

HASSOCKS AMENITY ASSOCIATION

Minutes of the Meeting held on 25th May 2016

	Present: Margaret Ford (Chair), Bob Kenhard, Fred Maillardet, Paul and Liz Mercer, Jonathan Soper, Colin Wilsdon, Erika Woodhurst-Trueman, Catherine Cassidy, Peter George, Janet Slaughter	
1.	Apologies: Anne Knowles, Georgia Cheshire, Peter Gibbons, Juliet Merrifield,	
2.	The Minutes of the previous meeting, having been circulated, were signed as correct	
3.	Meeting Agenda. Margaret advised that the primary objective of the meeting was to consider the latest report from Fred and Erika after the majority decision at the last meeting ‘to continue with the merger talks with a view to drawing up specific proposals for a new merged body’ (<i>with Hassocks Community Partnership</i>) and to determine the next step towards the possible merger.	
4	AGM – 2016: Prior to the main discussion, Margaret briefly updated the meeting on the theme for the AGM and that she had been successful in arranging for a key speech from one Dusty Gedge who would be speaking on all matters green. His fee would be £250 and HKD had agreed to contribute £100. Peter King of the Ouse & Adur Rivers Trust would also attend and have a display. Erika offered to arrange pre-event advertising in the Middy. Venue: Adastra Hall and the committee room have been booked.	
5.	Merger. Margaret introduced the subject and thanked Fred and Erika for the significant work they had done to date. Fred then talked through the latest report dated 19/05/16 copy attached. Highlights were: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If the committee felt that the process towards integration should continue then three board members should be selected to take seats on the interim board of the new organisation. Fred felt that there had been some movement by HCP on the matter of Friends (members) ability to influence the board of the new organisation. This was felt to be a key requirement. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Erika highlighted the importance of the number of Friends (members) being increased and should be a priority addressed by the interim board. • The issue of appointment to the new board remained a concern. <p>Margaret had been in touch with Dan Francis, Governance Consultant at the NCVO. He said <i>“that charities did not have to have an electoral process but it was not usual and not regarded as good practice. If a new charity were to be formed, the Charity Commissioners would want to be assured that our members realised they would be losing their democratic rights”</i>.</p> <p>Catherine explained the HCP process of selecting board members was down to finding and allowing volunteers to serve. She assured the meeting that there was nothing ‘sinister’ about the way HCP board members are approved. This was often an organic process where people who wanted to do something positive for the community would come forward with an idea and then be facilitated by HCP.</p> <p>Paul made the comment that HAA is also being somewhat intransigent in this regard in that we view democratic election as essential but acknowledge that we do not actual do it, relying on the same organic process to fill committee seats.</p> <p>Jonathan made the point that the two organisations had many more synergies than differences and that we should work hard to find a way to bring them together. After further debate, the Chairman moved that we should take a vote on the way forward.</p> <p>Janet asked for clarification as to exact result of this step, it was clarified by Fred and others that this was a vote to continue the merger process by the formation of a transition or interim HCP board that would agree the detail of the merger. This outcome would then be put before members at the next practical opportunity which was unlikely to be the July AGM. This would mean that HAA would continue as is for the duration of this process and until a vote could be arranged by members.</p>	
6	<p>The motion was in two stages</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That HAA should continue the process of transition 2. If motion 1 is carried then we will need three members of the committee to stand as interim HCP board members. 	

	<p>The results were:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Seven (1 x email) members were in favour of continuance there were two (email) against and two abstentions. MOTION CARRIED 2. Jonathan Soper, Fred Maillardet, and Bob Kenhard volunteered and were accepted by the committee. 	
8.	<p>Any Other Business</p> <p>Margaret proposed and Bob seconded that Erika be formerly appointed to the HAA committee – carried.</p> <p>Date of Next Meeting: Will be the AGM at 7.15pm on 5th July</p>	

Margaret Ford