

HARTING PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the **Highways and Byways Advisory Committee (HABAC)** held at **6.00pm** on **Monday 8 March 2021**.

The meeting was held via Zoom video link in accordance with the Coronavirus Act 2020

Present: Anthony Palmer (AP)(Chair), Sheila Bramley (SBR), Penny Curran (PC), Nigel Johnson Hill (NJH), John Miller (JM) and Andrew Shaxson (AS).

In attendance: Trish Walker (TW), Parish Clerk.

1. Apologies for absence: None.

2. Declarations of Interest: None.

3. Minutes of the meeting on 6 November 2020: The minutes were agreed as a true record and will be signed in due course once the restrictions from COVID-19 are eased.

4. Matters arising

i. Durford Mill Bridge

The repairs have still not been completed. WSCC have agreed to the repairs and will be chased.

ii. Pot hole near East Harting pond

This pot hole has still not been repaired.

iii. Footpath lights

An electrician has agreed to provide a quote for the disconnection of the lights but this has not been received. It was agreed to approach the Petersfield Forge to see if they would be interested in buying the old lights for scrap.

Action: TW to contact Petersfield forge to see if they would buy the old lights as scrap

iv. Phone boxes

It was noted that the phone boxes had not become the responsibility of any of the Council committees, but it was felt it was most allied with HABAC.

JM discussed the various options for the West Harting phone box, one of which is a defibrillator station. He agreed to take responsibility for the phone box and to gauge what the local community might wish to use it for.

It was noted that the Nyewood and East Harting phone boxes were looked after by the local communities. Sadly, both had suffered some broken panes of glass, but these were being replaced and the invoices will be sent to the Council for reimbursement.

The following recommendation is made:

- a. That the committee recommend to the Council that maintenance of disused telephone boxes in the parish become the responsibility of HABAC*
- b. That the committee recommend to the Council that Mr Miller should investigate the potential for the installation of a defibrillator in the West Harting phone box*

5. Fingerposts

5.1. North Lane/Square junction

The members considered two quotes to refurbish the fingerpost at the bottom end of North lane.

Contractor A £2100

Contractor B £1250

This post needs a considerable amount of work and is currently missing an arm.

After some discussion, it was agreed to recommend Contractor B to the Council for approval.

It was noted that some of the work will need to be carried out on site, so the immediate area will need to be kept clear of parked cars for a short while.

5.2. Plan for other locations

Following the previous HABAC meeting, JM had carried out a survey of the 14 fingerposts in the parish (see appendix A) and presented a list of prioritised repairs. This showed there were 6 fingerposts in need of professional work, the remainder were either in the process of refurbishment or just needed cleaning and minor maintenance which could be carried out by local volunteers.

The professional works are anticipated to be in the region of £1k-£1.5k per post.

JM was thanked for the work he had carried out.

The committee felt it was necessary to ensure the fingerposts were considered for a programme of maintenance as none has been done for many years. It was also agreed it would be a good idea to complete this project by the end of March 2023, when the current Council reaches the end of its term.

A recommendation was agreed to be put to the Council suggesting quotes were requested from the 3 contractors, that are now known to the committee, for the restoration of the 6 fingerposts requiring the most urgent attention.

The following recommendations were made:

- i. That the committee recommend that the quote from contractor B is accepted for the restoration of the fingerpost at the southern end of North lane at a cost of £1250*
- ii. That the committee recommend that the Council requests quotes for the restoration of the six other fingerposts identified as needing professional restoration over the next two financial years with an estimated budget of £5000 per annum to finish by March 2023.*
- iii. That the committee recommend the Council find volunteers to clean and maintain the seven fingerposts that do not need professional restoration.*

6. Drainage issues

There were no obvious drainage problems this time. It was noted that the bund to the north of the Petersfield seems to be holding up and there have been no further reports of issues in that area.

7. Gulleys

This is still in hand with the aim to produce a list of gulleys and people that are happy to keep an eye on them.

PC confirmed that a system had been set up in Nyewood whereby householders have been approached, and have agreed, to monitor the drains outside their houses. Many of the drains are needing a deep clean as they are blocked and overflow.

Action: PC will find out which drains need cleaning and pass the information to TW for onward reporting to WSCC.

8. Highways

8.1. Speed Indicator (SID)

The new pole has now been erected in Nyewood and SID will be moved there once the new bracket has been received. This means there will be 4 potential locations across the parish which means the SID can always be actively used. It was noted that a 5th location may be available once the new village hall is built in Nyewood.

The data from the SID has not been downloaded during the lockdown, this will be done in the near future. It was noted that the data cannot always be analysed effectively as the SID calibration currently picks up vehicles some way before the speed limit zones, this is especially the case on the Petersfield road.

Action: TW to follow up the delivery of the bracket

NJH to contact Mr Mackay regarding the installation of the bracket.

8.2. Community Speedwatch

It was noted there were 4 potential Speedwatch volunteers (a further 2 have recently moved away) from the call out a year ago. A councillor from Rogate Parish Council, who had organised the Rake Speedwatch team had also offered to share their experiences.

The members discussed the pro's and con's of setting up a Speedwatch group, taking consideration of the training and WSCC Highways restrictions into account. It was agreed that the biggest issue for local residents was the noise and speed of motorbikes passing through the parish, and this issue might be better addressed by the South Downs Safer Roads Task Force. It was also noted that some people are unhappy about the Speedwatch approach and there is concern it may lead to ill feeling amongst locals.

The members agreed that, at this time, HABAC is not in support of recommending Speedwatch to the Council.

8.3. South Downs Safer Roads Task Force

AP noted there had been no further contact and no minutes from the November meeting of this group. This was disappointing and it is hoped the group will become

more active. It was agreed that AP would contact a local district councillor, with a particular interest in this area, to see if there is any further progress.

Action : AP to contact Alan Sutton unless Tom Richardson who took over as chairman makes contact.

9. Footpaths

Kevin Dewitt, WSCC Rights of Way officer, had contacted the clerk to ask for any potential problems with the local footpaths. NJH had asked the local footpath monitors to highlight any issues and these will be passed to Kevin.

It was noted that the footpaths are always generally muddy and wet at this time of the year, and especially given the increased footfall during the recent months of lockdown.

10. Hedges

There had been no reports of any overhanging or problematic hedges, but all members were asked to keep an eye out over the next few months.

Action: All members to monitor hedges.

11. Any other business

There was no further business.

12. Items for next meeting

The members were reminded to pass any items for consideration to the clerk to include on the agenda.

13. Date of next meeting

A further meeting date will be set for early July 2021.

Action : TW to arrange

The meeting closed at 7.15pm

Appendix A

Fingerposts project – conclusions and recommendations

Half (7) of the fingerposts are currently in reasonable condition with only light maintenance required such as washing and cleaning, which could be carried out by local volunteers. The other 7 fingerposts require more substantial professional work.

The 7 fingerposts in reasonable or good condition and therefore requiring light maintenance are those scoring 4 or 5 in the survey and are located as follows:

- Old Greyhound Inn
- North Lane - Jct to Nyewood / Manor House
- Three Corner Piece, Jct to East Harting
- East Harting telephone box
- Turkey Island Down Lodge
- Turkey Island, South Harting Road
- West Harting Manor Farm grain-store

The 7 fingerposts in much poorer condition, and requiring more substantial renovation, scored 3 or below in the survey and are as follows:

- Durford Bridge
- Junction to Ryefields
- Junction to Quebec
- Junction to Hillash Farm
- turkey Island (near bus shelter)
- South Harting (village shop)
- Quebec junction to Goose Green

Based on costs for the recently refurbished fingerpost of around £2,000, it would seem prudent to estimate the likely cost for the 7 fingerposts requiring substantial renovation at around this level, therefore implying a total cost to complete the project of £14,000.

It is assumed the other 7 fingerposts would not incur any financial cost, just voluntary help.

Fingerposts are a very visible indicator of how well maintained a village is, and a clear demonstration of the pride of the village.

It is recommended to HABAC that

1. HABAC agrees this project is fully completed by the end of March 2023, i.e., before the next parish council elections. This would mean that by this date Harting and Nyewood will have high quality fingerposts throughout the parish.
2. Quotations and potential suppliers for the seven fingerposts requiring substantial treatment are now obtained. For the purpose of immediate financial / budget planning a project cost estimate of £14,000 equivalent to £2,000 per sign is used.
3. A timetable for action is drawn up and local volunteers are identified and recruited to manage the cleaning and maintenance of the seven fingerposts already in reasonable condition.
4. The seven fingerposts requiring substantial treatment are prioritised in terms of those in the worst condition being renovated first. On this basis the order of refurbishment would be as follows:
 - a) South Harting village shop
 - b) Junction to Ryefields
 - c) Quebec jnt to Goose Green
 - d) Durford Bridge
 - e) Jct to Quebec
 - f) Jct to Hillash
 - g) Turkey Island (bus shelter)
5. HABAC should recommend to Council all of the above, and should be the lead committee responsible for its implementation by March 2023 with a budget totalling £14,000 subject to confirmation. A project leader within HABAC is chosen to coordinate the project and ensure delivery.

LOCATION AND NUMBER	ROUNDEL PRESENT AND CONDITION	POST CONDITION	FINGERS CONDITION	SCORE 1-5 (1= TERRIBLE 5= EXCELLENT)
1. Durford Bridge	Yes, but needs painting	Needs painting	1 finger missing 2 plastic fingers Lettering OK	3
2. Jct to Ryefields	Yes, but Rusted	Rusted, bent, and wobbly, Needs painting	3 wooden fingers – all rotten Lettering needs replacing	2
3. Jct to Quebec	No roundel	Rusty, wonky	3 wooden fingers – some wood rot	3
4. Jct to Hillash	Yes , OK	Not properly straight, overgrown hedge surrounding	3 wooden fingers – all rotten	3
5. Greyhound Inn	Yes, OK	Overgrown hedge needs pruning	3 wooden fingers OK condition	4

6. Jct to Nyewood/Manor House	No roundel	Good , slight rust at top	3 wooden fingers Good condition	4.5
7. Three Corner Piece Jct to E Harting	Yes, good	Excellent	3 wooden fingers Good condition	5
8. East Harting (Telephone box)	Yes, good	Straight and good	2 wooden fingers Good condition	5
9. Turkey Island By bus shelter	Yes, OK	Straight, but rusted and needs painting	3 wooden fingers Some wood rot	3.5
10 . Turkey Island Down Lodge	Yes, good	Straight, good	3 wooden fingers Excellent	5
11. Turkey Island S Harting road	Yes, good	Post is a little wonky. Paintwork OK but needs good cleaning	3 wooden fingers Moss, needs cleaning Lettering size smaller than other fingerposts	4
12. South Harting Village shop	Yes, OK but dislodged	Straight, but rusted and needs painting	2 fingers missing 1 wooden finger Needs repainting	2
13. West Harting Manor farm	No	Straight but needs repainting	3 wooden fingers Some wood rot	4
14. Quebec Jct to Goose Grn.	Yes, OK	Post straight, but rusty and needs repainting	2 wood fingers – rotten. 1 plastic OK	2

Photo Number 1 - Durford



Photo Number 2 - Ryefields



Photo Number 3 - Quebec



Photo Number 4 - Hill Ash



Photo Number 5 – Greyhound



Photo Number 6 – North Lane



Photo Number 7 – Three Corner Piece

Photo Number 8 – East Harting



Photo 9 - Turkey island
Bus shelter



Photo 10 – Turkey Island
Down Lodge



Photo 11
Turkey Island - South Harting Road



Photo 12
South Harting village



Photo 13

West Harting – Manor Farm grain store



Photo 14

West Harting – Goose Green Junction

