

HARTING PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the **Highways and Byways Advisory Committee (HABAC)**
held at **7.00 pm** at **Noddswood, Ditcham** on **Tuesday 3 September 2019**

Present: Anthony Palmer (Chair), Sheila Bramley, Penny Curran, Barry Mackay, John Miller and Andrew Shaxson.

In attendance: Trish Walker, Parish Clerk.

1. Apologies for absence: Nigel Johnson Hill.

2. Declarations of Interest: None.

3. Minutes of the meeting on 19 June 2019: Having been agreed, the minutes were signed by the Chairman.

4. Matters arising

- The clerk had contacted the insurers who had confirmed that the lengthsman would be covered by the Parish Council insurance if the list of tasks he carries out is detailed by the Council.
Action: TW to liaise with Paul Bramfitt to ensure this happens.
- It was noted that Nyewood would like to place a “gateway” at each entrance to the village. The costs of materials would be covered by a benefactor and a local builder is happy to make them for no cost. It is hoped that this will help to reduce speeding through the village.
Further guidance will be sought from WSCC to ensure the gateways are compliant. The members agree that, although the scheme will not incur a cost to the Council, the item should be placed on the next agenda for consideration.
Action: PC to provide a report for the September meeting

5. Hedges in the Parish

An article had been placed in the Parish Magazine outlining resident's responsibilities in relation to hedges, there had been one response which related more to roadside verges. WSCC have reduced the cutting service for roadside verges and this has had a detrimental impact on visibility in some areas. Mr Shaxson is aiming to raise this issue at the next County Local Committee meeting in November.

A group from HABAC had visited and noted some of the problem hedge areas within the parish, there was particular concern about North Lane, especially outside Whitcombe and Bramshott cottages.

The members agreed that further contact should be made with the local farmer to see if they were still experiencing problems. Also, contact would be made with the agent to request that the hedges outside Whitcombe and Bramshott cottages should be cut.

It was noted that work to cut back hedges and clear ash trees was due to take place shortly along the B2146 at Uppark, this will vastly improve that stretch of road.

Action: AS to raise verge cutting at County Local Committee in November.
AP to contact Tom Bates to see if there is still a problem with hedges
AP to contact agent for Whitcombe and Bramshott cottages.

6. Flood Prevention plan

The Flood Prevention Plan was still in progress and the “adopt a drain” details were still to be advanced.

Action: clerk to locate gullies via Parish On-line system.

7. Footpath Lights

The members had previously received the report from the lighting specialist, Alan Tulla, which recommended the specifications for the footpath lighting scheme.

He had recommended that two additional bollards should be added to give as much light coverage as possible given the requirement to have lights that adhered to the SDNPA Dark Skies policy. The bollards will also need to be secured to the ground with base plates to ensure maximum protection against vandals.

Mr Palmer and Mr Johnson Hill were due to meet with possible contractors to discuss the schemes and to obtain quotes for the lighting and installation costs. A report will be taken to the next Council meeting.

It was noted that most northerly half of the path is in the conservation area, and this may impact on planning permission requirements. This will be discussed with SDNPA.

The estimated cost of the scheme is thought to be in the region of £10k.

Action: TW to email Kevin Drewitt, WSCC about the condition of the footpath surface and ask him to state that WSCC is liable for any hazards that arise from it.

AP & NJH to gather 3 quotes for the lighting scheme.

AS to check if planning permission is required to replace the existing lights and for the additional bollards.

8. Footpaths

A local landowner has offered to create some permissive paths across his land in West Harting to adjoin other public footpaths. This news was welcomed by the members.

9. Highways

9.1. Traffic Working Group update

Mrs Bramley gave a report from the Traffic Working Group which had met to prioritise plans following a disappointing meeting with Chris Dyer, WSCC.

The group had decided to push ahead with the Speed Indicator Device (SID) which would be portable and can be placed in two possible places in South Harting as well as in Nyewood if a suitable post can be found. The SID will need to be moved every 3 weeks and will need to be either solar or battery operated. The group will be putting a recommendation to the September Council meeting.

The Community Highways Scheme has been split into 3 phases, with the previous 20mph limit proposal being dropped. The phases are:

- i. Crossing to South Gardens – this is achievable now the car parking area is owned by the Council
- ii. Extension of the footpath leading up the Petersfield road to join the Sussex Border path. This will hopefully lead to better road markings and help slow traffic travelling in and out of the village.
- iii. Reconfiguration of the junction in the Square to enable easier crossing to the shops.

The 30mph signs leading into the village from the south have been put on hold until the ash tree clearance work has been completed as there may be improved sight lines. Mrs Bramley has been in contact with a pressure group called “communities against noise and speed” based in West Meon. They are hoping to start a project using noise and speed cameras, and it is hoped that Harting may be able to be part of this.

9.2. Traffic Issues in the rest of the Parish

The issue of the “gateways” in Nyewood had been discussed earlier in the meeting under “Matters Arising”.

9.3. Fingerposts

Since the previous meeting a resident of East Harting has started to refurbish the Turkey Island sign. Another resident has offered to help with refurbishment of fingerposts but is currently without a suitable working space. The clerk also gave details of a WSCC Volunteers group which helps to train local volunteers to carry out various tasks within their communities. The members felt it worthwhile to contact this group to see what help might be available.

The fingerpost at Nyewood is in the worst condition as the top part is missing and no directions are identified. It was felt this should be the initial fingerpost to be refurbished and a likely cost would be put forward for the 2020/21 budget requests.

Action: clerk to contact WSCC Volunteers Group to see what help they may be able to in respect of the fingerposts.

clerk to request three quotes for the refurbishment of the Nyewood fingerposts.

10. Funding requests

The two potential funding requests are:

£2.5-3k for the Nyewood fingerpost restoration

£10k footpath lighting

It was noted that there may be grants available for the lighting project which should be investigated.

Action: AS to check CIL (community infrastructure levy) funding with SDNPA

Clerk to investigate other possible funding sources

11. Any other business

- Road closures across the Hampshire border – there was concern that the Parish Council is not informed of these closures which can have a great impact on the area.

Action: clerk to contact Hampshire County Council

12. Items for next meeting

There were no new topics to consider at the next meeting.

13. Date of next meeting

The next meeting was provisionally set for Thursday 14 November 2019 at 7pm at Ivy House, South Harting, subject to approval by Mr Johnson Hill.