

HASSOCKS AMENITY ASSOCIATION

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 15th SEPTEMBER 2014 AT 7.30 PM

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

*Absent

Guests: Chris Handel & Juliet Merrifield – HKD Transition

The Chair welcomed Virginia Pullan a co-opted member who is a landscape architect for East Sussex County Council and lives in Hassocks. Peter George is a local estate agent who will be observing and hopes to contribute to the neighbourhood plan was also welcomed to the Committee.

Prior to the Committee Meeting there was a presentation from Chris Handel & Juliet Merrifield from HKD Transition, which is now launching HKD Energy is a non-profit social enterprise. There are 5 voluntary directors all from the Hurstpierpoint, Hassocks, Keymer and Ditchling villages. The group are promoting a community energy project at Downlands School, to provide energy through solar panels. The project could provide 25% of the school's energy and as the School becomes more energy efficient, the percentage will increase..

As the enterprise is an Industrial and Provident Society, it gives local people an opportunity to invest capital and expect both a social dividend and financial return back. The school has not yet been invited to invest in the project. Catherine Cassidy raised the issue regarding probate of an investor. There is a launch event taking place at Downlands School on Saturday 8th November 2014 at 2.30 pm. There was a discussion as to how to best promote the project, social media and Parentmail (Email) were methods suggested. The committee was impressed by the benefits of the project. The question was raised as to would the HAA be able to endorse the scheme? A PowerPoint presentation is available on request.

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| 1. | Apologies | |
| | The following committee members gave their apologies: Bob Kenhard, Janet Slaughter, Jonathan Soper and Colin Wilsdon. | |
| 2. | Minutes of the last meeting held on 15th July 2014. | |
| | The minutes were agreed and signed. Frances Gaudencio highlighted the changes to the constitution needed. The Chair replied that these will be discussed at the AGM in June 2015. | NG |
| 2a. | Matters arising from the last minutes. | |
| | K12 footpath discussed in Footpaths & Cycle ways report. | |

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| 3. | Youth Slot | |
| | <p>Jean-Philippe and Emma informed the committee members on the revised behaviour policy at Downlands school. The policy has changed for the better and is being enforced by staff. Pupils are aware of what is acceptable behaviour. In particular pupils have noticed that the uniform code is very strict; that shirts must be tucked in and pupils must wear the correct shoes. School Staff are very strict compared to last year. There is a formal detention room.</p> <p>There have been no complaints at the station, although pupils have only been back to school a week. Peter Gibbons reported that on the 15.34 to East Croydon the behaviour was very good. The new behaviour policy should affect the community in a positive way.</p> | |
| 4. | Green Group | |
| | Greening the Village report was circulated prior to the meeting. | |
| a) | <p><u>Pet Shop Site</u> Georgia provided the committee with plans to spend £340 to improve the village raised beds at the Pet Shop Site. There was a discussion raising concerns to using box hedge due to box blight fungus, however it was agreed to go ahead with the plans as alternatives are much more costly and the Pet shop site is not near other gardens for the blight to be transferred. The wild orchid (Autumn Lady Tress) will remain at the site. Georgia described her plans using the diagrams circulated. There will be landscaping posts to create vertical interest and plants chosen to maintain interest all year round. Georgia has sourced free wood chippings from a supplier. Paul, Liz and Fred will assist to clear the area. HAA has received permission from the shopkeepers and they have agreed with the plans.</p> | |
| | RESOLUTION: The plans for the Pet Shop Site were agreed by the Committee. | |
| b) | <p><u>Finger Signpost – Keymer</u> Plans for the site are split into phases: Phase 1 – Daffodil bulbs to be planted at a cost of £30 Phase 2 – plant wild meadow seeds with help of the Scouts – no cost Phase 3 – Sustainable plants if funds available. Permission needed from County Council and Parish Council will need to agree plans. It was advised that plans consider traffic sightlines for safety reasons.</p> | |
| | RESOLUTION: The Committee agreed to £30 being spent on daffodil bulbs for the Finger signpost at Keymer. Nada Guarguaglini to seek permission from WSCC and parish Council. | NG |
| c) | <p><u>Outside Sorting Office</u> Permission granted by Royal Mail. Georgia has sourced 2 planters which will cost £285 each made from durable plastic. Permission needed to drill and secure planters to be covered with woodchip. Other ideas include digging up of the area and covering it with woodchips.</p> <p>Mansell & Taggart have paid for hanging baskets. Parish Council have given permission to move concrete planters to outside hairdressers.</p> | |
| | RESOLUTION: The Committee agreed to purchasing planters, subject to the securing problem being resolved. Nada & Georgia contact Royal Mail. | NG / GC |

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| d) | <u>The curved walls on the either side of Grand Avenue West Side</u> | |
| | <p>Through the persistent efforts of Amanda Kenhard Mansell Taggarts have provided and planted two very fine iron hanging baskets. We understand the cost was around £1000. The effect is marred by the concrete planters owned and maintained by the Parish council which now partly obscure the display.</p> <p>Mansell McTaggarts own the site. The Parish Council have unofficially given us carte blanche to dispose of the concrete planters, as we see fit. It was proposed that the planters are moved to Keymer, against the wall opposite the hairdressers and garage door shop.</p> | |
| | RESOLUTION: Proposals agreed. Nada will gain permission from the landowners. A fork lift truck is needed to move concrete planters – Georgia to try Elliott Bance for assistance. | NG / GC |
| | <u>East Side</u> It was proposed that the Parish Council should be approached and asked to provide a matching wall display. | |
| | RESOLUTION: Proposal agreed. A letter is needed to the Parish Council by the 1st October to reach the Environment Committee asking the council to provide a wall display. Georgia will take a photo. | NG / GC |
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| 5. | Village Lottery | |
| | Margaret Ford updated the Committee. There will be a launch in 'Talk About' in October. The Lottery needs marketing to local groups. Committee members agreed to promote the lottery to the Netball group, Field & Horticultural Societies. Margaret has sought quotes from printers for the leaflets. Last year the funds enabled 4 Scouts to go to Japan and gave funds to support for Light up Hassocks. | |
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| 6. | Neighbourhood Plan | |
| | <p>Margaret Ford reported that Paul King from the parish Council hopes that the HAA will join the Council's Neighbourhood Plan working group. There was a misunderstanding earlier in the year. HAA committee members do not have to sign a confidentiality agreement, however they should use a common sense approach and not share information on developer plans, for example.</p> <p><u>Housing & Planning Focus Group</u> The report from Frances Gaudencio was circulated prior to the meeting. Housing requirements are based on population projections. The Hassocks share is likely to be around 500 homes over the next 15 years. Virginia Pullan explained that the National Park have their own plan for housing. The committee should not assume that the National Park is sacred. The village design statement of 2008 is still valid and is a precursor to the Neighbourhood Plan.</p> <p>The Parish Council listed suitable sites for development in 2012, even if they have been deemed as unsuitable this decision could be overturned in the future. New building proposals should have a defined boundary edge. Virginia Pullan commented that the Clayton Mills Development is not a good example.</p> <p>Areas of discussion were flood risk legislation and school places – www.locality.org.uk</p> | |

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| | <p>Peter George commented that there is a shortage of low cost housing, 4 bedroomed houses, lifetime homes and key worker homes. If a development is over 14 homes there has to be an element of Keyworker/ Essential worker, shared ownership homes. It was agreed that limiting developers to small sites would give more individuality and better design.</p> <p>Density of housing and size of gardens was discussed as there is more home working and people are spending more time at home. Unfortunately we cannot dictate density, although we can make a preference. In the National park density is more flexible.</p> <p>The Age Concern site was referred to connection with any plans to redevelop the National Tyres site. Community right to buy scheme was discussed as was designated Village Green areas. It's important to finalise the broad principles. Juliet Merrifield said that it's not necessary to do the work of the Parish Council working group but to agree the principles and highlight areas of concern.</p> | |
| | RESOLUTION: The focus group will meet again and amend the report in light of the discussions. There will be a further meeting on 14th October 2014 regarding the Neighbourhood Plan. | FG |
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| | <u>Footpaths and Cycle Ways Focus Group</u> | |
| | <p>The report from Fred Maillardet was circulated prior to the meeting. The report comprises of 6 principles. The footpath K12 has been dramatically improved, however there are still problems that have been reported. The County Council seem to be a reluctant to use volunteers. Peter George commented that there was a dangerous footpath sign at Orchard Road. Fred Maillardet commented that it is the responsibility of WSCC. The footpaths and cycle ways benefit the wellbeing of the community and must be maintained. There was a suggestion to name areas that would benefit from new footpaths. There have been discussions with Ian Weir to extend the K12 footpath to Parklands Copse.</p> | |
| | RESOLUTION: The report was accepted by the Committee in its current version. | |
| | <u>Transport Focus Group</u> | |
| | <p>The report from Colin Wilsdon was circulated prior to the meeting. Unfortunately Colin was not able to attend the meeting. It was suggested to change the classification of the A273 road through Hassocks to a B road. It was also suggested to declassify the B 2116 completely. Both changes would to reduce traffic in and around the village forcing traffic to use the A23.</p> <p>Juliet Merrifield drew attention to possible plans for a shared space scheme at Ditchling mini-roundabout. Janet Slaughter will continue to survey Downlands School as to their comments for the Neighbourhood plan. All were reminded about the Neighbourhood Plan Consultation event on Friday 19th and Saturday 20th September 2014 at Adastra Hall.</p> | PG |
| | RESOLUTION: The Committee accepted the report amended with the change of road classification suggestions. | CW |
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| 7. | Treasurers Report | |
| | The report was received from Bob Kenhard. Bank enquires have failed to identify Geoffrey Alexander and none of the committee were able to give any further information on the matter. | |

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| | RESOLUTION: The Treasures report was accepted by the Committee. | |
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| 8. | Rail Matters Past, Present & Future | |
| | <p>There is £700 left from the historic countryside agency. The plan is to approach Jonathan Tate at the Heritage Centre and suggest a railway section. HAA has plenty of photographs and memorabilia attached to Hassocks station, including the railway clock and items stored at the Hassocks Hotel. Sue Milnthorpe and Paul Roberts (Lag Wood) have offered to help with the exhibition; it could feature from Victorian times to the present day.</p> <p>Catherine Cassidy reported that there are still snagging issues at the station from the recent refurbishment. A new franchise is taking over the railway, currently called 'Govia Thameslink'. There is also a change in timetabling. Hassocks Station has been nominated in the National Rail Awards as Station of the Year! Along with Gatwick and Brighton Stations.</p> | |
| | RESOLUTION: The Committee agreed with the proposal of a Rail Past and Present Exhibition at the Heritage Centre. | CC / MF |
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| 9. | Spitalford Bridge | |
| | The Committee await the result of their application for £500 from the Community Initiative Fund to renovate the bridge. | |
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| 10. | Date of the next meeting | |
| | Tuesday 14 th October 2014 at 7.30 pm, Adastra Hall. | |
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| 11. | Any Other Business | |
| | There were no items for any other business. | |
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| | The meeting closed at 10.25 pm. | |

Signed: Chair - Margaret Ford Date: