

HARTING PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES

Minutes of the Meeting of Harting Parish Council held on **Thursday 17 December 2020**
at 7.00 p.m.

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

Present: Mr Shaxson (Chair), Mr Bonner, Mrs Bramley, Mrs Bull, Mrs Curran, Mrs Dawson, Mrs Gaterell, Mr Johnson-Hill, Mrs Martin, Mr Miller and Mr Palmer.
In attendance: Mrs Walker (Parish Clerk).

There was 1 member of the public in attendance.

152.Apologies for absence: None.

153. Declarations of Interest: None.

154.Minutes from Meeting held on 19 November 2020.

The minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 19 November 2020 were agreed as a true record and would be signed by the Chair when circumstances allow.

155.Questions from the Public:

The member of public asked to contribute to agenda item 7.

156.Matters of Urgent Public Importance:

None.

157.Reports from the County and District Councillor

Dr O'Kelly, the County and District Councillor had circulated a report prior to the meeting and the following points were discussed:

- The area is currently in Tier 2 of the Covid-19 restrictions, this means that schools will be returning a week later after Christmas with lessons starting online.
- The local track and trace facility is now functioning.
- No decisions have been made in relation to the West Sussex County Council budget, further information is awaited regarding Government funding.
- Hampshire has started to contact patients about the Covid-19 vaccinations, there has been no progress on the West Sussex vaccinations at this stage.

158.Tree update

Network Rail and Tree Council Planting Day had taken place on 3 December 2020 however, due to the Covid-19 restrictions in place at the time, it was limited to a small number of people. The weather had been extremely wet, but fortunately the rain cleared briefly for the planting and photographs. Although a Daily Mail photographer was in attendance there was only a brief mention of the event in the newspaper and sadly no photograph.

The CEO's of both Network Rail and the Tree Council were in attendance. It was hoped the Secretary of State for Transport might attend; however, he was unable to be present.

It was originally hoped that 400 saplings might be planted during this session, but this was reduced to 50 due to the 'rule of six' guidance and then reduced further to two yew trees due to the weather conditions on the day.

The community planting days are planned as follows:

Thursday 28 January – this will be an adult day and it is hoped there will be two sessions of about 2 hours each, morning and afternoon. This should allow about 40 volunteers to take part, hopefully planting about 600 saplings.

Saturday 30 January 2020 – this will be a family planting day and there are likely to be more sessions, of shorter length, than the adult planting day. It is hoped that about 200 saplings will be planted.

Due to the uncertainty of the Covid-19 restrictions and the possibility of frozen ground two backup dates have been allocated in mid February 2020.

The planting days will be supported by the SDNPA (South Downs National Park Authority) Rangers and Petra Billings. Mrs Bull is working with the Woodland and Tree Sub Committee (WTSC) with arrangements being based on the current 'rule of six' and strict measures will be in place to ensure the event is Covid-safe.

The contractor has confirmed that the professional planting will go ahead in the New Year as planned and can be carried out in two phases, either side of the volunteer planting sessions if necessary. He has visited the site and commented on the reasonably low levels of brash as well as the high level of the protected regeneration.

The Tree Council have obtained some disease resistant elms and will provide a small number for the Warren. Petra Billings will confirm where they should be planted.

The cardboard Eze Tree shelters, used on the February planting day, have been removed as they were failing. The Tree Council has agreed they are not suitable and will cover the cost of replacing them with biodegradable spirals.

It was noted that Petra Billings had stated the brash pile, near the area used as a loading bay, should not be burned as it is becoming an established habitat.

The following recommendation is made:

To note the report

159.South Downs Safer Roads Task Force

Mr Palmer provided a verbal report on the first meeting of the South Downs Safer Roads Task Force as the minutes of the meeting had not been received for circulation.

The group was originally established to campaign against the noise and nuisance caused by motorcycle groups.

The meeting was attended by WSCC, CDC and the police. The majority of issues raised concerned the noise and speed of motorcycles, at present there are no obvious answers. Some areas have trialled handheld noise detectors, but if the motorcycle has passed an MOT there is no action that can be taken.

Mr Palmer reported that because the group is now covering a wider area many more problems are being considered, and ours isn't so 'obvious' as some others. Also, the police made it clear that they have to prioritise road safety over traffic noise.

It is hoped a second meeting will be arranged and further progress may be made.

The following recommendation is made:

To note the report

160.PREVENT duty guidance for parish councils

Guidance had been received from the Community Engagement Manager at Chichester District Council with regard to the PREVENT duty.

It outlined the suggested steps that should be taken by public bodies to mitigate the risk of undesirable bookings of buildings, land or other resources and thereby ensure that public owned venues and resources do not provide a platform for extremist views.

The clerk confirmed the information had been forwarded to the management committees of the Harting Community Hall and the War Memorial Playing Fields.

The following proposal was agreed:

To note the report

161.All Parishes Meeting 8th February 2021

The All Parishes Meeting is due to take place virtually via Zoom video conferencing on 8th February 2021 at 5.30pm.

The following proposal was agreed:

That Mr Bonner and the clerk will attend the CDC All parishes meeting on 8th February 2021.

162.Finance

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

Undisclosed	Clerk & RFO Salary	941.00
HM Revenue & Customs	Tax and NI	108.39
Trish Walker	Defibrillator battery - church porch	298.80
Colin Croucher	Pavilion door replacement - grant	560.00
Philip Juniper	Deer Fencing and gates	15,747.72
Harting War Memorial Playing Field	Lengthsman	147.50
Came and Company	WMPF Insurance	1,021.61
Paul Martin	Tree champion enamel badges	308.60
Mill Farm Plants	Saplings for 3 Dec planting day	77.40
Parish Council websites	Coronavirus banner	40.00
Trish Walker	Monthly Zoom subscription	14.39
Greentech Limited	Bio spiral guards, stakes and canes	4,656.48
Trish Walker	Clerk expenses	122.06
Andrew Shaxson	Yew Trees for 3 December planting day	49.90
Moore	External Audit Fee	360.00

162.2. The income for December was noted.

Tree Council grant 90% £28,960.62

Vat refund £640.84

163.Bank Reconciliation for December 2020

It was noted that the bank reconciliations had been scrutinised and will be signed by the Chairman of the Finance Committee. The Chairman of the Council will sign the reconciliation in accordance with the Council's Financial Regulations when circumstances allow.

164.Bank balance as of 30 November 2020 £98,095.51

Noted.

165.Budget statement for November 2020

Noted.

166.Planning Committee

The minutes of the Planning meeting held on 19 November 2020 were noted.

167.Play and Open Spaces Advisory Committee (POSAC)

The minutes of the POSAC meeting held on 7 November 2020 were noted.

168.Correspondence

None.

169.Clerks report

The report was noted. Mr Miller confirmed he had been investigating some potential deposit accounts and will bring a paper to a future Finance Committee or Council meeting.

170.Items for future meetings

Allotments

Deposit account

171.Date of next meeting – The next meeting would be held on Thursday 21 January 2021 via video conferencing, the time will be confirmed.

The meeting closed at 7.55 pm.