of the future plans of HAA but the committee decided to prioritise other projects at this time.	

	RESOLUTION: To postpone the 'Working Together' Community meeting until the Spring.	
4.	The Village Centre	
	<p>Fred Maillardet and Margaret have recently met with Peter Bareham, RIBA, a retired professor of architecture who lives locally and John Rose of Age Concern. Peter is keenly interested in the future of the National Tyres site in the centre of the village. When combined with the surrounding area, including the car park and the Age Concern site, it is probably the largest brownfield site in the County and ripe for development, although National Tyres have a ten year lease. John Rose is also concerned about the site as the Age Concern centre, although owned by MSDC, will need to be rebuilt in the not-too-distant future. There was a general discussion as to what the Village Centre might comprise of; space for market, urban space, mall, library and parking. It was noted that it is important to get the youth perspective on this matter.</p> <p>Peter Bareham is flexible, supportive and willing to work on possible plans with Fred Maillardet and John Rose. Colin Wilsdon proposed that a formal letter is written to the Parish Council to say that the HAA are keen to set up a study group on the Village Centre and that the HAA wish to work with the Parish Council, professionals and consult with the public on the matter.</p>	
	RESOLUTION: It was agreed that a letter from Chair should be sent to the Parish Council regarding a Village Centre Study Group. Fred Maillardet agreed to meet with John Rose and Peter Bareham to take the matter further and report back to a meeting in November, preferably with draft plans so that the Committee can have a focussed discussion.	MF FM
5.	The Neighbourhood Plan	
	<p>All three focus Group reports have now been completed, approved and submitted to the Parish Council. Virginia Pullan tabled a Local Landscape Capacity Study with accompanying map and went through both SHLAA (Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment) Sites and non SHLAA sites individually with the committee. Her paper discussed the sites according to their suitability to accept development in a 'landscape capacity'. It was noted that there are other mitigating circumstances that affect decision making such as traffic, school places, flooding, healthcare etc. The need for development plans to have sufficient flood management plans for surface water was also discussed in detail.</p> <p>The Parish Council Neighbourhood Plan Working Group is currently evidence gathering, it would be useful to find out their milestone objectives. 450 homes may need to be built in Hassocks. Clarification is needed: do the numbers include commercial /community/ leisure developments or current new developments?. The Neighbourhood plan is crucial to restrict developers. Even if the plan is not signed off developers should still bear it in mind.</p> <p>It was observed that the Parish Council's recent public consultation went well and was well attended although there was so much information it was overwhelming for some.</p>	GC

	RESOLUTION: It was agreed that sites 12 (East of Lodge Lane / South of Keymer Park) & 13 (North of Clayton Mills) on the Local Landscape Capacity Study were least objectionable from a landscaping perspective. Virginia will strengthen the comments and amend the document including map. Georgia Cheshire and Peter Gibbons will clarify areas of the Neighbourhood Plan as detailed above.	VP GC/PG
10.	Date of the next meeting	
	The next Committee Meeting will take place on Wednesday 26 th November 2014 at Adastra Hall in the Committee Room.	
11.	Any Other Business	
	There were no items of any other business.	
	The meeting closed at 9.40 pm.	

Signed: Chair - Margaret Ford Date: