

## HARTING PARISH COUNCIL

### MINUTES

Minutes of the Meeting of Harting Parish Council held in the **Harting Community Hall, Pease Croft, South Harting** on **Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> November 2018 at 7.30 p.m.**

**Present:** Mr Shaxson (Chair), Mrs Bramley, Mr Healey, Dr Bowman, Mrs Dawson, Mr Johnson-Hill and Mrs Gammon, Mr Bonner and Mr Palmer.

In attendance: Mrs Walker (Parish Clerk)

There were 5 members of the public in attendance.

**159 Apologies for absence:** Mr Stuttaford and Mr Powys Maurice.

**160 Declarations of Interest:** Mr Johnson-Hill and Mrs Bramley as Trustees of Harting Community Hall

**161 Simon Craig National Trust Tree Warden:** Simon Craig spoke about the tree works recently completed at Kill Devil Copse. The ash die back in the area of Harting and the South Downs is extensive and the National Trust, as landowners are very aware of the dangers of trees falling on the road and in the car park. The National Trust, along with other landowners along the B2141, applied for a felling licence and a road closure order. The ash trees along the route were then felled with some timber being sold to offset the cost of the exercise, but the “lop and top” debris has been left. It is the intention of the National Trust to clear and burn some of the debris in the vicinity of the car park but not along the roadside.

Questions were raised by members of the public covering the following areas:

- concerns that the car park and roadside had been left in a state which is an eyesore in an area of outstanding natural beauty
- concern that the tree stumps left alongside the road might be dangerous to motorists

*Mr Craig confirmed that a clear up adjacent to the car park would be carried out in the next 3-4 months, but the roadside material would remain. The reasons for this are cost and the negative conservation impact of burning considerable amounts of the timber. The brash will break down in a period of 2-3 years. The Highways Agency are happy with the roadside situation and there have not been any other complaints.*

- do the stumps retain the ash die back disease  
*The diseased stumps will rot away, and any without disease will reshoot.*

- has ash die back affected the copse on the top on Harting Down, and if so will the trees be replanted if they fall or are felled.

*Mr Craig confirmed that the National Trust would be unlikely to re-stock as other species are growing in that area. A consultation with the community will be undertaken before any decisions are made.*

## **162 Minutes from the Council Meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> October 2018**

The minutes were approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

## **163 Questions from the Public: None**

## **164 Matter of Urgent Public Importance: None**

## **165 Reports from the County and District Councillors**

Dr O Kelly (County councillor) was unable to attend the meeting, it was agreed that her report should be circulated and some points were read by the chairman.

The WSCC Bus consultation is due to end on 18<sup>th</sup> November 2018. The Scrutiny committee will be discussing bus subsidies on 6<sup>th</sup> December 2018, it is possible that local councils will be consulted about helping to pay for the non-commercial bus services.

The local NW Bus Group is due to meet on 27<sup>th</sup> November 2018 at 6pm in Rogate Village Hall.

Dr O Kelly led a cycling debate at the last WSCC meeting and there was support to improve the cycling infrastructure.

WSCC have debated the proposed amendments to the planning system to allow the exploration for “non-hydraulic” fracking to proceed under permitted development rules.

There was cross party support for these decisions to be taken locally.

North Chichester CLC had met and the presentations were received on: the Single Use Plastics campaign, adopted by both WSCC and CDC; and “Your energy Sussex”, helping residents to switch providers.

There were no applications made to the Community Initiative Fund from the NW of the County, there are still funds left for the current financial year.

Dr O’Kelly confirmed that WSCC had released a statement saying they are reviewing the impact of Velo South and will be arranging a series of targeted parish meetings.

She will hold a drop-in session in the White Hart pub, South Harting on 19<sup>th</sup> November 2018 from 10.30-12.30.

Mr Shaxson gave a report as the District Councillor. Some CDC officers are currently very involved working on the revised Local Plan, the greatest concern is the need to find sites for further housing.

The upgrade to A27 is still being considered with two possible solutions either to upgrade the existing A27, or to make a route to the North of Chichester. At this time feedback is being awaited from the Highways Agency.

Six District and County councillors from the Midhurst area are questioning the sale of the site where the previous Grange Centre was sited. It is essential that development of this site benefits local people. The site has been sold (subject to receiving planning permission) for a Residential Home for the elderly.

#### **166. Bus service support**

The Council had received a letter from NW Sussex Bus Steering Group which requested whether an “in principle” contribution might be made to help keep the public bus services in this area, specifically route 54. It was suggested this may be made by increasing the precept from between £1 to £5 per household. A number of other parishes had received the request.

The councillors felt that there was insufficient information supplied to enable a decision to be made. Further facts would be needed regarding:

- the number of other parishes that may agree to such a scheme
- whether the levels of contributions that could be made by parishes would be sufficient to protect the non-commercial bus services
- the usage of the current bus services
- whether WSCC would consider such a scheme, and if a guarantee could be given that contributions would be spent only on the route 54 bus service

*The following recommendation was agreed:*

*that without sufficient information the Council is unable to consider whether it could make a contribution to keep the public bus service.*

*Action: Clerk to pass this information to the NW Sussex Bus Steering Group*

#### **167. Local Plan update**

Dr Bowman confirmed that the Position Statements for the Sustainability Appraisal, Community Involvement and SD25 had been submitted to the Inspector.

The Chair and Dr Bowman had attended the first day of the Local Plan Examination in Public, which had started on 13<sup>th</sup> November 2018, and Dr Bowman had spoken to support the Parish Council submissions. It was noted that 77% of housing allocations within the proposed Local Plan have not had any consultation, however the SDNPA’s QC responded that this is not unusual in these circumstances.

The Position Statements for both SD90 Land at Loppers Ash and SD91 Land North of the Forge are being prepared ready for submission to the Programme Officer by 20<sup>th</sup> November 2018.

The Hearing for these items will be on 6<sup>th</sup> December 2018 and the Chair and Dr Bowman will attend on behalf of the Council. The Chair will make the verbal representations at that hearing.

*The following recommendation was agreed:*

*To note the report*

#### **168. Velo South update**

The Council was informed of two letters that had been sent to Louise Goldsmith, Chair of WSCC seeking reassurance that the “wash up”, of the events leading up to the cancelled Velo South event, would be happening, and that the “targeted parish meetings” would be arranged. No reply had been received at the date of the Council meeting.

The clerk confirmed that, following the article in the Parish News, only one parishioner had submitted comments about the impact of the event.

The Council also noted correspondence from Lavant parish council detailing a “wash up” report submitted WSCC, they are encouraging other Council’s to do the same.

*The following recommendation was agreed:*

*To note the report*

#### **169. WSCC Bus consultation**

The Council considered and agreed the following response for submission to the WSCC Bus Consultation:

*“Harting Parish Council is concerned that the removal of the supported bus routes affecting this area, namely 54 and 91/92/93 would have a great impact on the community. Although the services are not heavily used, to those that do use them they are a lifeline and a way to keep a level of independence. The service is generally used by those going to work, shopping, attending appointments, for leisure purposes and to access higher education. There is no other regular, daily bus service covering the parish.*

*The community does benefit from Harting Minibus, but this only provides a once or twice weekly shopping trip to Petersfield, Midhurst and Chichester. This is not a 6 day a week, 5 times a day service like the current 54 route. Harting Minibus does not have the capacity to increase the services mainly due to the shortage of volunteer drivers.*

*The only alternative for those without access to another form of transport, such as car or motorbikes, would be using a taxi service which is costly from such a rural area. The removal of a “greener” mode of transport must also be of great concern. It is very likely that residents would feel a real sense of isolation if the service was removed.*

*The Council urge WSCC to realise the importance of the supported bus routes in rural areas, and to ensure that a service, even on a reduced basis, is maintained.”*

*The following recommendation was agreed:*

*that the detailed response should be submitted to the WSCC Bus Consultation*

**170. Winding up of two Working Groups**

The Council discussed the initial purpose of the Working Group on Parish-Affiliated Groups which had been set up to support the negotiations to transfer the Harting minibuses from Council ownership to a Community Interest Company and had liaised with trustees of Harting Community Hall and the War Memorial Playing Field on applications for New Homes Bonus funds and on the Council's grant application process. This Working Group had not met for two years.

The Working Group on the General Data Protection Regulation was set up to support the Clerk in the considerable amount of work needed to ensure compliance with the new Regulation. The final stage of that work, transferring to Council email addresses and use of SharePoint, is imminent.

*The following recommendations were agreed:*

- i. *The Working Group on Parish-Affiliated Groups is wound up*
- ii. *The Working Group on the General Data Protection Regulation is wound up*

**171. Traffic Working Group Update**

Mrs Bramley reported on the progress of the Traffic Working Group. A questionnaire had been sent out to 12 organisations and groups within the village. This gave details of the work of the traffic group and asked each organisation to identify their main issues relating to traffic and safety in the village; to give views on the proposed 20mph limit across the village; to identify the main priorities for their group; and to offer any further ideas.

There was a good response with 11 completed questionnaires being returned. Of these, 8 identified speed of traffic as the main issue, with 4 also concerned about volume of traffic and 2 about traffic noise, particularly motorbikes. There was strong support for the 20mph proposal, with 9 wholly in support. Road safety was the main priority for 8 of the respondents. There was general support for a crossing to South Gardens, although this may not be feasible. Several responses were opposed to speed bumps. Other suggestions were a footpath from the Ship to the Congregational Church and mobile speed indicator showing vehicle speed. There was some support for Community Speedwatch.

In the light of these responses the next step will be to commence an application for a Community Highway Scheme. The scheme will need to be developed ready for public consultation and the subsequent submission, and the Working Group propose that a traffic consultant should be used to help progress the application.

Three quotes had been requested for such work, but due to the specialised nature of the work, only two responses had been received. The two quotes received were substantially different.

*The following recommendation was agreed:  
that the council authorise the working group to instruct Laurence Shaw to proceed to produce proposals for the introduction of a 20mph limit and accompanying works in accordance with his quotation in the sum of £4,325.*

**172. South Gardens play equipment repair and replacement of slide**

The Council considered 3 quotes for repairs to the play equipment highlighted in the recent Play Area Inspection report, and for the replacement of the slide which had been no longer complies to BS EN 1176 standards. It was agreed that further information was required concerning the slide and the work required on the Twizzler.

*The following recommendation was made:  
that the Clerk should request more information from Contractor A and C with regard to the design and sizes of the slide, and to ask for clarification on the work to be carried out on the Twizzler*

**173. Finance Committee**

The unconfirmed minutes of the Finance Committee held on 25<sup>th</sup> October 2018 were noted.

*The following recommendations were agreed:  
To note that the Finance Committee have reviewed the risk assessments for Finance, Safeguarding Information and Data and Homeworking and propose further review in May 2019.*

**174. Grants 2019/20**

Mr Bonner, the Chair of Finance outlined the proposed grants for the year 2019/20. He pointed out that the Finance Committee recommend that the grant to the HCH and WMPF is increased by 10% to take account of inflation since it was last raised, and that in future the grants are raised annually in line with the CPI index

*The following recommendations were agreed:*

*i) To agree that the Council allocates grants as shown in the draft budget (item 17) for 2019/20 to the following:*

- a) Harting Community Hall and the War Memorial Playing Field - £4400 in total*
- b) Parish hospital car scheme - £180*
- c) Petersfield Citizens Advice Bureau - £300*
- d) Allotment rent - £50*
- e) The Parish Church and Congregational Church burial grounds - £400 in total*

*ii) To agree, as part of their overall grants, that the Council also covers the cost of the insurance premiums for Harting Community Hall and the War Memorial Playing Field and the cost of a bookkeeper for the former.*

**175. Budget and Precept 2019/20**

Mr Bonner, the Chair of Finance outlined the proposed budget and precept requirements for 2019/20. He noted that sums had been included in the budget, in respect of the three-year plan, for Woodland Management, Highways and Open Spaces.

The budget was agreed to be £53,100, with the precept remaining at £43,100, the same level as 2018-2019. The balance between the budget and the precept being drawn down from the reserves.

*The following recommendations were agreed:*

- i. that the Council agree to request £43,100 as the precept from CDC for the year 2019/20*
- ii. that the Council agree the Budget for 2019/20*
- iii. that the Council agree to draw from the reserves to settle the budget requirements*

**176. Finance**

**176.1.** It was agreed that the following payments should be made:

Undisclosed	Clerk & RFO Salary - November	725.52
M H Kennedy & Son Ltd	Grass cutting - October	324.00
Reeves Arboricultural Services	Chipping of debris in South Gardens	720.00

**176.2.** There are no receipts to note for November.

**177. Bank Reconciliation for November 2018**

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".

**178. To note the bank balance as of 31<sup>st</sup> October 2018 - £71,112.92**

Noted

**179. Budget Statement for October 2018**

Noted

**180. Planning**

The minutes of the Planning Committee held on 18<sup>th</sup> October were noted.

**181. Correspondence**

The clerk gave details of 2 items of correspondence:

Woodland Trust report for Warren

Sussex Police – Scams and Rogue Traders presentation

**182. Clerk's Report**

The clerk's report was noted.

**183. Items for future meetings**

Woodland Trust Report

South Gardens Access Road

Online banking

Play equipment

**184. Date of next meeting**

20<sup>th</sup> December 2018 at 7.30pm

**185. Land Ownership issue**

The Council debated this item and agreed the resolutions detailed in the confidential report dated 15<sup>th</sup> November 2018.

The meeting closed at 9.30 p.m.