

HASSOCKS AMENITY ASSOCIATION

Minutes of the meeting held on 1st December 2015

	<p>Present: Margaret Ford (in the chair), Catherine Cassidy, Georgia Cheshire, Peter George, Bob Kenhard, Fred Maillardet, Paul and Liz Mercer, Judith Poncelet, Janet Slaughter, Jonathan Soper, Amy Tarrant, Colin Wilsdon, Erika Woodhurst- Trueman and Jordan and Megan from Downlands School.</p>	
1.	<p>Judith Poncelet was presented with a farewell gift marking her fifteen years' service as membership secretary. She was thanked for all the work she had done over the years, during which she had brought our computer system up to date. As a result, we are able to communicate by email with over 140 households. In reply, Judith said she would have very happy memories of working with HAA and hoped to keep in touch.</p>	
2.	<p>Apologies were received from Peter Gibbons, Juliet Merrifield and Virginia Pullan</p>	
3.	<p>The Minutes of the previous meeting, having been circulated, were signed as correct</p>	
4.	<p>Rail Services Catherine had no good news to report. The new franchise seems to have produced more problems rather than less, with late running or cancellations almost becoming the norm. Attempts to meet station managers failed as emails were rarely answered. The ticket office was often closed, sometimes at peak times. The last straw was the sudden cancellation of a number of off peak services. As a result, Catherine has now written to Nick Herbert, MP setting out our concerns.</p>	
5.	<p>The Village Lottery Bob Kenhard reported that 239 numbers had been purchased by about 160 people, mainly HAA members. If we are to achieve 500 sales we will need a big push in the next few weeks. It was suggested that we have a presence at the village market on 19th December, that we have a table</p>	RK

	in the foyer of Southdowns Nursery, and distribute leaflets at the school gate.	& GC
6.	<p>Operation Watershed</p> <p>Flooding in Parklands Road. The contractors report had now been received. Spitalford Bridge acts as a throttle and cannot contain the volume of water coming down the Herring stream when there is very heavy rain. It might be possible to consider raising the watercourse banks close to Parklands Road, though any such work would need to ensure that the flood risk was not inadvertently increased upstream. The contractors also recommended that the Planning Authority should be notified that there was a relatively high risk of the Herring stream breaking the banks immediately upstream of the bridge and any development in that area should not increase the surface water flows.</p> <p>It was noted that this recommendation was relevant to the Neighbourhood Plan. Fred would contact the Parish Council.</p> <p>Fred was now in contact with householders and with landowners as well as the Ouse & Adur Rivers Trust, with a view to exploring various sustainable drainage systems.</p> <p>Lodge Lane/Dale Avenue flooding.</p> <p>The CCTV inspection of the drainage system could not be completed as the drain was so severely blocked that the camera could not get through. Fred was now pressing for some resolution, but communication between the various branches of West Sussex County Council was not straight forward. However, he was now in direct contact with Richard Speller, Highways Services Manager.</p> <p>Fred was thanked for the immense amount of work he had put into this project, and it was noted with pleasure that HAA was one of very few applicants who had been successful in gaining Operation Watershed funding.</p>	FM

7..	<p>Planning for the Future</p> <p>A draft paper, prepared by a working group consisting of Fred Maillardet and Erika Woodhurst-Trueman (HAA) and Catherine Cassidy and Jeremy Wakeham (HCP) giving details of a proposed merger between HAA and Hassocks Community Partnership (HCP) is attached.</p> <p>This was considered in detail, particular attention being paid to points raised by Juliet Merrifield who unfortunately could not be present.</p> <p>Members were happy with the proposal that HCP should become a charity, which would then be joined by HAA. The working party had considered other alternatives, but this way forward was favoured and had been reinforced by the legal advice of Jeremy Wakeham, who is also a director of HCP.</p> <p>It was agreed that, in the circumstances, it was not necessary to seek alternative independent legal advice. The expense would be considerable and the committee had every confidence in Jeremy's judgement. In addition, he was in the process of showing the proposal to his legal colleagues for their informal opinion.</p> <p>With a few minor amendments, and a lively debate on possible names for the new organisation, the report was approved. It would now go to a meeting of the directors of HCP. All comments and amendments suggested in writing have now been sent to the working group</p>	
8.	<p>Date of next meeting</p> <p>This will be circulated following the next meetings of the working group and HCP.</p>	