

HARTING PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held in the **Harting Community Hall, Pease Croft, South Harting** on **Thursday 26th October 2017 at 7.30pm.**

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

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

There was 12 members of the public in attendance

127. Apologies for absence: None. Mr Barnard has resigned from the Council with effect from 25th October 2017, a casual vacancy has been notified to the County Council election office.

128. Declarations of interest: None.

129. Minutes from Meeting held on 21st September 2017

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

130. Questions from the Public

- As the Council is so busy with the Local Plan and the trees in the Warren and South Gardens, it is important that the traffic issues within the village do not slip down the agenda. The volume, speed and noise of traffic is a huge concern. The builds outs that have been suggested as possible projects would probably be beneficial for the Petersfield road, but not for the other three roads. It is hoped that the Council will consider other solutions such as SID devices, proper signage.

The Chairman responded to say that traffic will come back to the agenda. Chris Dyer is coming to look at the signage issues, particularly on the hill.

- A member of public had submitted two comments to SDNP for the local plan consultation, both had been acknowledged and then a reply had been sent to say they had not been completed properly. It is a huge concern that people will be deterred from responding as it is so difficult.

131. Matters of Urgent Public Importance

None.

132. Reports from County and District Councillors

Dr O’Kelly, the County Councillor reported WSCC and CDC had reached a decision on the A27 opting for the RIS2 option. This would be delivered between 2020-2025. It is hoped that the Community will come together and support the scheme.

WSCC have decided to continue the current arrangement enabling DIY household waste to be accepted free of charge if taken to a Household waste recycling site. HASC, the Health and Adult Scrutiny Committee has met and is scrutinising the non urgent Patient Transport service delivered by South Coast Ambulance Service. It was noted that the emergency transport service is still in special measures.

The Full Council met on 20th October and the New West Sussex (Transport?) Plan was discussed. Dr O’Kelly had raised issues surrounding walking and cycling strategies in light of the air quality and the overall health benefits of such pastimes.

Dr O’Kelly and Mrs Dawson have worked together to arrange a local Carers Introductory Meeting to be held in the Congregational Church Hall on 20th November from 2 – 3.30 pm.

A drop in session was also held in the Village Hall earlier that day.

Several issues were raised by the members:

- *The condition of the road markings and surface by The Severals, Nyewood following yet another accident.*
- *The WSCC magazine had an article about super-fast broadband being trialled, should they be concentrating on improving the situation for those that just receive a very slow broadband service? This service is aimed at administrative facilities*
- *Concerns about the parking outside and opposite the old Ship as there was frequently no pedestrian access to the pavements due to contractors parking.*

Mr Shaxson, as District Councillor, reported there was some concern as rural crime had increased by 24.4%. This evidence supports the view of CDC and Parish Councils who feel strongly that the reduction in the police force is having a negative effect. Mr Shaxson also stressed that he is trying to address various planning and enforcement issues being dealt with by CDC on behalf of the SDNPA.

133. Housing Needs Assessment

The clerk informed the members that a letter had been received on behalf of a resident of Nyewood who wished to develop the Station House site to provide a number of dwellings including five affordable dwellings for people with a local connection. The SDNPA had responded to a pre-application submission for the site stating that without the identification of a local need for such housing planning permission is unlikely.

The resident had offered to pay for the cost of a Housing Needs Assessment to be carried out by CDC.

The Council had previously considered commissioning a Housing Needs Assessment in December 2016, but due to a lack of support within the Community it was considered that there was no requirement at that time.

The recent correspondence highlights that there is now local support for such a survey, along with a potential site.

The members discussed the Housing Needs Assessment and agreed that it would be useful to identify the housing needs within the whole Harting ward.

The following recommendation was agreed:

The Council give agreement to a Housing Needs Assessment being carried out by Chichester District Council with the cost being borne by Mr Bill Richardson of Nyewood.

134. SDNPA Pre-Submission Consultation

Dr Bowman reported that the response to the consultations on the Pre-Submission version of the SDNPA Local Plan and the Sustainability Appraisal is due by 21st November 2017.

The documents are vast and too complicated to debate within a meeting, so councillors are encouraged to look through them and pass comments to the Clerk using the comments form template.

The comments from the councillors and from the Parish Meeting held on 19th October 2017 will need to be collated, a consensus response agreed and entered to the SDNPA on-line response system. This system has historically been very difficult to use, therefore it was suggested that a working group should be formed to agree the response ahead of the next meeting and ensure maximum time for input.

The Chairman thanked Dr Bowman for the work she had done towards both the Parish Meeting and the Pre- Submission Consultation.

The following proposal was agreed:

i. councillors send comments to the Clerk for collation by 6 November 2017 (a Comments Form is provided)

ii. a Working Group, comprising the Chairman, Planning Committee Chairman, Planning Committee Vice-Chairman and Clerk, agrees an overall response on behalf of the Council which the Clerk puts on the SDNPA website and reports to the Council at its November meeting

135. Tree Survey Update

Update on the PJC Tree Survey Report for South Gardens and the Warren

The Council was informed that aspects of the original tree survey by PJC were unsatisfactory. Some trees requiring remedial work were not plotted, consequently the number of trees affected was unknown.

The clerk had subsequently written to the consultant on two occasions, and an amended report has been received along with an agreement that all trees requiring remedial work will be plotted.

Horse Chestnut Trees

The previous meeting was informed that one horse chestnut tree in South Gardens was to be felled, and the other two were to have some remedial work. However, when the work commenced on 21st October the tree surgeon voiced concern over the safety of one of the remaining trees and suggested that it needed felling. This concern has been raised with CDC and the tree officer will be visiting the site to assess the situation.

The wood from the felling and remedial work, which is to be collected by a local farmer, will remain on site until the ground is firm enough for it to be removed.

Second survey

The clerk reported that Came and Co, the Council insurers, recommend trees should be surveyed on an annual basis, and that it is good practice to rotate the time of the year during which that the survey is carried out to ensure the trees are inspected in different seasons.

As the recent survey was carried out in August when the trees were in full leaf, the next survey should ideally be carried out while the trees are without leaf.

As the trees haven't been managed for some years it would be sensible to commission a second survey to take place in the next couple of months before the new leaves develop.

The following recommendations were agreed:

- i. To note the update on the PJC Tree Survey Report*
- ii. That the Council commission a second tree survey to be carried out before the trees are back in leaf, and the Tree Working Group (TWG) choose the contractor to carry out the survey.*

136. Footpath lights

The clerk reported that the footpath lights had now been repaired following the most recent acts of vandalism, Repairs were needed to the underground cables, and the work had taken a day to complete.

There had been concern from residents during the period when the lights were broken.

The following recommendation was agreed:

To note report

137. Furze Meadow Play Area, Nyewood

The clerk outlined the situation that had been ongoing since 2015.

Hyde Housing have now confirmed that they would be willing to sell the land to the Council for a nominal fee of £1, subject to restrictive covenants that would “protect Hyde from any future benefit denied to them through the transfer at a nominal amount”.

Hyde Housing, who have their own in-house legal team, suggested that the Council should bear all the legal costs of the purchase transactions estimated at £3500.

The members discussed the various options with regard to legal arrangements and costs, but felt that this should be discussed further once the details of the restrictive covenants were known.

The following recommendation was made:

i) that the Council confirm to Hyde Housing it is willing to purchase the land at the nominal sum of £1 subject to a better understanding of the restrictive covenants.

138. Finance

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

Trish Walker	Clerk & RFO Salary	Undisclosed
M H Kennedy & Sons Ltd	Grass cutting	316.80
Ladywell Accountancy Ltd	Annual Payroll Charge	72.00
Lady Traill	Allotment Rent	25.00
Hospital Car Phone	Grant	180.00
Petersfield CAB	Grant	300.00
Harting PCC	Burial Grant	200.00
Harting Congregational Churc	Burial Grant	200.00
PJC Consultancy	WMPF Tree Survey - Grant	120.00
SSALC Limited	WSALC Conference	48.00
Came & Co	HCH Insurance	1187.47
Mr A Shaxson	Padlock for South Gardens	15.00
SLCC Enterprises Ltd	Clerk Training	53.40
Debbie Harknett	Community Hall Bookkeeping	129.38
Debbie Harknett	Accountancy Adviser	40.95
Lewis & Glue	Footpath lights repair	598.82

138.2. It was noted that in consultation between the RFO and the Chairman an interim payment of £400 had been paid to WMPF in respect of the annual grant.

138.3. There were no receipts to note for September.

139. Bank reconciliation for October 2017

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.

140. To note the bank balance as of 30th September 2017 - £82,827.94

Noted

141. To note the budget statement for September 2017

Noted

142. Planning

The minutes of the Planning committee held on 5th October 2017 were noted.

143. Correspondence

- A Freedom of Information had been received following the Parish Meeting requesting a copy of the audio recording and the presentation slides used.
- The Play area annual inspection report had been received shortly before the meeting. This would be passed to POSAC for consideration and recommendations.

144. Clerk's report

The clerk presented the report and noted that Natural England would be contacted again with regard to compiling a Management Statement for the SSSI area of the Warren.

145. Items for future meetings

- Fingerposts – Mr Slegg
- Wording for the South Garden sign
- Furze Meadow
- Risk assessments
- Play equipment
- SID's

146. Date of next meeting – 16th November 2017

The meeting closed at 8.45 pm

