

HARTING PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held in the **Harting Community Hall, Pease Croft, South Harting** on **Thursday 15th December at 7.30 pm.**

Present: Mr Shaxson (Chairman and District Councillor), Mrs Bramley, Dr Bowman, Mr Healey, Mr Powys Maurice, Mrs Gammon, Mr Bonner, Mrs Dawson, Mr Barnard and Mr Johnson-Hill.

In attendance: Mrs Walker (Parish Clerk).

There were 4 members of the public in attendance

188. Apologies for absence: Mr Stuttaford and Mr McAra (County Councillor)

189. Declarations of interest: Mr Johnson-Hill a pecuniary interest as trustee of the Village Hall (item 10) and personal interest as director of the HMCIC. David Barnard a pecuniary interest as Chairman of the WMPF (Item 10). Sheila Bramley a pecuniary interest as trustee of the Village Hall(item 10), and Daphne Gammon a pecuniary interest as parish Council representative to the Village Hall (item 10).

190. Minutes from Meeting held on 17th November

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

191. Questions from the Public

- Following a spate of burglaries from sheds and outhouses in East Harting and Nyewood, will the Parish Council make a representation to the Police who seem to be unconcerned.

Chair to contact the police for a report of the incidents and to ask for an update on what they are doing about it.

- Can the Parish Council encourage more public attendance of the meetings. It is felt that people should be more interested to hear what is going on, particularly as this meeting was the budget setting meeting.
The Chair responded that the meetings were well publicised, but it is difficult to motivate people to attend unless there is a specific matter they are interested in.

192. Matters of Urgent Public Importance

None

193. Reports from County and District Councillors

There was no County Council report from Gordon McAra. Mr Shaxson, as District Councillor, reported that the ward boundary changes had now been confirmed, and was pleased that Elsted and Treyford had been included in the Harting ward. The ward now covers approximately 3000 electors.

Chichester District Council have been looking at ways to reduce costs by service sharing with Horsham and Arun Council. Initially there were expectations of substantial savings, however this is not a practical solution as the work practices vary so greatly between the councils. The Council still has to find savings of £400,000.

194. Community Housing

The Chairman presented a report following up on the presentation given by Linda Grant and Holly Nicol, CDC Housing Officers, at the previous Council meeting regarding the delivery of low-cost and other housing requirements. The report from the Housing Officers recommended that a housing needs survey should be carried out to identify any local needs, then suitable housing sites would need to be identified. Many areas that have undergone the assessment are setting up CLT (Community Land Trusts) to co-ordinate the process. Any assessment would be carried out by CDC with Parish Council being responsible for postage and printing costs.

The councillors were concerned that, despite this issue being outlined in the Parish News, there was no known response from parishioners. Without the drive and commitment from the within the community this scheme is not achievable. It was also felt that without any potential sites, the scheme would be very difficult.

The Chairman asked the councillors if they felt there was a need to commission the Housing Needs assessment. The councillors concluded that there was no requirement at this time.

The following recommendation was agreed:

The Council should continue to ascertain if there is local need to justify commissioning a Housing Need assessment

195. Phone Box, East Harting

The Chairman presented a report regarding the proposed closure of the public phone box in East Harting. There is currently a period of consultation being held by BT and Chichester District Council, although it does appear that this hasn't been carried quite as it should have. It appears that 4 phone calls have been made from the box in the last year, it is not known if any of these were 999 calls. An East Harting resident, Chris Sibley, has volunteered to co-ordinate a local consultation with East Harting residents regarding the preferred way forward. The options to consider are:

- a) to request BT to retain the current pay phone service
- b) to allow the service to be removed but to retain the phone box only which would be adopted by the village at the cost of £1
- c) to remove the service and the box.

The councillors felt that it was important that the residents of East Harting were given the opportunity to consult on this issue. Mrs Bramley said that an unofficial consultation had been carried out by email and of 25 responses, 24 were in favour of the phone service being removed, but supported adopting and keeping the phone box. Mr Sibley told the Council that if the box were adopted, BT would continue to light it at no charge.

The following recommendation was agreed:

To appoint Chris Sibley to undertake a thorough survey of the wishes of East Harting residents on behalf of the Parish Council Having done so the Clerk will report his findings to CDC

Chris Sibley and Clerk to report back to Parish Council with progress and outcome.

196. Re-establishment of Parish Diary

The Chairman reported that since the closure of the Post Office in July, the Parish Diary had not been in use, as an appropriate location had not been identified. The diary needs to be easily visible to the public and accessible so that dates and events can be added, this means that the Council notice board isn't suitable. Mr Barnard offered his shop window as a new site for the Parish Diary.

The following recommendation was agreed:

The Parish Diary should be located in the window of Barnard and Cook.

Daphne Gammon to provide calendar and put note in Parish News regarding the changes.

197. Budget and Finance

The Chairman initially asked the trustees of the HCH and WMPF if they wished to comment on the amount of the grants being allocated to their organisations, no comments were made.

The Councillors who are not trustees voted on and agreed the level of the grants to be given to those organisations in 2017-2018.

Mr Bonner, the Chair of Finance, outlined the budget and was pleased to confirm that it had been retained at the same level as the previous year. He noted that there are ongoing commitments for the tree survey and open spaces repairs, as well as the issues surrounding the Nyewood play area. He stated that the Finance Committee had agreed the budget and were recommending approval by the Council.

The following recommendation was agreed:

That the budget and precept for 2017/18 tabled in the agenda be approved.

Clerk to advise CDC of the 2017/18 precept.

198. Finance

a) It was agreed that the following payments should be made:

Debbie Harknett	RFO salary	undisclosed
Trish Walker	Clerk salary & RFO salary	undisclosed
Harknett Bookkeeping	HCH Bookkeeping	£56.25
Harting Minibus	VAT refund	£246.60
Wayne Wealleans	HMCIC set up costs	£222.55

Nigel Johnson-Hill	HMCIC set up costs	£35.00
Harting Community Hall	Foothpath electricity	£44.81
Wayne Wealleans	HMCIC set up costs	£120.00

Expenditure for the Henry Warren Hall Insurance payable to Came and Co was removed as it had been previously agreed in January 2016 to cease this payment as the Hall is not currently in use.

b) The following receipts were noted:

HMRC Vat refund £758.53

199. Bank reconciliation for December 2016

This was approved and signed by the Chairman.

200. Approve the bank balance of 9th December 2016 - £56,042.74

Approved

201. Planning

The minutes of the planning committees held on 17th November 2016 and 1st December were noted.

202. Correspondence

There was one item of correspondence: An unsolicited report had been received from a Mr Ralph giving a very detailed report on the local fingerposts. The receipt of his report had been acknowledged by the Clerk.

203. Clerks Report

The clerks report was noted.

204. Items for future meetings

None

205. Date of next meeting

19th January 2017

206. SDNPA Policy Matter –

The Council debated this item. Dr Bowman was thanked for the work she had done to create a form of words that reflected the Council's view, and it was AGREED that with minor changes that her document would reflect the views of the parish council.

The meeting closed at 8.50 pm.

