

HARTING PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the Highways and Byways Advisory Committee (HABAC)

held at 6.00pm on Tuesday 6 July 2021.

The meeting was held via Zoom video link.

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

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

1. Apologies for absence: Penny Curran (PC).

2. Declarations of Interest: None.

3. Minutes of the meeting on 8 March 2021: 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

Phone box – West Harting

JM confirmed he had contacted the British Heart Foundation about possible grants for defibrillators. The charity does provide grants but the current round has ended and the next opportunity to apply is likely to be in August/September. It was noted the application would need to be made by the Parish Council. The West Harting residents seem to favour the approach to have a defibrillator and also a plant exchange, as is currently the case.

It was agreed no further action was required until the grant applications were open again.

Action: JM to circulate a summary to the members of HABAC

5. HABAC Terms of Reference

The Terms of Reference were reviewed and it was agreed that minor adjustments were required in sections 10 and 15.

The following recommendation was agreed:

That the Terms of Reference for the Highways and Byways Advisory Committee have been reviewed and the following changes are recommended:

- a. Section 10 - the wording "notwithstanding 10" is replaced with "notwithstanding 9"
- b. Section 15 – the wording "Standing Orders" is replaced with "Terms of Reference"

6. Drainage Issues

There are no particular drainage issues at this time and the bund in the field entrance along the Petersfield road is holding up well.

There was a discussion about the impact of the East Harting flood pond on the drainage system in the area. It is clear the pond needs to be dredged, but the ownership of the pond is unknown and WSCC do not accept it to be their problem.

The possibility of the Parish Council taking the initiative and dredging was discussed and the possibility of funding this with an Operation Watershed grant. It was agreed that AS would investigate this option further.

Action: AS to make an informal approach to WSCC regarding the potential for an Operation Watershed grant

7. Gulleys

AP and TW are still to meet to work out an approach and identify the gulleys in the parish.

It was noted that any blocked gulleys should be identified and reported via the LoveSussex website.

Action: AP and TW to meet to discuss the gulleys

8. Footpath lights

TW had finally obtained a quote to disconnect and remove the lights from the footpath leading to the school. The quote had been in two parts:

- i. To disconnect the lights - £40
- ii. To disconnect and remove the lights - £120

The members felt the charge was reasonable and agreed to recommend that option ii should be taken forward.

The following recommendation is made:

That the Committee recommend that the Council agree to appoint K & R Power to disconnect and remove the footpath lights at a cost of £120.00

9. Fingerposts

9.1. North Lane/Square junction

TW had been in correspondence with the contractor refurbishing the North Lane fingerpost. It had become clear the post was in a more serious state than first realised and the fixing for the finial needs to be replaced. The additional cost for this had been discussed at the last Finance meeting and the Council agreed the recommendation to proceed at its June meeting.

It is hoped the work will commence at the end of July, however the contractor has had a motorbike accident and this has impacted his work schedule.

9.2. Plan for other locations

AS and TW had been in discussion with WSCC and Trevor Leggo about the responsibility and ownership for fingerposts. The situation is still unclear and WSCC will be providing a report in due course regarding the possible adoption of posts. It has been established that Councils can spend money on the posts as this benefits the residents of the parish.

In the meanwhile it was agreed the clerk would apply to WSCC for consent to repair the fingerposts detailed in JM's report earlier in the year.

It was also agreed that quotes would be requested in relation to the six fingerposts identified as needing works.

JM confirmed he was happy to meet contractors if they come on site to prepare the quotes.

Action: TW to seek quotes
TW to apply for WSCC consent

10. Footpaths

The PROW 2020 report was noted.

11. Highways

11.1. Collins Lane – AP noted thanks to Kate O’Kelly (KOK), County Councillor, for progressing the case regarding Collins Lane. WSCC have confirmed they will be carrying out an engineering survey of the road surface.

JM raised the need for the road to be swept, and TW confirmed that a request had been made to CDC

11.2. Lining – KOK had also managed to get some movement on remarking of the lines in the narrows by the Church. It was noted the lines on Sheepwash corner and possibly at Turkey Island might need remarking.

Action: AP to look at the potential areas and pass to KOK

11.3. Traffic Working Group (TWG) update

SBr reported the TWG had not met since the lockdown, and the demands of being Chair of the Planning Committee mean there is little time for this area. An CIL application had been submitted for the crossing to South Gardens, but this had not been successful in the first instance.

It was agreed that a TWG meeting should be arranged after the restrictions are lifted on 19 July 2021, and that AP should now become a member of the group.

11.4. Durford Mill Bridge

The repairs had still not been carried out.

11.5. South Downs Safer road task force

The last request was sent to the task force to ask police to keep an eye on the dangerous driving on Harting Hill.

11.6. Speed Indicator (SID)

SID has been positioned on the new post in Nyewood and it appears to have had a positive effect.

The SID is now moved regularly between the 4 allocated positions in the parish.

12. Hedges

All the members were asked to monitor the hedges in their areas and, if necessary, have a quiet chat with householders to ask them to cut their hedge if it is starting to overhang a road or pavement.

It was noted a hedge at the northern end of North Lane was causing a problem.

Action: AP to check North Lane hedge and speak with householder.

13. Any other business

- i. Budget funding needs for 2022/23 – The budget requirement for the following financial year needs to be notified to the Finance Committee by the end of September 2021. It was agreed the only HABAC request would be for the £5k already agreed by the Council in relation to the ongoing project to refurbish the fingerposts in the parish

Action: TW to pass budget request to Finance Committee

- ii. Seven fingerposts to be cleaned by volunteers – The fingerposts identified in JM's report earlier in the year needed cleaning rather than any refurbishment work. It was agreed that volunteers living close to the posts would be asked to keep an eye on them.

Action: AP to take a look at the list and location and see if there are any obvious volunteers

- iii. Fencing along the footpath to the school – AS confirmed there was a problem with the fence running alongside the brook. One of the rails had recently been displaced and, in trying to replace it, it has been clear the two posts holding it are rotten at ground level and will need replacing.

Action: AP to assess the situation

TW to include in other asset maintenance repairs

- iv. New signage in the Warren – It was noted that WSCC have renewed the footpath signage in the Warren. The 'no cycling' signs are still required.

Action: TW to order 'no cycling' signs

14. Items for next meeting

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

15. Date of next meeting

A further meeting date will be set for November 2021

Action : TW to arrange

The meeting closed at 7.10pm