

HASSOCKS AMENITY ASSOCIATION

Minutes of the Meeting held on 17th August 2016

Present: Janet Slaughter (Chair), Catherine Cassidy, Peter Gibbons, Bob Kenhard, Paul and Liz Mercer, Juliet Merrifield, Jonathan Soper, Colin Wilsdon.

Actions

1. Apologies: Margaret Ford , Georgia Cheshire, Fred Maillardet, Erika Woodhurst-Trueman.

2. The Minutes of the previous ordinary meeting, 25th May having been circulated, were accepted as correct. (to be signed)

3. The Minutes of the AGM on the 5th July had been previously circulated.

4 Post AGM meeting with HKD Transition on 5th July. The focus was Operation Watershed and Natural Flood Mitigation. Fred had provided an update report on progress with OW which had been circulated and read, for which many thanks. The latest news that Peter King had won a grant to proceed with the first phase of the upstream flood mitigation activity in Butchers and Lagg Woods was seen as a great result for our collaborative efforts to date. Fred also emphasized that the further OW funding shows that the 'powers that be' are clearly very content with how we have/are using the OW funds we've received to date. He would also add how fortunate we are to have Peter King working with us together with the added strength of HKD being a partner. Juliet then described the nature of the work envisaged in the woods and then went on to brief the meeting on the outcome of the HAA HKD OART follow up meeting held on the 8th August. (Minutes attached) In essence the group have started to plan the way forward, focusing particularly on some 'quick wins' (such as low cost rain gardens) in order to build on the momentum of the AGM. Running Rain Garden training days in late September or early October is being considered. With the possible culmination in an Hassocks Open Rain Gardens event in summer 2017

5 Treasurer's report.

- At the 8th August meeting HAA agreed to bid for funds for the Training Days and Bob presented draft details and a budget for an application for community funds to Hassocks PC. The plan was approved in principle subject to Margaret's review. Action Bob to submit grant application (post meeting note: Margaret happy with Training Days plan)
- At the AGM it had been agreed that we should support the Hassocks Tree Planting programme again this year. The issue for the meeting was one of quantum. £500 was duly agreed.

Bob

6 Village Lottery. Bob asked if it was intended to continue the lottery for another year, all were in favour. It was agreed that help during the launch phase would be necessary owing to the peak of work. Bob agreed to call a planning meeting in early October.

Bob

Allocation of 2016 funds can now proceed as the 2016 lottery is closed to further members. The amount available is £2,700, as previously, it was agreed that £150

should be held back to cover the launch costs of the 2017 lottery. It was agreed that in compliance with the advertised benefactors of the lottery (HAA and HCP including LUH) the sum of £1300 would be granted to HCP with the preference (of HAA members expressed at the AGM) being for the majority to go towards Justine Fisher's Hassocks Hub youth initiative and the balance to LUH.

7 Merger Discussions. Fred had supplied an update document which was circulated before the meeting. The draft Objectives of the HCO and the draft Articles of Association prepared by Jeremy Wakeham and reviewed by the Working Group were also pre-circulated. In response to questions Catherine explained the nature of the proposed new organisation, a Company Limited by Guarantee and a registered charity. i.e. Trustees having liability limited to £1. Some discussion ensued regarding the need for control of functional groups. It was agreed that a fine balance exists between ensuring functional group activity was financially viable and allowing initiative and drive to flourish. In response to concerns expressed by Peter G, Bob explained that the ultimate decision to merge with HCP would be made at an EGM of HAA members.

8 Volunteer Database. Paul explained that his objective was to capture volunteers able to give some time rather than asking for volunteers with a specific interest. His current action is to produce by 23rd September the database structure and the form to be used for data capture.

Paul

9 Rail Group (RG) Report. Catherine gave the following updates:

- The group has contributed to a 2018 Timetable review with Govia. The RG had asked for an extra Victoria train per hour with a stop on the West Coast train. Early indications are of a positive response. There is an RG meeting on the 29th September when they hope to get an update from Govia.
- RG has raised need to replace the sleepers in the planters on the London side. Sleepers available but waiting for manpower, Margaret had suggested contacting the Monday Group. The station is scheduled for a 'deep clean' later this year.
- Because the RG is working with the community we have been successful in having a Brompton Bike facility installed on the London side. Catherine will forward advertising material to Astrid for publication on HKD and HAA websites and Newsletter.

Catherine

10 Any Other Business. Margaret had asked for volunteers for leaflet distribution on Saturday 20th at the Herring stream whilst work by the HAA/HKD group was underway. Juliet felt that she had enough people available to do this on the day.

11 Date of next Meeting. Tuesday 18th October – subject to confirmation

Janet Slaughter

Deputy Chair