

## HARTING PARISH COUNCIL

### MINUTES

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held in the **Harting Community Hall, Pease Croft, South Harting** on **Thursday 20 October at 7.30 pm.**

**Present:** Mr Shaxson (Chairman and District Councillor), Mr Bonner, Mr Johnson-Hill, Mrs Dawson, Mrs Gammon, Mr Stuttaford, Mr Powys Maurice, Mr McAra (County Councillor) In attendance: Mrs Walker (Parish Clerk).

There were 4 members of the public in attendance

**148. Apologies for absence:** Mr Healey, Dr Bowman, Mrs Bramley and Mr Barnard

**149. Declarations of interest:** Mr Johnson-Hill declared a personal interest in agenda item 13 as a driver of the Harting Minibus and a Director of HMCIC.

**150. Minutes from Meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> September**

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

**151. Questions from the Public**

Members of the public asked the following questions:

- Are the Parish Council aware of the situation regarding the BT Phone Box in East Harting? Has the 90 day notice period been noted and what approach is the Parish Council taking?  
*The Chairman advised that East Harting residents had contacted the Parish Council in regard to this matter. The notice in the phone box is just a warning that a consultation is about to start, and the Parish Council will be informed officially of this. It is hoped that this will be part of the next Council agenda. In the meanwhile the Chairman encouraged residents of East Harting to put forward ideas for the future use of the phone box.*
- Has the safety check been carried out on the play equipment in South Gardens, as some members of the public are concerned about the position of the chains that are connected to the wooden swing.  
*The Chairman advised that the safety check had been completed and any issues raised through the check had been completed. It was agreed that Mr Bonner would take a look at the swing in the following days.*
- The security bar at the top of the Warren by 40 Acre Lane is in need of attention, and there is a fear that vehicles may be able to access the Warren. There is a spare post in the bushes which was purchased at the same time as the initial post.  
*It was agreed that the Parish Council would look at this.*
- Is it possible to have a brass plate fitted to the water pump by the Old School as the wording on the stone is now illegible?

*The Chairman advised that this may be a future discussion for the Parish Council.*

What are the savings achieved by stopping the monthly amenity vehicle to the village, and will these potential savings be lost due to the cost of fly tipping clearance, which is likely to become an issue?

*Mr McAra replied as County Councillor saying that the Council is having to make savings of £140 million, and ceasing the amenity vehicles and reducing hours at certain local tips is projected to save £2million. He confirmed that the effects of the changes would be reviewed.*

**152. 'Matters of Urgent Public Importance'**

None

**153. Reports from County and District Councillors**

Councillor McAra thanked Mr Shaxson for continuing as 'Highways Officer for the parish' and noted that he had initiated the repairs for the problem outside Penns Farm in Hollist Lane. He noted a new scheme to assist businesses to get fast broadband, vouchers of values between £1,000 and £3,000 are available to help them find a solution. This initiative is being led by the LEP (local enterprise partnership). He also noted that the County Council had carried out an annual survey entitled "What Matters to You?" The top three items were Keeping Safe, Education and Road and Buses. The Council has the opportunity to increase the Council Tax by 2% for care and 2% for roads, and the survey suggested that the public would support a raise of 3.7%. It was noted that only 1 Harting resident responded to the survey. He noted that the Fire Service in West Sussex is currently run by the County Council, however the Police and Crime sector are trying to take it over. The County hope to retain ownership as it is felt that democratic management of the fire service is preferable. Councillor McAra left the meeting.

Councillor Shaxson stated that the TAG Farnborough meeting held at Elsted Village Hall had been well attended. There is a proposal for new flight paths over some of this area. It seems that the low flying aircraft will be coming in over the Bepton and Chithurst area. It should be a maximum of 1500 large business jet aircraft flights a year. The meeting was able to address most of the concerns that were raised. It is hoped that the impact of these flights will not be too great.

**154. Furze Meadow Update and allocation of 'Public Open space' s106 money**

The Chairman reported that despite meeting with Ann Greaves and Jonathan Keeling on 19<sup>th</sup> September, and their agreement that a letter would be sent to the Parish Council by 10<sup>th</sup> October to guarantee that the play equipment would not be removed within 10 years, no letter had been forthcoming. It is felt that Hyde Housing aren't happy with the arrangement of the play equipment and would favour a change in its layout and also favour a fenced area. The councillors felt strongly that it is important to keep this facility in Nyewood. However, these issues will take time to investigate, and all reasonable options must be considered. The Council is therefore not able to spend the outstanding s106 money at Furze Meadow as the time scale is too tight, and it is important not to jeopardise the grant. The councillors felt that it would be sensible to spend the £2347 on items for South Gardens such as a picnic bench. This would be passed to the s106 T&FG for action. The following recommendations were agreed:

- i) *to note that an agreement has not been reached with Hyde Homes.*
- ii) *to agree that responsibility for allocating the outstanding s106 money rests with the T&FG set up to undertake that task at the 16<sup>th</sup> June 2016 meeting of the Council.*
- iii) *to raise the level of contact with Hyde Homes to the Chief Executive to ensure that the play equipment can be retained and properly managed at Furze Meadow.*

#### **155. 'Community Facilities' s106 report**

The Chairman reported that there was £5060 available to be spent, and three quotes have now been received for work to improve the emergency exits in the Community Hall. There had also been quotes to improve the hearing loop in the hall, however, it now appears to be working properly. The following recommendation was agreed:

*To note the report*

#### **156. POSAC issue**

Mr Stuttaford reported that POSAC had met and considered four main areas:

##### *a) The South Garden Ponds*

There are 3 ponds in South Gardens, and 2 of these are the responsibility of the Parish Council. They are in a bad state of repair, and need some attention urgently. A member of the public has been working on the ponds, and has now joined POSAC. As the budget to repair and reinstate the ponds is limited, an approach was made to the Stedham Angling Club to see if they would take on the ponds in return for a lease for fishing. The club decided against this as the task was too great, and they also had a concern about the signal crayfish problem. A new contact has now been made with Petersfield Angling Club who already manage another local pond. Any management by a third party will be on a formal legal basis with preferential rates to be secured for village residents. Mr Stuttaford stressed that it is very important to try and bring the focus back to the facilities and benefits that are offered in South Gardens, and to try to get the Community involved.

##### *b) Trees*

With Ash Die back now prevalent in the Parish and as the PC council are a significant land owner in the village, it was agreed that the parish council investigate employing a professional to assess the safety of the Council's woodland. The Trees Wardens would be encouraged to join that person in surveying and recording the trees, with special emphasis on those that are in decline and which might represent a hazard to vehicles, the general public or third party property.

##### *c) Furze Meadow*

This was as discussed in minute 154, but emphasis was placed on the importance of retaining the play facilities in Furze Meadow.

##### *d) The path to the Scout Hut*

The owners of the Scout Hut had requested an upgrade to the path that passes through South Gardens to the hut, and have indicated they are willing to pay for the cost of the upgrade. The path has suffered through extra footfall to the hut now that it is used for the Free School. The councillors were concerned that the changes may require planning permission, and also that as a commercial venture it is potentially in conflict with the pre-school that uses the Community Hall.

The following recommendations were agreed:

- i) To note the minutes of the meeting held on 26th September 2016*
- ii) To give approval for POSAC to pursue the identification of a suitable partner to oversee the restoration and future management of the ponds so that once more they can be an amenity for the village but without the ongoing financial burden.*
- iii) Mr Stuttaford would identify the availability of tree wardens who would, with the assistance of the professional, identify trees belonging to the Parish Council that are potentially dangerous.*

The item concerning the footway in South Gardens was deferred for further consideration.

#### **157. Highways Signs Maintenance**

Mr Bonner updated the councillors regarding the finger posts. Currently there are 14 in the area, all in a state of disrepair. All of them are now photographed and available to see on the Parish Council website with a note asking for help from parishioners in terms of maintenance. Mr Barnard will be collating any information from this exercise. A note to this effect is in the November Parish Magazine.

There is still an outstanding issue with Heritage Signs as the renovation of the two fingerposts has still not been completed. A letter has been sent which resulted in white stripes appearing on the posts, and a promise that the work will be completed by the end of October. However, it was felt that the follow up letter should now be sent requesting details and timescales of the work.

The following recommendation was agreed:

- i) To note the report*
- ii) A follow up letter should be sent to Heritage Signs*

#### **158. Defibrillator**

The clerk reported that the battery of the defibrillator that had been given to the village in 2012 by the South East Coast Ambulance Service had needed replacing. Despite being in the village for 4 years, it appears that no organisation within Harting claims responsibility for the defibrillator, and neither has it been registered with the Ambulance Service. As it is an essential piece of life saving equipment, the clerk arranged that a new battery and electrode pads were purchased and replaced on the defibrillator. The batteries require replacement every 4 years at a cost of approx £230 and the electrode pads annually (or when used) at a cost of approx £20 each.

The following recommendations were agreed:

- i) That the defibrillator is registered in the name of the Parish Council with the South East Coast Ambulance Service.*
- ii) That the Parish Council takes on all responsibility for the defibrillator, including the replacement costs of batteries and electrode pads.*

#### **159. South Downs Forest Plan**

The Chairman outlined the Forestry Commission Forest Plan Consultation that was taking place. The consultation covers an area that include the Queen Elizabeth Forest as well as West Harting Down. The details are all available on the Forestry Commission website and the chairman encouraged the councillors to take a look. Mrs Gammon and her husband had

viewed the documents, and as they have considerable knowledge of the subject the following recommendation was agreed:

i) *That Mrs and Dr Gammon would respond to the consultation on behalf of the Parish Council.*

#### **160. Minibus Update**

Mr Johnson-Hill updated the councillors and confirmed that the handover date between HMMC (Harting Minibus Committee) and HMCIC was still scheduled to take place on 1<sup>st</sup> December. There had been some issues surrounding insurance, but these have been resolved. HMCIC are intending to hold a party for all the volunteers involved in running and driving the minibus, as well as a party to thank the old committee members.

#### **161 Finance**

It was agreed that the following payments should be made:

Debbie Harknett	RFO salary	undisclosed
Trish Walker	Clerk salary	undisclosed
PKF Littlejohn	External audit	£240.00
Trish Walker	Postage	£1.74
Trish Walker	Defibrillator costs	£260.05
Lady Trail	Allotment rent	£ 25.00
Hospital car phone	Grant	£180.00
Petersfield CAB	Donation - two years	£600.00
Harting PCC	Burial Grant	£200.00
Congregational Church	Burial Grant	£200.00
M.H. Kennedy	Grass cutting	£309.60
Debbie Harknett	Expenses	£8.56
Playsafe Playgrounds	South Gardens	£572.40
Came & Co	HCH Insurance	£1095.25

The following receipts were noted:

CDC 2<sup>nd</sup> Tranche of precept £21,499.00

#### **162 Bank reconciliation for October 2016**

This was approved and signed by the Chairman.

#### **163. Approve the bank balance of 11<sup>th</sup> October 2016 - £60,484.13**

Approved

#### **164. Planning**

The minutes of the planning committees held on 15<sup>th</sup> September and 4<sup>th</sup> October 2016 were noted.

**165. Correspondence**

There were two items of correspondence:

- a) a letter from Historic England confirming that the War Memorial has been granted listed Grade II\* status. The Parish Church have claimed ownership of the memorial as it is located on their ground.
- b) a letter had been received from SSALC (Sussex and Surrey Association of Local Councils) asking if there were any strategic issues to be raised with the police. There were no issues raised by the councillors.

**166. Clerks Report**

a) Smithfield New Homes Bonus Grant – This is near completion. The fencing along the footpath was carried out on 18th October 2016. Seats for South Garden have been ordered and arrangements for installation are in hand. All items will be installed and paid by the required deadline.

b) As noted in public questions - The Public Telephone Box in East Harting has a BT removal notice affixed to it. This is an advance notice of a 90 day consultation period. To date BT have only notified the SDNPA, but it is assumed that shortly they will contact the Parish Council for its views. Chichester District Council are liaising with the SDNPA on this matter.

**167. Items for future meetings**

- a) Housing needs assessment – Holly Nichol of Chichester District Council to discuss the undertaking of an assessment and its possible uses – November Meeting
- b) Footpaths – Mr Johnson-Hill to produce a report – December meeting

**168. Date of next meeting**

17<sup>th</sup> November 2016

The meeting closed at 9.25 pm.