

HARTING PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES

Minutes of the Meeting of Harting Parish Council held in the **Harting Community Hall, Pease Croft, South Harting** on **Thursday 17 October 2019 at 7.30 p.m.**

Present: Mr Shaxson (Chair), Mr Bonner, Mrs Bramley, Mrs Curran, Mrs Dawson, Mrs Gaterell, Mr Mackay, Mrs Martin, Mr Miller and Mr Palmer.

In attendance: Mrs Walker (Parish Clerk).

There were two members of the public in attendance.

144. Apologies for absence: Mr Johnson Hill.

145. Declarations of Interest: None

146. Minutes from Meeting held on 19 September 2019.

The minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 19 September 2019 were signed by the Chairman as a true record.

147. Questions from the Public

A member of the Public raised the following question:

- What progress has been made on the potential crossing to South Gardens and the playground as they frequently cross there with grandchildren and find it very dangerous.

Mrs Bramley, the chair of the Traffic Working Group, confirmed that a scheme was being considered to provide a crossing there, the Council is using a Traffic Consultant to progress the plans.

148. Matters of Urgent Public Importance

None

149. Reports from the County and District Councillor

Dr O'Kelly, the County and District Councillor, confirmed that the Leader of West Sussex County Council (WSCC) was to stand down. The Children's Services Commissioner has been brought in to oversee the Children's Services as they had been deemed inadequate.

WSCC have published a plan to consult on the future of 5 smaller schools, these locally include Compton and Stedham. The website for the consultations is

www.westsussex.gov.uk/smallschools.

Dr O'Kelly chairs the local Bus Group, at a recent meeting the group discussed the future of the 07.34 service for the number 54 bus. WSCC are planning to cut the 07.34 service unless local parishes agree to contribute to the cost of keeping it going. This item was a part of the Parish Council agenda to be discussed later in the meeting

The District Council section of the report referred to increased use of Wellbeing Advisers to help those that suffer through cold living conditions or loneliness. Contact can be made by emailing info@chichesterwellbeing.org.uk.

150. South Gardens Play Area

The members considered an offer from a local resident to gather opinions and ideas from within the community to enhance the play area in South Gardens. The request came as a result of a “just Giving” page set up to raise funds to be used in that area following the incursion of the travellers to South Gardens in July 2019.

The resident, working with Cllr Mackay, will then report the outcome to the Council along with suggested enhancements to the current equipment.

There are likely to be various sources of funding that may be available to supplement the sum raised by the “Just Giving” page. Some available grants require fund matching from within the community, so some fund raising may be required.

The members were delighted to have received an offer of help and agreed that the proposal should be agreed. It was felt important that the details of the development and background to the current play area should be taken into account.

The following proposal was agreed:

That the Council agree that Mrs Martine Hartridge may gauge opinion amongst the community, and report back to the Council, regarding the possible ideas for the enhancement of the play area in South Gardens and any possible funding sources available.

151. South Downs National Park Affordable Housing Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) Consultation

Following the adoption of the Local Plan, the South Downs National Park Authority (SDNPA) is developing the Affordable Housing Supplementary Planning Document (SPD), in particular relating to Policies SD28 and SD29, Affordable Homes and Rural Exception Sites respectively.

A consultation on the SPD is due to run for a period of 8 weeks ending on Tuesday 19th November 2019.

The members agreed that, despite there not being an identified need or site for affordable housing in the parish, we should consider whether we wish to make any comments. The consultation timescale will not enable the Council to agree the comments as the next meeting falls after the deadline date. It was agreed that the Planning Committee should prepare and submit the comments on behalf of the Council.

The following proposals were agreed:

- i. to note the report*
- ii. that the Council agreed to submit comments regarding the Affordable Housing Supplementary Policy Document*
- iii. that the Planning Committee should prepare and submit any comments on behalf of the Council*

152. WSCC Request for funding Bus Service No. 54 - 07:34 service

The Parish Council had received a letter from the Cabinet Member for Highways & Infrastructure, WSCC requesting the Council consider agreeing to pay a sum of £2058 to WSCC to ensure the 07:34 service of the number 54 bus to Chichester, currently run by Stagecoach, is retained.

A similar letter had been sent to other parishes along the route with the total request to fill the funding gap being £8000. The amount requested from each parish was based on the proportion of the population, for Harting this equated to 1451 residents, 26% of the population of parishes on the route.

This option was recently discussed at the local bus meeting group as a possible way forward. Dr O’Kelly, the County Councillor had placed an item on the “Life in Harting and surrounding villages” Facebook page asking for users of the service to contact the clerk. There were 4 responses received from parents whose children used the service on various days in the week to get to college in Chichester. Stagecoach have calculated that an average of 0.8 passengers per trip get on the bus at Harting.

The number 91 bus travels down from Rogate and meets this service in Harting. Some passengers can either change to join the number 54 service in Harting or continue on the number 91 and change at Midhurst to join the number 60 service to Chichester. The latter option is currently difficult as there is only a 2 minute leeway to change buses.

The clerk had contacted SSALC (Sussex Surrey Association of Local Councils) who had confirmed the Council would be able to make such a payment.

The members were asked to consider the request from WSCC. There was a concern that if some parishes did not agree to pay the request would be increased to the other Councils. Dr O’Kelly responded to saying she believed this would not be the case.

The members were concerned that this would not be a one-off financial request, and requests for underwriting future years or even further services might follow, this therefore being the “thin edge of the wedge”.

The members considered whether the sum should be paid for a period of one year, but then felt that if funding was not given for further years it could appear that the Parish Council had stopped the bus service rather than WSCC.

It was agreed that the Council’s responsibility was to the parishioners rather than underwriting the costs of WSCC, who should be providing rural bus services. Although there would be an impact on the students travelling to College, it was felt that there was an alternative option for those travelling from Harting to Chichester and perhaps pressure should be put on Stagecoach to make the connection in Midhurst slightly more feasible.

The members agreed that they would not contribute to the cost of the bus service and that pressure should be put on WSCC to fund the service.

The following proposals were agreed:

- i. to note the report*
- ii. that the Council having considered the report decided not to make a financial contribution towards the subsidy currently provided by WSCC.*

153. East Harting BT Phone Box

BT are carrying out a review of Phone boxes and have allocated the Phone Box at East Harting for potential removal.

A similar consultation was held 3 years ago and, following a ballot amongst the residents, BT agreed to retain the box.

Chichester District Council (CDC) have recently contacted the Parish Council to confirm the latest consultation for the East Harting Phone Box and asking for decisions by the

beginning of December 2019. The information supplied by BT show the phone has been used on 2 occasions in the last 12 months.

There are 3 possible options for the Council to consider:

- to seek to justify a reason for the telephony to be retained
- to take the option to purchase the kiosk for the sum of £1
- to allow BT to remove both the kiosk and the telephony.

A local resident involved in the previous consultation has offered to carry out another ballot of East Harting residents. The members felt this would be very useful and, given the low number of calls made, may enable residents to suggest ideas for the use of the Phone Box if it was retained without the telephony.

The following proposal was agreed:

that the position agreed by the Parish Council was to ask Chris Sibley to organise a ballot of the East Harting residents and report a decision to the meeting on 21st November 2019 regarding the BT phone box at East Harting.

154. Durford Abbey Tiles

The Petersfield Museum had contacted the Parish Council to request the long-term loan of a Durford Abbey tile to use in an exhibition marking the re-opening of the museum in October 2020.

The tiles are among a number of artefacts which are held by the Parish Council. They are from the demolished abbey at Durford, the monks of which were very involved in the early life of Harting.

The members were delighted with this request and agreed that a tile should be loaned, subject to a suitable agreement.

The following proposal was agreed:

that subject to properly drawn up agreement the Parish Council loan a floor tile from Durford Abbey to the Petersfield Museum

155. Repairs to the entrance of the car parking area at South Gardens

A local resident, who has a business regularly using South Gardens, has offered to repair the large pothole at the entrance to the car parking area, as well as rebuild the pier at the end of the wall which was knocked down by a vehicle prior to the Council ownership of the area.

The repair of the pothole will take place after the tree works have been completed in South Gardens, and the wall pier will be rebuilt in the spring.

The members felt that this offer of voluntary help should be welcomed, and also agreed that the cost of any materials would be covered by the Council.

The following proposal was agreed:

that the Council accept the offer of voluntary help to repair the pothole and to rebuild the pier at the end of the wall and agree to cover the cost of any materials required.

156. Finance

156.1 It was agreed that the following payments should be made:

Undisclosed	Clerk & RFO Salary - October	761.09
Lady Traill	Allotment Rent	25.00
Mrs H Tuke	Hospital Car Phone	180.00
Petersfield Citizen Advice Bureau	Donation – S137	300.00
Harting PCC	Burial Grant	200.00
Harting Congregational Church	Burial Grant	200.00
Mr A Shaxson	Chairman's Allowance	200.00
Moore	External Audit	240.00
Came & Co	Community Hall Insurance	1341.79
JRB Enterprises	Dog bags	101.94
David Chaffe	Process Matters2 - DPO	150.00
Harting War Memorial Playing Field	Lengthsman	110.00
M H Kennedy & Sons Ltd	Grass Cutting	166.20
Debra Harknett-Godfree	HCH Bookkeeping	95.63
Petaprint Ltd	Leaflet Printing	190.00

156.2 There was no income for the month of October 2019.

157. Bank Reconciliation for September 2019

It was noted that the bank reconciliation had been scrutinised and signed by the Chairman of the Finance Committee. The Chairman of the Council then signed the reconciliation in accordance with the Council's Financial Regulations.

158. Bank balance as of 30 September 2019 – £50,237.97

Noted

159. Budget statement for September 2019

Noted

160. To note the external audit for 2018/19 is complete and notices are displayed on the noticeboard and Parish website.

Noted

161. Planning Committee

The minutes of the Planning Meetings held on 19 September 2019 and 4 October 2019 were noted.

162. Correspondence

There were no items of correspondence.

163. Clerks report

The clerks report was noted, and the following areas were highlighted:

- The estate manager had met the clerk and councillors at Furze Meadow to discuss improvements to be made to the area and play equipment
- The Tree works in the Warren and South Gardens were due to start on 15th October. The works will start in the Warren moving to South Gardens in the week beginning 28th October.

- There had been 4 enquiries as a result of the Drop-in sessions covering issues such as:
Parking outside the Old School, in Warrenside and in the layby opposite the Congregational Church.
An enquiry about wheelie bin collection for those that are less able.

164. Items for future meetings

West Harting BT Phone box
East Harting BT Phone box
Nyewood signage
West Heath sand pit consultation

165. Date of next meeting - Council Meeting 21 November 2019 at 7.30pm.

The meeting closed at 8.50 pm.