

HASSOCKS AMENITY ASSOCIATION

Minutes of the Executive Meeting held on 18th October 2016

Actions

Present: Margaret Ford (Chair), Catherine Cassidy, Janet Slaughter, Georgia Cheshire, Erika Woodhurst-Trueman, Peter George, Bob Kenhard, Paul and Liz Mercer, Juliet Merrifield, Jonathan Soper, Colin Wilsdon. Plus Louie Garnett, (Head Boy) and Ben Miller (Deputy Head Boy) from Downlands Community School.

1. **Apologies:** Fred Maillardet, Peter Gibbons, Matthew Sprange

2. **The Minutes** of the previous executive meeting, of the 17th August having been circulated, were accepted as correct.

3. **The Accounts & Village Lottery:** Bob commented on the current cash situation, as at today's date we have a total of £8,885.31 in cash, comprising Restricted Funds of £2,008.86 (Including £400 grant recently received from HPC for Rain Garden Training). Allowing for funds committed to Autumn planting and the Millennium Clock service there is a balance of £6,326.45 in our general funds. The meeting agreed to a grant of £50 to the CPRE. It was noted that Bob had resigned from leading the Village Lottery at the end of this year and agreed that the potential merger with the Community Partnership provided an opportunity to pause and reflect on what we might do going forward. Paul and Liz confirmed that were willing to continue with the database and deliveries associated with the Lottery should a new leader come forward. It was also agreed that the MSDC Small Lottery licence (£20) for 2017 should be renewed to avoid additional charges involved if lapsed.

Bob CPRE

Bob MSDC

4. **The Green Group:** Georgia advised that apart from a little tidying of some beds and the addition of extra slate to the main raised bed there was little more to be done immediately. However, Georgia and Amanda are meeting shortly to discuss winter maintenance. A green group meeting will be called early in the New Year, date tba. Bob and Amanda with help from Paul & Liz will spread the slate and tidy up the Grand Ave planters. Concern was expressed that one green group volunteer whose subs had lapsed may not be insured. Liz will contact. **Post meeting note:** Our new Employers Liability insurance covers '**Volunteers under our direct control**' – thus no requirement to be subscribing members.

Bob Paul Liz

All to note

5. **Sustainable Urban Drainage and Natural Flood Mitigation.** Juliet reported on behalf of the working group that the imminent flood mitigation work (funded by Operation Watershed) and undertaken in collaboration with Ouse and Adur Rivers Trust (OART) in Butchers Wood had stalled owing to the recent change of the Woodland Trust (WT) Manager.

Peter King (OART) advised that in a recent meeting with Mr Paul Truluck (WT) despite prior agreement with the outgoing WT manager he was told that WT want to go back to the beginning, with public consultation etc. etc. Peter is producing a more comprehensive plan and Juliet suggested that a joint letter from HKD/HAA should be sent to the WT detailing all the various public consultations that had already taken place. Peter King asked that we hold off until he has had a chance to talk to his various contacts.

Members present voiced their disappointment and frustration at the delay after so much work.

Discussion then turned to keeping the many volunteers on board in the face of such a significant delay. Peter George suggested inviting them to work on the Herring stream as downstream of Spitalford bridge would benefit from clearing. Juliet updated the meeting on the ongoing work volunteers were doing in creating new gravel beds in the Herring Stream.

Bob outlined the Rain Gardens Training project, which is now part funded by HPC. A number of potential sites had been identified and a date was being arranged for Dusty Gedge to return and review the sites for suitability. Action with Bob

Bob

Peter George also suggested that Fitzjohn Court and Church Mead, both sites with high water tables, should also be considered, Bob agreed to contact the manager at Fitzjohn Court.

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- 6 Social Activity.** Margaret outlined plans for a committee social/seasonal activity marking the end of a busy year and possibly also marking the end of nearly 50 Years of the HAA! The date of the 29th November was agreed. Committee members present donated £120 to meet the costs.

7 Merger Discussions.

Erika had previously circulated an update on the merger with HCP. In essence the HCP is very positive and now keen to merge as the Articles of Association and the Objects of the new joint legal entity, to be called The Hassocks Community Organisation (HCO) are in final draft format. HCO will be a company limited by guarantee and a registered charity. Before the next steps can be taken by HCP the HAA committee needed to vote to proceed, which it did with one abstention. As HCP cannot complete the charity registration and other related changes until HAA members have agreed to the merger they have asked for a speedy resolution from HAA. HCP are understandably keen to merge before their accounting year end of the 31st December and HAA similarly mindful of their approaching year end in February 2017.

Janet asked if restricted funds (eg Rail Group) would be protected and Bob assured her that this would be the case.

Paul confirmed that he would act as Volunteer Secretary in the new organisation.

To comply with HAA's Constitution our next step is for 15 paid up subscribers of the HAA to vote for a Special General Meeting (SGM) to be called. The SGM to vote on the merger and transfer of assets. Once that is completed and the vote is in favour the final HAA step is to call a second SGM to formally dissolve the association, not less than 14 days after the first. The dates proposed are the 16th November for the first SGM and the 7th December for the final SGM assuming a 'for' vote at the first.

Liz, Erika
Bob

Erika & Bob to draft the call for the SGMs. Liz will send out to members.

Post meeting note.20/10/16 Submissions from 15 subscribing members for the SGM to be called have been received.

8 Rail Group (RG) Report.

Catherine reported that the rail group had met with Phil Hutchinson, GTR Head of Timetable Planning and Jane Cobb, 2018 Timetable Consultation Project Manager to clarify the proposals which will affect Hassocks. It is likely that we will have a stop on the Brighton to Cambridge train. There is also an hourly stop scheduled on the twice hourly semi fast Brighton to London Victoria service, (on the other half hourly service

the stop will be at Burgess Hill). Disappointingly our hope for a stop on the West Coastway service has not been met but there is a possibility of a stop on one of the twice hourly Bedford trains which would give us four trains an hour. GTR 2018 Timetable Consultation can be found via a link on the Southern Rail website. The consultation ends on the first week in December.

Staffing the ticket office continues to be a problem, one shared by most of the ticket offices in the area owing to failure to recruit staff. We are, however, promised new ticket machines in the future.

9 Any Other Business –The representatives from Downlands Community School were thanked for their attendance.

10 Date of Next Meeting - tba

Margaret Ford

Chairperson