

HARTING PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the **Highways and Byways Advisory Committee (HABAC)** held at **6.30pm** on **Thursday 28 May 2020**.

The meeting was held via Zoom video link in accordance with the Coronavirus Act 2020

Present: Anthony Palmer (Chair), Penny Curran, Nigel Johnson Hill, John Miller and Andrew Shaxson.

In attendance: Trish Walker, Parish Clerk.

1. Apologies for absence: Sheila Bramley.

2. Declarations of Interest: None.

3. Minutes of the meeting on 5 November 2019: The minutes were agreed as a true record and will be signed in due course once the restrictions from COVID-19 are eased.

4. Matters arising

All matters arising were included on the main agenda.

5. Drainage issues

5.1. Operation Watershed – drainage on north side of B2146

A local resident had raised concerns about flooding from the field, opposite Cow Lane, on the north side of the B2146. At the time the concern was raised the French drain was blocked and full of mud. There was some uncertainty if this was still the situation as some work had been carried out in that area by the Council chairman.

It was agreed that a meeting would be held with the resident to review the situation and agree if further action was required.

It was noted that the Council had a balance of £1820.40 from Operation Watershed which could be used for any necessary improvements.

Action: AS and AP to meet the resident to discuss the issue.

5.2. Drainage to south side of B2146

Concerns were also raised about flooding from the south side of the road caused by water flowing from the field. It was agreed that further information should be gathered and raised with WSCC.

Action: AS to gather information for WSCC

5.3. Drainage in field beside the Congregational Church

It was confirmed that the Congregational Church had contacted the local farmer who will hopefully be able to help clear the ditches to the west of the Church.

5.4. Gulleys

It was agreed there was still a need to identify the worse affected gulleys and then approach nearby residents to 'adopt the gully'. This would involve keeping the

surface of the drain clear after bad weather and reporting any issues to the clerk for onward transmission to WSCC.

Action: TW and AP to identify gulleys

6. Footpath Lights

The estimated costs for the replacement of the lighting along the village footpath are in the region of £10-£15k. The members discussed whether, even with any available grants, the project was a real priority.

The matter of the broken lights had also been raised by a member of public at the May Council meeting.

It was noted that since the lights had been switched off over a year ago there had not been any complaints received from the public. The general view seems to be that the cost of the project outweighs the desire for the new lighting. It was also noted that many people carry phones with inbuilt lights.

The members agreed that, if approved by the Council, a carefully worded article should be placed in the Parish Magazine listing the pro's and con's associated with the lighting project and stating that unless there was a significant demand the lighting would not be replaced.

Action: AP to produce Magazine article if agreed by Council

The following recommendation was agreed:

that the committee agree to recommend to the Council that due to the perceived lack of demand for the replacement lighting on the village footpath, and the potential cost in the region of £10k, that the project may not be justified and that a carefully worded article will be placed in the Parish Magazine stating the situation and asking for views.

7. Fingerposts - Nyewood sign

The members considered two quotes received for the refurbishment of the Nyewood fingerpost. The quotes were:

Ralph Restorations – £1960 plus vat

J K Restorations - £2035 plus vat

After considering the quotes and the methods and materials to be used by each contractor, the members agreed to recommend that JK Engineering should be accepted to carry out the work and that the wording on the finial should reflect others in the parish and read WSCC and Nyewood.

The following recommendations were agreed:

i. that the committee agree to recommend to the Council that J K Engineering should be accepted as the contractor to carry out the restoration of the Nyewood fingerpost at a cost of £2035 + vat.

ii. that the committee agree to recommend to the Council that the wording on the finial should be "WSCC" and "Nyewood".

8. Footpaths

8.1. Sheepwash Bridge

Works have been carried out to the Sheepwash Bridge. Mr Shaxson had been keeping an eye on the area and had removed all the debris that had gathered there and been left by the contractors.

8.2. Warren Footpaths

It was confirmed that Euroforest would be returning in the next couple of weeks to level the footpaths and improve the areas that had been damaged during the tree works carried out in 2019.

9. Highways

9.1. Traffic Working Group update

It was noted that, according to WSCC, a new post would be required in Nyewood for the SID. Further guidance was awaited from WSCC.

There had been no further news regarding the CIL grant application for the crossing to South Gardens.

9.2. Junction at Torberry Lane

The junction at Torberry Lane was dangerous and that the give way road markings were almost invisible so this had been reported to WSCC. There were also concerns about the visibility there when the vegetation and hedges grow.

It was noted that new road markings may have been completed in the last couple of days.

Action: AP to inspect junction.

9.3. Durford Mill Bridge

The damage to Durford Mill Bridge, caused by a large lorry, had been reported to WSCC but no response has been received.

Action: TW to follow up

9.4. Collins Lane road surface

Some concerns were raised about the state of Collins Lane in West Harting. The lane has quite a number of potholes and the road surface is very messy as a result of the building work being carried out on one of the properties.

Action: AP to inspect the lane and decide if any issues should be reported to WSCC.

10. Hedges

There had been no further issues or complaints regarding hedges.

The members agreed it would be a good idea to place an article in the Parish Magazine to remind parishioners of the responsibility to cut their hedges near footpaths and highways.

Action: AP to draft a letter for the Parish Magazine.

The following recommendation was agreed:

The committee agreed to report to the Council that an article will be placed in the Parish Magazine to remind parishioners of their responsibility to cut their hedges near footpaths and highways.

11. Any other business

11.1. Terms of Reference

The members reviewed the Terms of Reference (ToRs) for the HABAC and concluded that points 4 and 5 should be combined as they had been superseded by the Emergency Plan.

The combined points, now numbered 4, would be amended to “HABAC will liaise with the Aims and Objectives Advisory Committee to provide input for the Emergency Plan as necessary for flood prevention and the management of extreme winter weather conditions.”

The following recommendation was agreed:

that the committee agree to recommend to the Council that the HABAC ToRs have been reviewed and that points 4 and 5 should be combined to read ‘HABAC will liaise with the Aims and Objectives Committee to provide input for the Emergency Plan as necessary for flood prevention and the management of extreme winter weather conditions’.

Action: TW to make changes to TORs

AP to discuss process for review with AOAC

11.2. Grassed areas around fingerposts

Concerns were raised about the untidiness of some of the verges and areas surrounding local fingerposts. It was noted this was the responsibility of WSCC and that any areas of real concern should be notified to the clerk to report to WSCC.

11.3. Fencing by Leith House

A new fence appears to have been erected alongside the road on WSCC land. WSCC have been informed but have not responded.

11.4. Broken granite kerbstones in the village

There are an increasing number of broken granite kerbstones around the village with a particularly bad patch by the Village Stores. It was agreed that the stones around the village should be surveyed and significant problems, along with photographs, reported to WSCC.

Action: AS and AP to review the situation.

11.5. Fountain in North Lane

It was noted that the water fountain situated in the damaged wall in North Lane is the responsibility of the landowner.

12. Items for next meeting

The members were reminded to pass any items for consideration to the clerk to include on the agenda.

13. Date of next meeting

A further meeting date will be set for September 2020.

Action : *TW to arrange*