

Annual Parish Meeting

The Annual Parish Meeting (APM) of Harting Parish was held at 6.30pm on 28 April 2016 in the Community Hall, Pease Croft, South Harting. The meeting was chaired by the Chairman of the Parish Council Mr Andrew Shaxson and 40 members of the public were present.

Welcome and introduction from the Chairman (Mr Andrew Shaxson)

Welcome to Harting's Annual Parish Meeting (APM). I would like to introduce our new Parish Clerk Sharon Wiltshire. Sharon has lived in South Harting for just over 3 years and has been in post literally one week. As she has only recently been appointed, Kate Bain, a Locum Clerk with 15 years' experience in the role, is attending to ensure that any procedural issues are properly dealt with. Sharon's contact details are 5 Smithfield, Elsted Road, South Harting, mobile number 07469 934353..

Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Mrs Angela Church, Mrs Julie Clegg, Mr Paul Glue and Mrs Heather Tuke

Declarations of interest – none.

Minutes

The minutes of the last Annual parish meeting held on 19 March 2015 were approved as a correct record.

Reports by Parish Organisations

Fetherstonhaugh, Warren, Weaver, Feoffee and Henry Smith Charities - Pauline Barnfield. The Trustees comprise of the Rev.Mark.Morton, Rev. Ken Jacques-Chairman and Secretary Mrs. Pauline Barnfield-Treasurer, Sue Small, Jane Healey, Liz Lawrence, Peter Albury and Ron Beckett. Colin Waller now inspects the accounts. We have received £2,000 from the Henry Smith Charity during 2015 and £730.56 from Black Rock Investments with bank interest of 25p. At the end of February 2015 there was £2,227.00 in the Current Account and £582.82 in the reserve account During 2015 we distributed Vouchers at Christmas to the value of £1,000.00, £300.00 to the School to assist disadvantaged children, and £1,300.00 to persons in need.....in total £2,600.00

Fetherstonhaugh Charity for Poor Men – Paul Glue. In 1896 Miss Featherstonhaugh left £265 in trust originally to pay for the up keep and repair of the family vault and tomb in Harting church yard, the surplus of which was to be divided

among four poor men resident in the parish of Harting, whose principle means of support should be parochial or union relief.

The capital sum was handed to the charity commission in 1916. In 2012 the trustees decided to increase the recipients to five instead of increasing the money given to four individuals as the capital had increased. This had previously been done in the past by General Hawes when he was a trustee. On 25th Feb 2015 the balance was £45.53; interest paid by the charity commission up until the 25th Feb 2016 was £53.23; in December 2015 £10 each was paid to Mr D Slaughter, Mr W Bone, Mr J Ward, Mr L Lawrence and Mr R Beckett, leaving a balance of £48.76. Mr P Glue, Mr S Walker, Mr K Clue (trustees)

Hospital Car Service – Heather Tuke. During the last 12 months the Car Service has made 209 trips, to doctors, hospitals, dentist, optician and other medically related appointments. Most to Petersfield, Midhurst, Cosham and Chichester, and some to Havant, Bognor Regis and Worthing. Again I would like to thank the drivers for doing such a great job. Giving up their time and looking after the passengers. More drivers would be very welcome as it would help to spread the load.

Lunch Club – Edmund Torrens. The lunch club continues to be supported by excellent attendance – 37-45 on each occasion during the year, increasing to between 70-80 at Christmas time – all who attend enjoy the lunch. Particular thanks were given to the group of people who organise the teas. A celebration of the Queen's 90th birthday took place at the last lunch - a toast was made to Her Majesty and the National Anthem was sung.

Harting Youth Club – Daphne Gammon

The Youth Club would like to continue, but unfortunately, they haven't had a Leader since September 2015. Attempts to recruit through the young person's Youth Service have been unsuccessful to-date. Funds are available to finance a Leader for 3 hours per week term time only, and efforts will continue to try and attract the right candidate to fill the vacancy.

Harting CE Primary School – Fiona Mullett

Since the school's last report, there has been a full calendar of events to support learning. These have included history days; African dancing and drumming workshops; arts installations; a debating competition and sports fixtures against local schools; a 'wolf day' on world book day; along with a wide range of other learning opportunities throughout the year. As well as exciting activities, day to day teaching is inspiring, despite the demands of the national curriculum and assessment changes. The children of Harting School are extremely generous – something modelled by many families, along with the staff. Through the School Council, a pupil committee which influences decisions within school, they have opted to support several charities. These have included giving to Syrian refugees via Operation Paddington, when favourite teddies were shipped to needy children, as well as making donations to the Rural Refugee Project. Pupils have also created welcome messages so Syrian families feel included in our society. Other charitable giving has

included donations to the Chichester Foodbank and funds for uniforms for pupils at our sister school in Sierra Leone. Operation Christmas Child was another point of giving by our families.

Ceramic daffodils, created for the Mothering Sunday installation at Uppark were sold for the Marie Curie Foundation. This helped the school to remember Madeleine Warburg – a teacher, still on the staff, until she died in May last year. The school has an active PTFA who support projects for additional resources. Their events are both for fun and to fund-raise and add to the school's positive environment. It remains a very special place. Harting School continues to thrive and has 121 children who are well supported by a dedicated and experienced staff. Volunteers from the community and churches make a difference to the work within the school by working alongside the pupils. The school is also aided by the National Trust who offer use of the Forest School site and welcome children to Uppark. These links are treasured and the Head teacher, Fiona Mullett, wishes to extend her thanks to those who are generous to the children with their time or share resources.

Harting Bell Ringers Report 2016 – Chris Rose

Harting Bell ringers continue to meet every Tuesday evening to practice and ring for the 10 o'clock service twice a month, also ringing for Weddings and events throughout the year. We are very lucky to have a good size enthusiastic team of ringers, when so many local churches are finding it difficult to recruit ringers. Ringers continue to visit other towers to learn new ringing skills and development, Trish and Pru have been visiting Stoughton on a Wednesday evening and Trish has recently completed a quarter peel which is highly commendable. We welcome visiting towers to ring at Harting usually offering a special Harting Tea, for which we are renowned.

Harting bells are known throughout the ringing world to be difficult to ring; this is due to the long draft, which is now rare as most bell ropes now go through guides. Many experienced ringers will think twice about ringing at Harting! We have recently fitted a simulator, which enable us to ring on silenced bells, we are then able to see and hear our ringing on a computer. It will also help new ringers when they start to ring and the team in learning new methods. We were able to fund this with the help of Harting Festivities. Our bells are in good repair and are constantly monitored by Richard, Paul and Chris, making repairs as necessary. Our new ringer Rosie has continued to improve and is now ringing on Sundays and has rung for a wedding. Chris Rose is the present captain and is now into his second year at this position. The group welcome anyone wishing to learn or who are just interested in our bells to come up to a practice on Tuesdays at 19.30

Harting Parish News – Julie Cragg

The Harting Parish News is in a healthy state, with sales, advertising and finances on an even keel. Our designers/printers are unfailingly helpful to both myself and

Nick each month. The photographic front covers seem to be much admired and I am starting to get a steady flow of contributions. The loss of some features, eg Dawn in the Garden, had been balanced by new contributors such as Michael Blencowe of the Sussex Wildlife Trust.

There have been other small changes as well but I have yet to receive a negative comment. This year was Colin's last Magazine AGM meeting as Treasurer: after some 15 years of service to HPN (including as proof-reader), he has handed over the finances to Peter Cragg who has kindly stepped up to the role. I thank Colin for his very long service and Peter for picking up the reins. Eunice Spicer has resigned from the group, and I can only once again express gratitude for her contribution over the years. Advertising continues to go well in the magazine with space constantly in demand. We have a 27-strong team, serving some 500 subscribers. Most of the rest of the 550 print run is sold through the Harting Stores (bringing in some £650 in the year) and the Post Office (somewhat less than half that amount). As already stated the Magazine is in a healthy financial position. A surplus on the year has brought the cash balance up to £6,244.63. The revenue (£9,378.05 for the year to October) came roughly half-and-half from subscriptions/sales, and from advertising and it was agreed at our AGM, that all rates would be held unchanged for the year ahead. Overall, I still feel that the HPN stands up well to comparison with other local publications; it carries a great deal of news and information and provides good value for money.

Henry Warren Village Club - Ken Smith, chairman

On behalf of the residents in Nyewood, The Henry Warren Village Club trustees and operating committee, I would like to thank the parish council for their continued support that is always much appreciated.

As many will know we are going to rebuild the Henry Warren Hall and planning permission was granted towards the end of 2014, but we have had to overcome some conditions placed on the parking by the planning dept. This has proved very frustrating and full planning was not secured until February 2016! In that time the building costs have risen and the trustees are looking to secure further funding options to complete the project. In 2015 the operating committee has been hard at work fundraising despite not having a hall to use, all events were enthusiastically supported by Nyewood residents and the inaugural Nyewood Scarecrow festival attracted a lot of interest generating 62 scarecrows from 92 households and was a feature in a live outside broadcast with BBC radio Sussex. Another big event was the sell-out 'Magic of Christmas' concert, helping to boost the building funds.

The Magic of Christmas concert has been such a success the we will be moving to a larger hall at Bedales school on December 10th 2016 and are hoping to have a west end star singing. Tickets will sell fast so book early! Full details of what is happening in Nyewood are available on our website :-<http://henrywarrenvh.btck.co.uk> The club committee will be increasing the number of fundraising events for 2016 and keep pushing ahead with the rebuilding of the Henry Warren Village Club.

At this stage of the meeting the chairman expressed his concerns that many people, having noted the start time of 7pm for the APM that was erroneously placed on the website by the ex-parish clerk, had just arrived. He apologised and assured parishioners that the reports they had missed would be published in the text of the minutes.

He further stated that the minutes would be published and placed on the website ASAP, and said that this showed the parish council that more people used the website than had been previously thought the case.

Harting Minibus Management Committee - Treasurers Report for the year ended 31st. March 2016 – Colin Waller

We carried 2,818 passengers on single journeys on our Public Services during this fiscal year, which is 1% above last year. On the school journeys we are currently carrying 28 children daily (25 last year) to and from Petersfield. (Our seating capacity is 31 daily). This means that we carried 9,435 single journeys to and from school for the fiscal year just ended versus 9369 carried last year. Total single journeys carried therefore increased from 12,143 to 12,283, and revenues increased from £12,352 to £13,139. These revenue figures include Private hire charges last year of £809 and £1,055 this year. Operating expenses reduced this year by £3,526 to £8,524 mainly as a result of the extra cost last year of £1,358 for preparing a new vehicle for service. Other reductions in cost include Fuel (£163), Insurance (£276), and Driving Instruction and Assessments (£352), Hospitality (£388 - we didn't hold a party this year for drivers), and Accident damage repairs (£341). Overall we made Surplus for the year (before Depreciation) of £9,163. Last year the figure was £4,684. Over the past five years we have made total surpluses, of £24,209, but in the same period we have spent £68,158 on replacement vehicles and recovered £19,529 from the sale of old vehicles. These figures show the absolute need for adequate reserves to replace vehicles from time to time and the need to have surpluses, on average, of about £6,000 per annum. Overall our Current Assets increased by £9,163 during the year to £73,731 resulting from the Surplus made during the year. Our cash reserves remain sufficient to meet our ongoing Operating Costs, and to fund the replacement of vehicles from time to time.

Harting Parish council chairman's report – Andrew Shaxson. As a result of the minibus issue, which understandably concerns many people in the parish, it is perhaps easy to overlook all the other work that has to be undertaken behind the scenes to ensure the parish runs smoothly. That is why I would like to start by thanking my fellow Parish Councillors for all they have done over the past year, and are continuing to do. Seven out of eleven of us, including me, were not on the parish council before the election last May, but all of us are in some way involved in tackling a number of tasks. Although the future of the minibus is the most important outstanding issue I won't allude to it in this report, other than to say that a report and recommendation for its future management is included in the parish council agenda, copies of which many people have already seen and are in the hall. It will be debated at the Parish Council meeting that follows this. You are all welcome and entitled to attend that meeting. And on the topic of thanks I would like to extend my thanks to Gordon McAra, our County councillor, for all he has done for us during the past year. The chairman's annual resume of Parish Council activities can be rather

historical, as our small patch of the world moves on from week to week. I have therefore endeavoured to keep people informed by putting monthly updates in the Parish Magazine. I hope they are proving useful? Our most recent effort was to be the only organisation in this area to light a Queen's birthday beacon, thanks to the permission of the landowners the National Trust. Most of the organisation was carried out by Chris Healey, helped by the muscle and machinery of the Olphert family. During the year we undertook a consultation on the frequently raised topic of whether the lights on the footpath between the old and new schools should be retained. The footpath was created in 1970.... and the lights installed in 1988. The majority of those who reacted said that the lights should stay. They have suffered from occasional but regular vandalism over the years at no small cost to the Council and therefore the community. With this in mind it was agreed that having been repaired there should be timely reactive maintenance to ensure that any damage is limited and costs can be kept to a minimum. The new parish council took over the outstanding matter of lopping the three large chestnut trees in South Gardens. They had previously been cut in 1983, and early last year were identified as being a potential hazard. Since 1983 South Gardens has been incorporated into the Harting Conservation Area....and furthermore bat protection legislation has come into being. We didn't realise just how time-consuming – and expensive – it would be to satisfy the resultant strictures - even though after a thorough search there was no sign of any bats! A process which commenced in March was completed with the removal of the last timber on the afternoon of 29th October – and 32mm of rain fell that night! It couldn't have been tighter. On the subject of South Gardens – and not forgetting the Warren – the Council is well aware that not only is there outstanding work that needs to be carried out in those areas, but that we need to introduce an annual work and maintenance programme if we are not to be slave to its demands. I would at this point like to thank Bevis Gladwyn who off his own back has cleared some trees felled by Storm 'Katie', the vegetation beside the path along the dam of the northern pond, as well as dealing with a hazard in front of the metal bench overlooking that pond. Concerning water we hope that two outstanding flooding issues have been resolved. For at least 15 years the road at Hurst Farm has been prone to deep flooding in periods of heavy rain – ironically almost entirely caused by water flowing off fields located in Hampshire. It happened three times this last winter. 6 gullies have now been uncovered that WSCC were unaware of, buried under the roadside silt that has built up over nearly 50 years, and while WSCC have yet to complete the work on that site we hope that if the gullies can be kept clear flooding will become a thing of the past. The other flooding issue was at the pond in Kent House Lane, East Harting, where the location of the outfall pipe had effectively been lost. It has now been found, cleared and mended. Other maintenance work has been carried out by parish lengthman Dave Young – and volunteers who by clearing drains, grips and gullies have kept water running in such strategically important locations as adjacent to The Ship. Your parish council has overall responsibility for many parish projects and areas, some of which need fairly constant attention, and others we need to monitor. We are responsible for three sets of playground equipment, all of which require a weekly visual check, the already mentioned South Gardens and Warren, and the footpath and lights. We are also the landlord of this village hall and the War Memorial Playing Field, though fortunately they are both - as you have already heard in earlier reports - well run by a committee and trustees. As in former years the work carried out by the planning committee, efficiently and ably chaired by Sheridan Bowman, is both very important and time-consuming. That committee now meets

twice in most months, and considers in excess of 100 applications a year. As there are three large Conservation Areas in the parish this includes numbers of tree lopping or removal applications. There has been a recent peak in tree applications in East Harting. The Council commented on the SDNPA Local Plan Preferred Options during the autumn, including the somewhat controversial proposal to allocate a site for 8 new dwellings in New Lane.

Not only did the work on the fore-mentioned chestnut trees go well over budget and necessitate us drawing on the parish reserves but we are well-aware that long-outstanding work at South Gardens, and replacing and updating the fore-mentioned play equipment, will involve the spending of more money than has been the case in previous years. There is also the need to budget for the not inconsiderable cost that will be incurred in re-organising the management of the minibuses. Consequently, the decision was made to increase the parish precept to £42,239* for this coming year. To put it in perspective this works out at about 3% of the total Council tax you pay, and is about the average amount per household levied by the 67 Chichester District parishes. That said, we will of course be monitoring the use of all parish money and therefore what the precept should be in future years. (*increase 49.48%).

Having delivered his report the chairman realised that there was not a report from the **Community Hall Trustees**. He invited Nigel Johnson-Hill to say something on their behalf.

Nigel Johnson Hill reported that following the fire in the gents' toilets, a fire risk assessment was carried out and new alarms installed. However, the first floor Committee Room remains a fire risk for two reasons, the first one being that it sits above the boiler and secondly, it only has one fire exit door. In the event of a fire, it wouldn't be possible to exit the room through the skylight windows. To install a second fire exit will cost a considerable amount of money and funds aren't currently available to carry out this installation.

The Chairman thanked all those who had provided reports and opened the meeting to public questions and comments

Open Forum

Ron Beckett raised the issue of the restoration of the Henry Warren commemoration seat adjacent to the church, as he understood that funds were available for this purpose. Daphne Gammon reported she had obtained estimates to have the chair fully restored to be located at the new Henry Warren hall. The quotations received have varied, but are considerably higher than expected, ranging between £400-£1,000. She advised the meeting that the Parish Council would make the decision on the best way forward with the restoration.

It was noted that where the chair is currently positioned, cars park right up to the chair, which means it can't be used.

He also reported that the stone plaque on the Old School pump dedicated to Queen Victoria's Jubilee needs re-engraving, as the wording has worn with age and the elements. It was also noted that the wooden chair by the memorial needs repairing. The chairman said the parish council would look into this.

Ron also brought up the subject of the continued maintenance of the public footpath lights behind the Harting Primary School. He said that 80 out of 100 letters supported the retention of the lights. The Chairman confirmed that 80% of the letters received from residence voted in favour of keeping the lights in good working order – 16 out of 20 letters.

Pauline Barnfield referred back to the Old School Pump and said that she had helped with the maintenance by replacing the flowers in the memorial. She said that Heather Tuke and Pat James also helped in the past with planting flowers, and that Stephanie Morgan at number 2 The Old School House had recently taken on this role

Leslie James reported that there has been an increase in the number of advertisement posters in various locations around the village which look unsightly. Unfortunately this does have a snowball effect, as it only encourages further advertisements to appear – the latest ones advertising Chipperfield Circus. There are two village clubs that have placed adverts around the village – the Wednesday night ballroom dancing and also the Men's Club. Leslie questioned whether this was legal as we do have legitimate notice board displays in the village for advertising.

Sally Ball requested that we use modern technology to advertise meetings, as it was noted by several members of the Parish that the time given was incorrect. She also asked that more reports are made available on the website and in the Parish Magazine, as she hadn't been aware of the on-going issues with the minibus.

Sheila Barnes also requested that times and dates of Parish meetings be advertised in the Parish Magazine.

Eleanor Harradine reported that she's new to Parish meetings and that as a regular user of the minibus service, she wasn't made aware of the issues. She felt that passengers should be the first to be made aware of any issues.

Colin Waller felt that the year-end financial results for the Parish Council should have been available at this meeting. The Chairman advised that the unaudited financial results would be discussed at the next meeting, that of Harting Parish Council. He also went on to explain that the Parish had been without a Clerk for over 6 weeks and that this had caused a delay in pulling the information together.

On being asked by the chairman whether the Parish Council should bring their accounts to the APM, **Kate Bain** advised that when a Parish is without a Clerk, it is acceptable to have a set of unaudited accounts.

Further to his financial report Colin stated why he felt the minibus was such a valuable service.

His Treasurer's report that was circulated at the meeting stated that 9,500 single journeys were made by children going to and from Petersfield last year. That represents over 17,000 car movements to and from Petersfield that were not made last year, and a saving of about the same number of litres of fuel.

He advised that minibus finances are in great shape and that in 43 years of operation, Harting Minibus has never turned to the Parish for financial assistance.

Over 50 people are involved in the running of Harting Minibus, and not one penny piece has ever been paid in wages. We owe these people a great deal of gratitude.

Finally, a quotation from the Manager of West Sussex County Council Transport Bureau, in an email to Colin earlier this month:

"Harting Minibus has always been seen as an exemplar scheme – regularly cited as very proactively managed and working very much with the local community (its customer base), rather than ploughing the same old service. Long may it continue."

Brian Evans wanted to thank the Parish Council for the work carried out over the past year. He wanted to draw particular attention to the help given by The Chairman during the adverse weather conditions of the last winter in clearing roads and gullies to relieve the local flooding. He felt more could be done by villagers to look after the areas outside of their own properties and this would help to alleviate the problems of flooding.

Brian also reported that many potholes had been repaired. Future potholes would not be repaired unless each individual one is reported to the Chichester County Council, as they wouldn't necessarily be aware of them. The telephone numbers to use are: Highways on 01243 642105 and the main switchboard number is 01243 785166 – these numbers are also available in the Parish Magazine.

Pat James advised the meeting that potholes can be reported on the love.westsussex.gov.uk website. Photos can be taken and sent with a grid reference to report potholes in need of repair.

The Chairman advised the meeting that jetting and drain clearing will be taking place in East Harting in the very near future. He thanked everybody for attending, inviting them to stay for the Parish Council meeting at 8pm which would make a decision on the future management of the minibuses

He closed the meeting at 7.40pm

