

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 23 April 2019**

Present: Anthony Palmer (Chair), Andrew Shaxson, Nigel Johnson-Hill, Simon Powys Maurice and Sheila Bramley.

In attendance: Trish Walker, Parish Clerk. David Bate, local farmer

1. Apologies for absence: None.

2. Declarations of Interest: None.

3. Minutes of the meeting on 28 January 2019: Having been agreed, the minutes were signed by the Chairman.

4. Matters arising

TW had approached two local parish councils regarding lengthsman, one had a full-time employed worker and the other gave small ex-gratia payments to a group of local people that took responsibility for emptying bins and carrying out other tasks.

Action point: TW to contact Paul Bramfitt to get a better understanding of how the current system arose, and to investigate the possible direct employment of the lengthsman.

5. Membership of Committee – Appointment of non-councillor members

There had been no further interest from non-councillors to join the committee. It was hoped that the new Nyewood councillor might join to represent that area of the parish.

6. Hedges in the Parish

A letter had been received from a local farmer, regarding the state of hedges in the parish. He was concerned that many privately owned hedges are left to grow out onto the carriageway, this causes the larger vehicles to move out into the road and thereby pose a threat to road safety.

The committee discussed the various issues and agreed this was a problem, however, not one that the Parish Council could necessary resolve easily. The Council would be unable to spend public funds cutting private hedges, even if the householders were to repay the Council once work had been carried out.

However, the Council is able to write to residents asking that they cut their hedge, and if this is not done can contact WSCC to take the matter further.

It was agreed that that first step would be to note the hedges by the roads and paths that are of the greatest concern, and to contact householders asking they could cut them back. It would be useful if a list of possible contractors could be supplied. The whole parish would need to be included in this exercise.

It was agreed that further information should be sought from WSCC about how far hedges should be cut back from the road, and the measures that they can take if householders do not cooperate.

Action: TW to contact Mike Dare for further information

All to note hedges that are obviously a problem

TW to investigate if details of possible contractors can be provided

7. Flood Prevention plan

Further to the last meeting, AP had used the Parish Online facility which maps the large number of gullies in the parish. An essential part of flood prevention is keeping the gullies clear of debris, particularly after bad weather. The committee agreed it would be a good idea to encourage members of the parish to adopt the gullies near their homes and to keep them clear of debris or report them if they become blocked.

It seems that some people already do this, but it would be good to extend this further. The best approach would appear to be dividing the parish into sections and then contacting the nearby householders to see if they are happy to help.

Action: TW and AP to look at ways of extracting information from Parish Online to move this forward.

8. Footpath Lights

The committee discussed the need to light the footpath from the Street leading up to the School and it was agreed that, as the surface of the path was broken and uneven in many places, lighting was necessary.

NJH had spoken to a local lighting company who had provided advice and costings for some possible lighting schemes. The “low eye” system discussed at earlier meetings is not an option due to the uneven surface. At this stage it seems there are two possible options:

Bollard style lighting; vandal resistant - £11580 + vat

Eye lighting; fixed to a post - £7800 + vat

It was agreed that further information should be sought about both options, in particular the cost of repairs in case of vandalism. The committee noted that quotes from three contractors would be required when a recommendation is taken to the Council.

Action: AP and NJH to meet with local lighting company to consider the available options and costs

9. Footpaths

The email from WSCC regarding PRoW's (Public Rights of Way) was discussed. NJH said that he was happy with the state of the footpaths at present and with the scheduled works suggested by WSCC. An item will be placed in the Parish Magazine to urge people to snip back brambles and overhanging foliage if they happen to be walking the paths.

Action: NJH to put article in the Parish Magazine about footpaths

10. Highways

10.1. Traffic Working Group update

Mrs Bramley gave an update on the work of the Traffic Working Group (TWG). A meeting is due to take place on 3 May 2019 with the traffic consultant and the WSCC Traffic officer, and it is hoped that the various options relating to improving safety and speeding in the village will be discussed and give a clear way ahead to be considered at a public meeting in June. The deadline for the Highways Scheme this year is 31 July, so the timescale is quite tight.

The public meeting will be advertised via the Parish magazine and a household leaflet drop, the leaflet will provide an opportunity to include some other parish items.

10.2. Traffic Issues in the rest of the Parish

There were no known issues.

10.3. Fingerposts

The pictures of the fingerposts taken two years ago had been collated but unfortunately were not available at the meeting. It was agreed that new photos of the fingerposts should be gathered, where possible, to enable the committee to see the current condition and to prioritise works. The committee will need to include any future works in the Council budget which is set during September/October.

Action: TW to collate pictures for next meeting

All to photograph fingerposts if passing and forward to TW

AS to approach contact about refurbishment

TW to approach other contractors

10.4. Road closures

The clerk is notified of road closures by WSCC and forwards any local issues to the councillors by email. It was agreed that in addition to this any road closure information affecting the parish would be uploaded to the Council website. In the future, once email lists have been established, details could be sent out to parish members.

11. Nyewood to Petersfield cycle/footpath

The members noted that the SDNPA are hoping to create a cycle/footpath between Nyewood and Petersfield running along, or as close to the old railway line as possible. This initiative is very welcome and will hopefully provide a safe route for cyclists and walkers. Further information will be emerging over the next few months.

12. Verge opposite the Village Shop

A resident had raised a question about the ownership of the verge opposite the Village Shop. The Council does not own this area, it may belong to the Shop Association or WSCC.

Action: TW to contact Jeff Ace or Andrew Jameson regarding this

13. Funding requests

The possible areas to be considered for the 2020/21 budget are likely to be:

- Footpath lighting
- Fingerposts

Bids for budget funding will need to be forwarded to the Finance Committee in September.

14. Any other business

- i. It was noted that a member of public had fallen and hit their head whilst walking along the village footpath leading to the school. It is unknown whether this was as a result of tripping on the uneven pavement. The surface of the path is the responsibility of WSCC and the members agreed that the clerk should contact Chris Dye, WSCC regarding this incident and to raise concerns about the condition of the surface.
- ii. Kate O'Kelly had raised, in recent correspondence, the issue of electric vehicle charging points within the parish. The members agreed that there was no known demand for these at parish level at this time.
- iii. Concerns were raised about the safety of the junction at the southern end of North Lane. The parking at the junction and the two islands means that large vehicles and tractors regularly have to enter North Lane on the wrong side of the road. Changes were due to be made to this junction about 6 years ago, but the plans were withdrawn. The members agreed that this issue should be raised with Chris Dye at the Traffic Working Group meeting on 3 May 2019.

Action : TW to contact Chris Dye regarding the footpath.

SB to raise the North Lane junction issue with Chris Dye.

15. Items for next meeting

Hedges in the Parish
Flood Prevention Plan/Gullies
Footpath lights
Fingerposts

16. Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 19 June 2019 at 7pm at Ivy House, South Harting.