

## HASSOCKS AMENITY ASSOCIATION

The 47<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting held at the United Reformed Church, Hassocks  
On Monday 13th July 2015 at 7.30 pm

**Present:** Margaret Ford in the Chair and 25 Attendees.

### 1. Apologies for absence

Judith Poncelet, Peter George, Sherrian Guest, Jonathan Soper

### 2. Minutes of previous meeting and matters arising

The minutes of the meeting of 23rd June 2014 were signed as a correct record of the Annual General Meeting.

### 3. Chairman's report

The chairman reported on the activities of the year. In brief the following points were covered:

#### **The Past Year:**

- Phase 2 of the Spitalford Bridge completed
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Village Lottery raises £3000 for village causes
- HAA input to Neighbourhood Plan
- Two awards had been received by the new Hassocks station: **National Rail Awards 2014. Medium Station of the Year** - Highly Commended; **Southern Rail Internal Service Quality Award 2015.** Best community station - Runner up.
- Catherine Cassidy appointed to the Thameslink Programme Stakeholders Reference Group
- Membership static at circa 265 households, but sub's up on 2014. 120 members now opting to receive communications by email
- Newsletters/email updates increased

#### **The Year Ahead:**

- Creating 'a green heart for Hassocks' in co-operation with HKD Transition, the Sussex Wildlife Trust and the Avon and Ouse River Trust.
- Floral displays throughout the village in conjunction with the Parish Council .
- Investigation into flooding in Dale Avenue/Lodge Lane & Parklands Road, following successful bidding for funds (£11K) through WSCC Operation Watershed.
- Monitoring of rail services, the implications of the new Rail Franchise, and the December time table changes by the Rail Group.
- Continuing discussion of the future of HAA

### 4. Treasurer's report

A full copy of the accounts is recorded with the minutes. The Treasurer highlighted and explained significant variances over the previous financial year.

In 2013-14 we reduced discretionary spending to build funds, thus in 2014-15 we were able to fund or contribute to: Spitalford Bridge, village tree and general planting, the Beacon Centre project and pay a secretary.

- The **Beacon Centre** project failed and our start-up funding of £300 has been returned this year. Ian Weir from HPC advised that he was keen to see a youth scheme developed which would use existing buildings in the village, if this was successful and demonstrated the need, then obtaining future funding might be possible.
- Village Trees – HAA have paid £3,300 thus far since 2009 towards the HPC scheme. HPC have planted 270 street trees since 2008. HPC are asking for another contribution this year - £500 was proposed and approved by the Meeting. *The meeting adopted the Accounts.*

## 5. Village Lottery

### Season 1: Dec 2013 – Nov 2014

278 people bought 522 numbers

Total raised was £6243

LIGHT UP HASSOCKS, THE SCOUTS & HAA received £1000

Prizes paid = £2494, expenses = £504, the balance of £245 was carried forward

### Season 2: Dec 2014 – Nov 2015

332 people bought 471 numbers there are five more monthly draws until November this year.

LIGHT UP HASSOCKS, THE SCOUTS & HAA will again receive £1000 each as their share of the proceeds after costs. This season is now closed to new members.

The Future – will there be a Season 3? Whilst this year, the proceeds have been shared equally, unfortunately, the work involved has not, with the majority of the effort falling largely to HAA Volunteers. There was some discussion concerning future arrangements for the Lottery which all present agreed was a worthwhile initiative. The Treasurer reported that discussions were on-going with the other Groups involved and that he would report back to Committee once those discussions had been finalised.

## 6. Membership Secretary's Report

This was addressed by the Chair in her report – see above.

## 7. Election of Officers:

The Deputy Chair temporarily took the Chair for the election of the Chairman

- a. **Chairman** – Margaret Ford proposed by Janet Slaughter and seconded by Colin Wilsdon
- b. Other officers: **Treasurer** – Bob Kenhard proposed by Colin Wilsdon and seconded by Margaret Ford, **Membership** – Judith Poncelet proposed by Bob Kenhard and seconded by Colin Wilsdon.

**Honorary Secretary:** The Chair appealed for proposals but none were forthcoming.

## 8. Election of Elected Members

Peter Gibbons and Jonathan Soper are due to retire but are both eligible for re-election for three years.

Peter was duly proposed by Margaret and seconded by Catherine Cassidy

Jonathan was duly proposed by Margaret and seconded by Bob.

Juliet Merrifield of HKD was proposed for the remaining three year vacancy by Bob and seconded by Catherine

Note: One two year vacancy remains unfilled.

## 9. Any Other Business

None. The meeting closed at 8.15 and was followed by attendees splitting into four break-out groups to consider the future of HAA.

The groups reported at a plenary session chaired by Fred Maillardet. There was a unanimous vote that HAA should investigate the possibilities of an umbrella organisation being formed which would include all the major community groups in Hassocks.