

HARTING PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES

Minutes of the Meeting of Harting Parish Council held at Henry Warren Hall, Nyewood
on **Thursday 16 February 2023 at 7.30 p.m.**

Present: Mr Shaxson (Chair), Mr Bonner, Mrs Bramley, Mrs Curran, Mrs Dawson, Mrs Gaterell, Mrs Martin, Mrs Maxwell Davies, Mr Miller and Mr Olphert.
Dr O'Kelly also attended in her role as County and District Councillor.

In attendance: Trish Walker, Parish Clerk.

Ahead of the meeting Mr Sym Taylor, a trustee of the Henry Warren Hall, welcomed the Parish Council to the new building and gave a brief history of the Henry Warren Hall in Nyewood.

There were nine members of public in attendance.

235. Apologies for absence: Mr Palmer.

236. Declarations of Interest: Mrs Curran and Mrs Martin declared an interest in agenda item 7i(a) Charles III Coronation celebrations as the named applicants for the Nyewood portion of the grant.

237. Minutes from Meeting held on 19 January 2023.

The minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 19 January 2023 were agreed and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

238. Questions from the Public: The following questions were raised:

One member of public made the following comments regarding concerns with agenda item 7, Charles III Coronation celebrations.

- The King's outline for celebrations did not make a mention of creating a lasting memorial they were based more on the Big Lunch event and the Big Help Out.
- That the school may have lobbied a councillor to present the bid on their behalf
- That the funds totalling £6,500 would be spent on a memorial that could only be visited for 1.1% of the time and by appointment
- There was no detailed breakdown of costs for either the Harting or the Nyewood bid, although the Nyewood bid seemed to fit more with the King's request
- The commissioning of a sundial, according to the Council's financial regulations cannot be handed to a local contractor without considering other quotes
- If Laura Bristol had wished here bequest to spent at the school she would have left it to the school
- A good, vandal proof bench with engraving would cost in the region of £900, including installation, not £500 as suggested in the report

- It is important the funds allocated for the coronation are used to reach all and are inclusive. The idea of food vans may deter those that are struggling with finances at this time
- Should the Council consider a Big Lunch in Tipper Lane allowing people to move between the hall and the picnic with trestle tables and chairs being hired for the occasion
- The event needs to be truly inclusive

A councillor raised a point on behalf of a member of public who was not able to attend the meeting. The concern was about the number of people parking their vehicles on the bridge by the railway cutting in Nyewood and the potential haard this causes.

Dr O Kelly responded, in her capacity as Council Councillor, and suggested it might be possible to arranged a meeting with the Highways Officer and the member of public to consider the situation.

239. Matters of Urgent Public Importance:

A matter of Urgent Public Importance was raised as a result of the preceding Planning Meeting and consideration of the planning appeal for Three Cornered Piece, Nyewood that was due to take place on 28 February 2023. It was noted that another local parish council had recently used a professional planning consultant to successfully represent them at a similar appeal.

The members discussed this option and felt, as the technicalities are very specific for this type of appeal, that it may be sensible to try and secure the services of a planning consultant. This would be subject to their availability and research had shown this could be in the region of £2000.

The following proposal was made and agreed:

That the Council should proceed to contact a professional planning consultant and discuss the case and, subject to the availability and reaction, authorise the Chair of the Council, the Planning Committee, the Finance Committee and the Clerk to make a decision according to the Financial Regulations 4.1

240. Reports from the County and District Councillor

Dr O'Kelly, the County and District Councillor had circulated a report ahead of the meeting.

The following questions were raised:

- What was the situation with the stretch of B2141 between Chilgrove and Lavant. Signage indicated the road was closed but it could still be accessed. However, there are some serious potholes and the road is very dangerous.
Dr O'Kelly confirmed the road was closed other than for access purposes. It is hoped repairs to damaged road, caused by flooding earlier in the year, will be undertaken soon.
- The Petersfield to Nyewood cycle route was highlighted as a positive initiative and it was noted the group would be giving a short talk ahead of the March Council meeting.

241. Charles III Coronation celebrations

Mrs Maxwell Davies presented the proposal for the Harting part of the Coronation celebrations. She confirmed that the school had not lobbied the Council, the idea had been taken to the school.

The elements of the proposal were outlined:

- In partnership with the Community Hall Committee the Coronation Service would be screened in the Village Hall on 5th May with, depending on the time of day (TBA), coffee and tea to be served. This will be self-funding.
- In discussions with the Headmaster of Harting Primary School, the Harting Horticultural Society, Harting CAN, Alitex and Sussex Wildlife Trust, a plan of action had been drawn up to reclaim an area to the rear of the school which is currently semi-derelict, including an over-grown pond, to create a Coronation Garden for the children. This will become an outdoor learning centre for the children of the village. A local landscape gardener had volunteered her time to draw up plans and designs for the garden. The school and the LEA had also approved the potential plans. It is hoped the school community will be able to provide the labour for the project and the garden will be maintained by the school Gardening Club.
- The headmaster had agreed the garden would be open to the public four times a year and also by appointment.
- It was suggested the centrepiece of this garden might be a commemorative sundial made from local stone, dedicated to Miss Bristol who had left a bequest to the Council, at a cost of about £2500 with the remaining sum from the bequest being used to fund a bench in the play area at South Gardens.
- The Garden would be formally opened on Sunday May 7th at 11.30am, in a ceremony open to the whole Parish, by a celebrity, hopefully Tim Peake the astronaut who lives locally
- The opening will be followed by a party in the Village Hall and car park with food vans, and music so the children and the community can celebrate the King's coronation. This will be self-funding. This will enable everyone to be part of the Big Lunch the King has suggested the nation should take part in.
- Leaflets inviting everyone will be distributed during April and the event will be advertised on the website and in the other usual places

The members considered the proposal and it was acknowledged that this would benefit a fair number of parishioners as there are 117 children on the school role, and along with their family members that was a good number. However, there was a great deal of debate in particular about the limited access for the general public beyond the school community, especially as this was a project to commemorate the coronation. For this reason the siting of a sundial, in memory of Miss Bristol, in the garden in memory was questioned.

Following a lengthy debate and questions about the ongoing maintenance and costing of the garden., it was agreed that the sum of up to £4,000 should be agreed subject to further costings and implementation details being made available.

Mrs Martin then outlined the proposal for the Nyewood celebrations, they would focus around the new Henry Warren Hall and would include the following:

- Planting of 'Charles's Copse' at the Hall along with a wildflower meadow
- Wooden toys and games for use on the day and for ongoing use
- Traditional tea party, children will be funded with adults paying
- Commemorative gift for the children
- Art competition
- Big Lunch event

The members were agreeable to the Nyewood proposal and agreed the grant application.

The following proposals were made and agreed:

- i. That the Council agree to give grants as follows*
 - a. Up to £4,000 to the Harting Primary School PTA for construction materials for the Coronation Garden subject to further implementation details*
 - b. £1,000 to Henry Warren Hall to celebrate and commemorate the Coronation.*
- ii. That the Council agree to defer the proposals regarding the use of the bequest from Miss Laura Bristol.*

242. South Gardens grass cutting contract 2023-24

MH Kennedy & Son Ltd have cut the grass in south Gardens for many years and are considered to have always provided a reliable and satisfactory service. For 2023, a quote of £161.47 + VAT per cut had been provided, an increase of £13.42 per cut on the 2022 price representing an 8.8% rise which remains below the current rate of inflation.

The Financial Regulations state that three quotes do not need to be provided for "work to be executed or goods or materials to be supplied which constitute an extension of an existing contract by the Council" (Fin Regs 11.1 (a) iv).

The members agreed the grass cutting is a continuation of a current contract.

The following proposal was made and agreed:

That the Council accept the quote of £161.47 + vat per cut for South Gardens from MH Kennedy & Son Ltd for the year 2023-24.

243. Harting CAN grant application for Operation Nest Box

Harting CAN (Climate Action Network) had submitted a grant application for up to £2000 to help cover the cost of materials to make nest boxes for swallows, swifts and house martins across the parish. The boxes will be made and installed by volunteers. It is hoped that once the boxes are installed a community wide programme of research and study might be instigated.

The members considered the grant application and it was confirmed by the Harting CAN member present that householders would be asked to give a donation for any boxes

installed on their properties. The grant funding would allow about 80 to 100 boxes to be made and for the project to continue into future years.

The following proposals were made and agreed:

- i. *That the council agreed to provide a grant to Harting CAN to help fund Operation Nest Box*
- ii. *That the Council agree to a grant of £2000 with £1000 being paid in the current financial year and the remaining £1000 being paid in the financial year 2023/24..*
- iii. *That the Council agreed to gift the materials up to the value of £2000 to Harting CAN*

244. Annual Parish Meeting (APM)

The APM was due to take place on 1 March 2023. A good number of organisations had indicated they would like to attend. The local PCSO had been invited but would be on annual leave and not able to attend. The successful Community Highways Scheme application would be presented at the meeting.

The following proposal was made and agreed:

To note the report

245. Finance

245.1. It was proposed and agreed that the following payments should be made:

Undisclosed	Clerk and RFO Salary	1,532.88
Trish Walker	Monthly Zoom subscription	14.39
JRB Enterprise Limited	Dog waste bags	196.74
David Chaffe	Data Protection Officer annual fee	150.00

245.2. It was agreed that Mr Miller and Mrs Bramley would authorise the February online payments.

245.3. There was no income to note for February 2023.

246. Bank Reconciliation for February 2023

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.

247. Bank balance as of 31 January 2023 - £76,989.63 (earmarked funds £36.3k)

248. To note the budget statement to 31 January 2023

Noted

249. Planning Committee

The minutes of the Planning Committees held on 19 January 2023 were noted.

250. Aims and Objectives Advisory Committee (AOAC)

The unconfirmed minutes of the Aims and Objective Advisory Committee held on 6 February 2023 were noted.

251. Feedback from War Memorial Playing Field (WMPF) and Harting Community Hall (HCH) representatives

WMPF

There were no updates.

HCH

The committee had been actively assessing maintenance requirements for the hall. Various events had been set up including the live streaming of sporting events.

252. Correspondence

None

253. Clerk's report

The Clerk's report was considered and it was noted that a meeting was being set up between the various bodies to consider possible options on the B2146 to Standbridge farm section of the road.

It was also noted the Community Highways Scheme had been agreed, feasibility studies will take place between April- September 2023 with implementation being in 2024/25.

254. Items for future meetings

Parish priority statements

255. Date of next meeting: The next meeting would be held at 7.30pm on Thursday 16 March 2023 at Harting Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 9.28 pm.