

HARTING PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held in the **Harting Community Hall, Pease Croft, South Harting** on **Thursday 18th January 2018 at 7.30pm.**

Present: Mr Shaxson (Chairman and District Councillor), Mrs Bramley, Mr Healey, Mr Johnson-Hill, Mrs Dawson and Mrs Gammon.

In attendance: Mrs Walker (Parish Clerk). Dr O’Kelly (County Councillor).

There were 8 members of the public in attendance

194. Apologies for absence: Dr Bowman, Mr Bonner, Mr Powys Maurice and Mr Stuttaford.

195. Declarations of interest: None.

196. Minutes from Meeting held on 21st December 2017

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

197. Questions from the Public

- To stress, on behalf of the children of Nyewood, the importance of the play area. Some equipment has now been decommissioned for 2 years. The play area is very well used, and the Parish Council is urged to expedite the situation being addressed under item 8 of the agenda.
- The Parish Council is asked to encourage the potential candidates standing for the casual vacancy to stand for election in 2019.
- Is the Council aware of the erosion of AONB’s and can they put pressure on CDC to ensure that planning decisions retain the beauty of the area.
The chairman responded noting that Harting is now in the National Park, and the SDNPA have a local plan in development which everyone has had the opportunity to respond to.
- Is the Council aware that the 6.6” width restriction signs to and from the A272 and West Harting are frequently disregarded with lorries and tractors passing over the ancient bridge and damaging the local roads and verges. Is there any point to these signs, and can anything be done to enforce them.
The Chairman responded that this is really a matter for WSCC as they have placed the signs there, and also for the police if there are safety issues. He noted that large vehicles needing to go to places within the restrictions do have a right of access.
The Chair of Planning also added that the referred-to scheduled monument bridge is due to have a further safety check in 2018, but all the time there is a quarry at West Heath heavy vehicles will continue to pass over it.

- Can the Parish Council review the impact of the loss of the amenity vehicle following its removal by WSCC last year? It has been greatly missed by the elderly and non-drivers, and also the cause of an increase in fly tipping.
The chairman responded to say he would liaise with Dr O’Kelly, the County Councillor to see if a service might be available in the future.

198. Matters of Urgent Public Importance

None

199. Reports from County and District Councillors

Dr O Kelly, as County Councillor, reported that the loss of the amenity vehicle had caused significant concerns from residents and she will see if there is any way that an occasional amenity vehicle can be arranged for the area.

She also noted that there were parking problems opposite Warrenside, and she would be addressing them.

WSCC are currently reviewing the winter maintenance plan and that it is proposed that just 28% of the County’s roads will be gritted and treated. She doesn’t yet know what impact that might have on roads of this parish

The subsidised bus services are being reviewed in the Bus Plan Strategy which is due for public consultation at the end of January 2018.

Dr O’Kelly confirmed that the proposed expansion of Easebourne primary school is not going to be progressed. It is thought that a further consultation regarding the schools in the district will take place later in the year.

The Community Initiative Fund is welcoming applications from organisations as they have not been very forthcoming this year.

Dr O’Kelly will be holding her next drop in session at the White Hart from 10.30-12.30 on 8th February 2018.

Mr Shaxson, as District Councillor, reported that recent news regarding the fact that China are stopping taking plastics, would not impact directly on CDC as the recycling contractor Viridor does not sell to China. The recycling rates in CDC are currently at 42%, but will need to increase to 50% by 2020, this may mean collection of food waste in the future.

The Queen’s Pageant Master has is encouraging the 100 years anniversary of the end of the First World War to be commemorated by lighting beacons. The District Council will be offering grants of up to £250 per parish to help commemorations. The Parish Council will look into this.

200. Co-option of new councillor

The members considered four applications for the vacancy on the Council. Two of the councillors requested that voting should take place by secret ballot, all were in favour. One candidate gained an absolute majority.

The following recommendation was agreed:

That Mr Anthony Palmer would be co-opted and appointed as a member of Harting Parish Council.

After signing the declaration of acceptance of office, Mr Palmer joined the meeting.

201. Furze Meadow Play Area

Mrs Bramley updated the members following the decision of the previous meeting to consider, with regard to prescriptive rights, whether the Council had a right to spend money on the land and play equipment at Furze Meadow in Nyewood without having ownership or a new legal agreement.

SSALC had been approached for some initial free legal advice, and solicitor Ian Davison had responded to say that he felt that overall the covenants suggested by Hyde Housing were unreasonable. He suggested that further legal advice would be required and that the cost of 2 hours of legal advice would be £500 + vat.

There was some lively discussion surrounding all the issues at Furze Meadow, following which the members agreed an amendment to the recommendation, and the substantive recommendation was agreed.

*The following recommendation was agreed:
that the Council agree to pay for legal advice from Mr Ian Davison for 2 hours to cover (if possible) the Council's legal position concerning legislation on the Furze Meadow play equipment and on the proposed restrictive covenants, if possible with grants from CDC.*

Chair to contact CDC to ascertain whether grants are available, Mrs Bramley and clerk to contact Ian Davison.

202. WMPF Insurance

The clerk reported that MoreThan, the previous insurer for WMPF had changed their insurance cover and were no longer able to offer a policy including public liability. The clerk had, in conjunction with WMPF trustees, contacted Came & Co insurers who had supplied a competitive and comprehensive quote for £694.88.

The trustees had agreed to the new insurer and insurance policy and the clerk had included the payment for authorisation under the finance part of the agenda.

The following recommendation was agreed:

To note the report

203. Finance

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

Trish Walker	Clerk & RFO Salary	Undisclosed
Came & Co	WMPF Insurance	694.88

203.2. There were no receipts to note for December

203.3. It was noted that cheques 100380 and 100381 had been lost by the recipient and replacement cheques have been re-issued.

204. Bank reconciliation for January 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.

205. To note the bank balance as of 31st December 2017 - £75,292.86

Noted

206. To note the budget statement for December 2017

Noted

207. Planning

The minutes of the Planning committee held on 14th December 2017 were noted.

208. Finance

The unconfirmed minutes of the Finance Committee held on 14th December 2017 were noted.

209. Correspondence

None

210. Clerk's report

The clerks report was noted.

211. Items for future meetings

- Fingerposts
- South Gardens Play equipment
- South Gardens sign

212. Date of next meeting – 15th February 2018

The meeting closed at 9.10 pm