

HASSOCKS AMENITY ASSOCIATION

Minutes of meeting held on Tuesday 18th March 2014 at 7.30 pm

Present. Margaret Ford (Chair) Juliet Strange, Bob Kenhard, Diana Goodbourn, Fred Maillardet, Judith Poncelet, Roy Ticehurst, Janet Slaughter, Catherine Cassidy, Peter Gibbons, Amanda di Clemente, Georgia Cheshire, Colin Wilsdon, Paul and Liz Mercer and Phoebe and Jake from Downlands School.

1. Apologies for absence: Heather West, Emma Wheller, Louise Castleton, Ralph Wylam, Penny Wadsworth, Frances Guadencio, and Jacqui Whatford. *The Chairman welcomed Paul and Liz Mercer, Amanda di Clemente and Georgia Cheshire to the meeting.*

2. Minutes of last meeting and matters arising:

- The minutes of 21st November 2013 were signed as a correct record of the meeting with one correction. Item 4, second paragraph. ‘Hassocks Community Association’ should read ‘Hassocks Community Partnership’
 - a. K12 footpath. West Sussex C.C have agreed to resurface this path. Work is due to start shortly.
 - b. The railway clock. Southern are willing to have the clock in the station, provided it is in a glass case. It is hoped to have it in situ in time for the opening of the new station on May 2nd.
 - c. Managing change. There is to be a meeting on April 1st when the HCP, Age Concern, Hassocks Community Association and the HAA will discuss ways of working together and possibly forming closer links with each other.
 - d. Raised Beds There has been no response from the land lords of the row of shops which include the pet shop and dry cleaners to our request for a meeting regarding the state of the raised beds. After discussion it was agreed HAA should repair the brickwork and plant the beds, leaving room for rabbit grazing on the centre bed. Steve, at the pet shop should be consulted before work starts. HAA has a sum of money from the Parish council which is earmarked for this work. Amanda, Georgia and Paul Mercer agreed to help with the planting. Friends of Wolstonbury will maintain one of these beds and the guides will continue to look after the heather bed which was planted last year. Mansell McTaggart are in the process of approving estimates for the provision and planting of planters on both sides of the road at the bottom of Grand Avenue. Thanks were expressed to Amanda Kenhard for her initiative in this.

3. Youth Slot

- a. Downlands School had recently had a very successful fashion show. Year 8 will be taking part in an exchange with our French twin town Montmirail. The school is being used for many outside groups including a recent chess tournament when 500 people attended. The annual summer fair will be on June 28th. This was the last meeting the current head boy and girl would be attending and they were wished well for their futures. The new head boy and girl will be elected at the beginning of the summer term.

4. Treasurer's report Copies of the draft annual accounts for the last financial year have been distributed. These were agreed by the committee.

- Members subscription income: £2,145

It is proposed that we finalise the accounts adding a provision of £500 for the Tree Planting programme undertaken by HPC in 2013/14. We received a donation of £750 from the now defunct Hassocks Traders Association, it is proposed that we ear-mark this as start-up funding for the Beacon Centre.

a. Cash as at 15th March 2014:

HSBC Savings account. £6894.81, HSBC Current account: £ 1780.58, HSBC Lottery Account £5619.30. **Total : £14,294.69**

b. Estimated Overheads 2014/15: circa £1000

- Insurance: £270 (actual) Same as 2012/13 although the Broker made a mistake in our favour last year and did not charge us the full amount for tier two cover.
- Printing & stationery: £250
- Postage £30
- Membership Fees other bodies: £130 (FoSAS, CPRE, CVS)
- Clock maintenance: £210
- Room hire: £100

c. Discretionary spends 2014/15 (other than Rail Group and Bridge)

- Beacon Centre start up £750
- Tree Planting £500 (HPC have a 3 year contract at £3000 per year)
- Raised Beds £250

d. Income 2014/15

- Total subscription income ytd stands at £1,206.50. If members pay as expected the annual member's income in 2014/15 is estimated at £2,000
- Gift Aid circa £400

e. Village Lottery – Has been a success, with each member community group benefitting by at least £1000 at the end of June. There are currently 521 numbers

in the draw owned by 277 members. The challenge will be to repeat this every year. Funds are held on account until entry to the current season (Dec 13 – Nov 14) concludes with last subscriptions in June 14. Village Lottery. The new lottery will start at the beginning of December. The monthly draw is being handled by Light Up Hassocks at the moment. It was agreed we needed a specific project for the £1000 which HAA will receive from the lottery as this will help sell tickets in the future. One idea was to improve access to the community field but all were asked to think of suitable projects for this money.

- f. **Spitalford Bridge** – Phase 1 completed save for a clean of the southern pilasters. Phase 2. – Lydia, our community architect, is waiting for a quote from Wilbar Associates pricing up the 3 options :
- g. Removal of the broken wall, reinforcing and reworking the stream bank creating space for a bus shelter and bench – this might involve removal of some or all of the mature trees in that area, but replanting with native flora.
- h. Removal of the broken wall, modest extension to the flat area and replacement with fencing and provision of a bench under a slim shelter
- i. Repair or replacement of the wall and provision of a bench only
- j. **Funding** options being looked at currently include:
 - i. Operation Watershed is going to start again on the 1st of April and Lydia is in discussions with WSCC about an application - competition will be strong.
 - ii. "Community Initiative Fund" comes up once a quarter and is decided by the County Councillors. This is up to £5k.
 - iii. There is also the Members' Big Society Fund, again through your County Councillor, that can come up trumps.
- g. **Website** – Astrid Stubbs is keen to migrate site to a new, more user friendly, platform. This will involve additional work for her and may involve an annual cost (approx. £30) if we link our existing domain name to the new site. Will also involve an alternative on-line gift function.
- h. **Beacon Centre** A group of local people are in the process of setting up a committee with the necessary constitution to run the Beacon centre if it can be returned to community use. The situation is at present that the developers own the land and West Sussex CC have a 60 year lease on the building. The developers are worried that if the Beacon Centre returns to be used as a youth club or for other group use this might discourage potential purchasers of the new houses. There is a lot of local support for the Beacon Centre and several groups such as a children's nursery are interested in hiring it.

5. AGM Monday 23rd June 7.30 pm Adastra Hall

- a. Programme. The proposed theme: 'Your village, Your vision, Your Views.' was discussed. There was a consensus of opinion that this should be an inter-active session with all members in the audience having the opportunity to participate. We would invite a group of key people who would be able to respond, when relevant,

to any points made or suggestions put forward. Fred Maillardet would act as chairman.

- b. Diana Goodbourn, Heather West and Jacquie Whatford, are retiring under the three year rule. They do not wish to be re-elected. Penny Wadsworth, Louise Castleton and Juliet Strange (Secretary) do not wish to stand again.
- c. Suggested amendments to the constitution. At the AGM it will be suggested the constitution is changed to provide for the election of a deputy or vice treasurer. The other change will be to enable the HAA to continue banking on line. Payments of under £50 will be at the discretion of the treasurer and will not require any authorisation, but figures above that amount will need the agreement of one of the Honorary Officers.

6. The Neighbourhood Plan.

The chairman gave a brief explanation of what the NP was. A sub committee has been set up of members of the HAA with the express remit of helping the Parish Council prepare the Neighbourhood Plan. It is required by law that the NP is discussed with the local community and as yet this has not happened.. **Full details are in the Notes prepared by the sub committee which are recorded with these Minutes.**

7. Rail Group

- a. The project is nearing completion with step-free access finally being achieved. There will be a grand opening on May 2nd (time unknown)
- b. Aldingbourne Trust will take responsibility for the floral displays on the platforms..
- c. The franchise is up for bids. Southern will be running trains until next year when there will be one company running all our trains.
- d. Network Rail has found enough money to improve the shelter on the East side of the station.

8. Membership Secretary's report

- a. There are 273 members. 50% now receive communications by e.mail the rest are hand delivered. A Spring Newsletter, together with membership cards, will be sent out shortly.

DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS

A.G.M. Monday, 23rd June at 7.30 p.m. in Adastra Hall

Tuesday, July 15th , in the Green Room, Adastra Hall.

Executive Committee. 7.30 p.m.