

HARTING PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES

Minutes of the Meeting of Harting Parish Council held on **Thursday 21 January 2021**
at 6.45 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 were 3 members of the public in attendance.

172.Apologies for absence: None.

173. Declarations of Interest: None.

174.Minutes from Meeting held on 17 December 2020.

The minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 17 December 2020 were agreed as a true record and would be signed by the Chair when circumstances allow.

175.Questions from the Public:

One member of public asked to contribute to agenda item 7, and another to agenda item 12.

176.Matters of Urgent Public Importance:

The Chairman sent condolences to the family of the Reverend Ken Jacques, Minister of the Congregational Church, who had sadly passed away on 12 January. He stated that he had been a much loved and respected figure in the community.

It was noted that the Harting Festivities, due to be held on 31 May 2021, had been cancelled due to the uncertainty of the covid-19 restrictions in relation to mass gatherings.

177.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 vaccines in West Sussex, following a slight delay, were now starting to roll out and there were now several active sites.
- The Midhurst tip had been saved and would not face closure.
- Concerns about the future of the Child and Family centre located in Petworth, this provides an outreach service in Midhurst.

178.Tree update

The members heard that, due to the current Covid-19 lockdown restrictions and the uncertainty when they might be eased, the volunteer planting sessions due to be held in January 2021 had been postponed until the autumn of 2021.

The Tree Council have also issued a statement to confirm that volunteer planting schemes should be delayed until they can be safely undertaken.

The volunteers have been notified in the postponement of the dates and will be updated by the clerk at regular intervals. They have been invited to help in other ways over the next few months to check the spirals on the regeneration and newly planted saplings as well as ensuring the ivy and brambles do not overcome the young trees.

The dates for the late autumn community planting sessions will be subject to the availability of the bare root saplings as well as Petra Billings and the SDNPA rangers, who will train supervise the event.

It is hoped the Covid-19 restrictions will have been lifted by this time thereby enabling an enjoyable and sociable event with 800 saplings being planted.

The professional planting will continue as planned, with 2900 saplings being planted by MJO Forestry in the coming weeks. A specification for this work has been produced, under the guidance of Petra Billings, showing the areas to be planted.

The 10 disease resistant elms, donated by the Tree Council, had been delivered and would be planted in due course.

The following proposal was agreed:

To note the report

179.Play and Open Spaces Advisory Committee (POSAC)

The minutes of the POSAC meeting held on 11 January 2021 were noted.

The members noted that, although the ponds and surrounding area at South Gardens were in a good condition, the POSAC was recommending the need for a survey on the ponds to ensure any future work is able to conserve them whilst taking account of the public use of the area.

The survey would be undertaken in the spring/summer period to ensure all the fauna and flora is identified.

The POSAC is aware of four experts who might be able to undertake such a survey and asked the members to agree that quotes for surveys should be requested.

The following proposal was agreed:

That the Council agreed to obtain estimates for a survey of the council owned ponds in South Gardens in the Spring/Summer of 2021

180.Covid-19 vaccine roll out

The report circulated with the agenda had raised concerns about the roll-out of the Covid-19 vaccination programme for parishioners registered with Midhurst surgeries in comparison with those registered at Petersfield practices.

However, by the time of the meeting the situation had vastly improved and the Midhurst patients had started to receive the vaccines as part of a well organised and swift programme.

The councillors praised all of those involved in the roll-out across the area.

It was noted the initial problems had arisen from the supply of vaccines and this issue would be included in the report and feedback the Parish Council Emergency group will provide at the end of the pandemic.

The following proposal was agreed:

To note the report.

181. Payroll

The Council payroll had been administered by Ladywell Accounting services for some years at a cost of £96 per annum. Notice has been received that this service will cease on 31 March 2021 and a new provider will need to be found.

An alternative provider had been sourced, following recommendation. Brandon Yeadon of Clarity Accounting Associates Ltd, Elstead, Surrey had provided a quote for £8 per payslip per month. The Council has one employee so the annual cost would be £96 per annum.

Further quotes were not pursued as the overall cost is not significant and was comparable to the previous provider.

The following proposal was agreed:

That the Council agreed to contract Brandon Yeadon of Clarity Accounting Associates to provide the payroll service for the Parish Council from 1 April 2021 at the cost of £8 per payslip per month.

182. Speed Indicator Device (SID) batteries and sites

The members noted that Mr Johnson-Hill had agreed to take over the storage and charging of the SID batteries, this had previously been carried out by Mrs Bramley. The Highways and Byways Advisory Committee (HABAC) had taken over the responsibility of moving SID to the three approved locations around the parish. It is hoped that a fourth location will be established in Nyewood shortly.

The following proposal was agreed:

To note the report

183. Grant application to fund a new website to support the Henry Warren Hall, Nyewood

A grant application had been submitted by the Henry Warren Club requesting a grant to fund a new website for the new Henry Warren village hall.

The current website is hosted by BT free of charge but sadly this service is to be withdrawn in May 2021. The website has been used in the past to provide Nyewood residents with information, advertise events and has been key, in conjunction with the Parish Council website, to the Emergency group work in the community during the pandemic. The site is important to encourage community cohesion, particularly with the development of the new village hall.

Importantly, the new website will need to include a booking facility as well as satisfy the accessibility criteria.

The clerk confirmed the Henry Warren Hall was listed as a parish affiliated group in the Grant policy.

After a lengthy and useful debate the members agreed that a grant of £1000 should be given to the Henry Warren club to support the development of the a new website for the Henry Warren village hall.

The following proposals were agreed:

- i. That the council agreed to provide a grant to fund a new website to support the Henry Warren Hall, Nyewood*

ii. That the grant would be set at £1000

184.Finance

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

Undisclosed	Clerk and RFO Salary	887.00
Debra Harknett-Godfree	HCH Bookkeeping - grant	84.38
Trish Walker	Monthly Zoom subscription	14.39
Henry Warren Club	Grant for set up of new website	1,000.00

184.2. There was no income to note income for January 2021.

185.Bank Reconciliation for January 2021

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.

186.Bank balance as of 31 December 2020 £79,176.33

Noted.

187.Budget statement for December 2020

Noted.

188.Planning Committee

The minutes of the Planning meeting held on 17 December 2020 were noted.

189.Correspondence

The clerk had received a letter from a local resident thanking the Council for the work being undertaken by the emergency group and for the restoration work that was taking place in the Warren.

190.Clerks report

The report was noted. Mr Palmer gave an update about Durford lane and bridge and confirmed that a meeting had been arranged with WSCC on 25th January 2021.

191.Items for future meetings

Deposit account

192.Date of next meeting – The next meeting would be held on Thursday 18 February 2021 via video conferencing, the time will be confirmed.

The meeting closed at 8.10 pm.