

HASSOCKS AMENITY ASSOCIATION

Minutes of the Meeting held on 13th April 2016

	Present: Margaret Ford (Chair), Bob Kenhard, Georgia Cheshire, Fred Maillardet, Paul and Liz Mercer, Juliet Merrifield, Jonathan Soper, Colin Wilsdon, Peter Gibbons, Erika Woodhurst- Trueman	
1.	Apologies: Catherine Cassidy, Peter George, Janet Slaughter, Anne Knowles, Amy Tarrant	
2.	The Minutes of the previous meeting, having been circulated, were signed as correct	
3.	<p>Treasurer's Report: Bob updated the meeting on the current status of the Accounts. Please find attached Treasurer's Report, a copy of which was also handed out at the meeting. The draft 2015/16 Accounts were approved for presentation at the AGM.</p> <p>The Village Lottery: Further to the information with the Treasurer's Report, Bob reported that 407 numbers had been purchased by 264 members for season 3.</p>	
4.	<p>AGM – 2016: <u>Topic:</u> The meeting agreed that the topic for this year should be Flood Protection for the Village – but that the topic should also be split to discuss reducing the flow upstream from Spitalford Bridge and reducing water runoff in Hassocks. 'Green' roofs and 'living' walls and permeable surfaces should be featured. Publicity would be required for this and the Chair asked for volunteers to help with this project. Georgia offered to obtain more information through her various contacts and Erica also offered to help with organising posters and publicity material and Fred and Juliet would come up with ideas for speakers and trade stands.</p> <p><u>Venue:</u> The Chair had already checked that Adastra Hall would be available on a number of dates in July.</p> <p><u>Date:</u> The meeting agreed that the first choice would be: Tuesday 5th July at 7.30 pm with a fall-back of Monday, 4th July. Georgia mentioned that she knew of a lady in Pyecombe who may be very willing to provide refreshments at the AGM, and would contact her</p>	GC

	<p>to see if she may be interested.</p> <p>N.B. Adastra Hall has now been booked for Tuesday 5th July.</p>	
5.	<p>Operation Watershed: Dale Avenue and Lodge Lane Culvert</p> <p>Fred reported to the Group that there was a detailed clearance plan. However, the work involved would be complex due to the bend in the culvert. A date is now awaited for commencing this work, which should take approximately 2-3 days. The road will not be closed but traffic lights will be put in place to control traffic flow. There will be no problem with working on the manhole covers and WSCC have confirmed they will underwrite any additional costs over and above the allocated grant.</p> <p>Flooding in Parklands Road: We are working with Peter King (Ouse & Adur Rivers Trust), Juliet Merrifield (HKD), WSCC and Brighton University graduate students, researching environmentally friendly methods to reduce flooding risks. Two stream walks were recently undertaken. It was agreed that the speed of flow needs to be reduced to minimise volume of water downstream. In this regard, on the last stream walk Fred met and talked with Gary Lee who was looking at the possibility of installing a small balancing pond in one of his fields. A number of interesting possibilities are now being investigated.</p> <p>Fred mentioned that he was working closely with Wayne Mills to make people on the stream side of Parklands Road fully aware of the flooding issues and that this issue would be discussed at the AGM in July. Georgia suggested that Andy Petch should also attend as he had been helpful and involved with this issue from the beginning.</p> <p>Juliet briefly mentioned that their group of volunteers intended to progress with the Herring Stream planting programme in late June/early July, after the fish had finished spawning. The Chair also advised the meeting that the <i>Downlands Art Circle</i> were going to be working on posters to put in the bus shelter, showing the different species of flora and fauna in that area. Juliet mentioned that the photographs taken recently in connection with the invertebrates survey might be helpful.</p>	FM

6	<p data-bbox="209 248 497 282">Merger Discussion</p> <p data-bbox="209 338 1230 421">Fred introduced the paper which gave an update on the HAA / HCP merger discussions. There are two primary areas of concern:</p> <ol data-bbox="256 477 722 555" style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="256 477 608 510">1. Election of Trustees<li data-bbox="256 521 722 555">2. Accountability to Members <p data-bbox="209 618 1321 701">Before further progress can be made, the Committee was asked to clarify how they felt the new organisation should operate as regards:</p> <ul data-bbox="355 757 1098 891" style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="355 757 1034 790">• How members influence decision-making<li data-bbox="355 801 858 835">• How Trustees are elected and<li data-bbox="355 846 1098 891">• How the board of Trustees is held to account. <p data-bbox="209 947 1321 1120">Erika gave her view that in practice – Trustees/board members are self-selecting because at the AGMs they put themselves forward or continue in post because there are no other volunteers.</p> <p data-bbox="209 1131 1321 1258">Members/'friends' usually are happy for the Board to make decisions for them and as such take little interest in and have little influence on decision-making.</p> <p data-bbox="209 1270 1321 1532">Therefore HAA needed to carefully consider how strongly it felt about needing an open selection process and a mechanism for 'friends' to influence decision-making. If HAA feels one or both are necessary, the Committee needed to consider what its minimum requirements would be in order the she and Fred could go back to HCP with a clear mandate for negotiation given HCP's position on these matters.</p> <p data-bbox="209 1588 1257 1671">There was considerable debate regarding the situation, which finally resulted in a vote on three options:</p> <ol data-bbox="220 1722 1289 2038" style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="220 1722 1161 1805"><i>1. The differences between the organisations are considered irreconcilable as such the merger talks should be called off</i><li data-bbox="220 1861 1289 2038"><i>2. A period of less formal partnership should be sought during which time the two bodies work together where possible and may also establish a joint volunteer database. It can then be decided, upon reflection at the end of this period (eg one year), whether it would</i>	

	<p><i>be beneficial to resume formal merger talks.</i></p> <p><i>3. The differences are considered surmountable, merger talks should continue with a view to drawing up specific proposals for a new merged body to be presented to both organisations as soon as practical.</i></p> <p>After much discussion and deliberation, the results of the voting were in favour of <u>Option 3</u> with a majority of 5 to 3 of the Committee with one abstention. Erika and Fred thus agreed to revert to HCP for further negotiation having understood the preferences of the Committee and thus with a clearer view on minimum requirements which if not met would result in an end to the negotiations.</p>	
8.	<p>Any Other Business – Date of Next Meeting: Due to the lateness of the hour, no further discussion took place. Date of next meeting to be arranged.</p>	

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