

MEETING OF HARTING PARISH COUNCIL

You are hereby summoned to a Meeting of Harting Parish Council to be held
at Harting Community Hall on
Thursday 20 April 2023 at 7.30pm or on the rising of the Planning Committee if
later.

The Press and Public are welcome to attend.

Trish Walker

Clerk to Harting Parish Council

Published 16 March 2023

AGENDA

1. **Apologies for absence**
2. **Declarations of Interest**
3. **Minutes** - to approve the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 16 March 2023.
4. **Questions from the Public (limited to 15 minutes in total)** *This provides an opportunity for members of the public (who are not usually permitted to speak during the meeting except by special invitation of the Chairman) to ask questions for up to 3 minutes, raising concerns or making comments on matters affecting Harting parish. No decision can be taken during this session, but the Chairman may decide to refer any matters raised for further consideration.*
5. **Matters of Urgent Public Importance** – raised with consent of the Chairman.
6. **Reports from the County and District Councillor**
7. **Discharge of untreated sewage from South Harting sewage treatment works** (see supporting document for minutes)
*The following recommendation is made:
That the Council consider the information provided by the Eco Rother Action group and decide if any further action should be taken*
8. **Highways and Byways Advisory Committee - HABAC** (see supporting document for briefing report)
To note the minutes of the HABAC held on 12 April 2023 (attached) and to consider the following recommendations:
 - i. *that the Council consider any further information available from WSCC with regard to the South Downs Classic event.*
 - ii. *to note a verbal update to be given, if possible, regarding the meeting in relation to the Hurst Farm to Stanbridge farm section of the B2146 road*
9. **Bike Stands** (see supporting document for briefing report)
That the Council agree to put forward a proposal to WSCC to gain an in-principle agreement for a bike stand on the north side of the phone box in The Street, South Harting.
10. **Standing Orders** (see supporting briefing note)
*The following recommendation is made:
That Council adopt the updated Standing Orders.*

11. Finance

11.1. To note approved payments made ahead of the April meeting

Harting School PTFA	Coronation garden grant	3539.00
J F Goodwillies Ltd	Harting CAN bird box grant	251.94

11.2. To approve expenditure for April 2023

Undisclosed	Clerk and RFO Salary	1364.71
Debra Harknett-Godfree	Hall bookkeeping	81.25
Chichester District Council	Litter and dog bins - annual fee	638.97
West Sussex ALC Limited	Annual WSALC & NALC subscriptions	445.55
J F Goodwillie Ltd	Harting CAN grant - bird boxes	251.94
Trish Walker	Monthly Zoom subscription	15.59

11.3. To agree the two banking signatories to authorise the online payments for April 2023.

11.4. To note income for March 2023.

Final balance of Tree Council grant £4763.78

Interest £269.79

11.5. To note that the bank reconciliation for April 2023 has been scrutinised and signed by the Chairman of the Finance Committee and will be signed by the Chairman of the Council in accordance with the Financial Regulations

11.6. To note the bank balance as of 31 March 2023 - £78,118.28 (earmarked funds £43.6k)

11.7. To note the budget statement to 31 March 2023

12. Planning - To note the minutes of the Planning Committee held on 16 March 2023 (attached).

13. Feedback from WMPF and HCH representatives (verbal reports)

14. Correspondence

15. Clerks report – (attached)

16. Items for future meetings

Restoration of water pump

South Downs Local Plan review and Parish Statements

18. Date of next meeting – Annual Parish Council Meeting 18 May 2023 at Harting Community Hall at 7.30pm.

Supporting Documents 20 April 2023

Agenda Item 7 - Discharge of untreated sewage from South Harting sewage treatment works

The following correspondence was received from the Eco Rother Action Group.

Location	Total hours of discharge of untreated sewage		
	2020	2021	2022
Liss Waste Water Treatment Works, Southern Water	611	607	542.90
College St., Petersfield, CSO, Southern Water	3	7	0
Chapel St., Petersfield, CSO, Southern Water	151	28	4.97
Petersfield Waste Water Treatment Works, Southern Water	233	330	328.97
Buriton, Sewage Treatment Works, Southern Water	975	284	128.55
Rogate, Waste Water Treatment Works, Southern Water	705	323	259.98
South Harting, Sewage Treatment Works, Southern Water	4146	3406	3154.83
Trotton Sewage Treatment Works	No records	No records	No records
Totals	6824 hours	4985 hours	4420.20 hours

These figures are collated

from <https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/e834e261b53740eba2fe6736e37bbc7b/page/-2022/> and come originally from the Environment Agency.

I thought the situation in Harting was significantly improved, but it would seem not! My table covers all sewage into the river Rother from where it starts to Midhurst, and obviously covers the last 3 years, which is all that the Rivers Trusts have been doing this for (before then there were insufficient Event Duration Monitors to warrant doing it i.e. it wasn't being monitored at all).

The stream that the Harting sewage is allowed to spill into passes close to my home in Trotton, before entering the Rother. Often that stream has a dull greyish colour, in notable contrast to a second stream that it merges with here.

If the PC chooses to follow up on this with Southern Water I would be grateful if you could keep me informed of any progress. Have you ever been given a convincing reason for this long term sewage problem at Harting?

Also, you would be very welcome to attend our May talk which is due to be given by Southern Water and which will probably take place in Rogate church. Our website will have details nearer the time <https://ecorotheraction.org/>

As you may be aware, ERA runs a river monitoring group, testing the river and its tributaries at various points on a regular basis. If we can be of any help with the sewage issue then do let us know.

ERA – Eco Rother Action Group

The members are asked to consider the situation and the following recommendation is made:

That the Council consider the information provided by the Eco Rother Action group and decide if any further action should be taken

Agenda Item 8 - Highways and Byways Advisory Committee - HABAC

HARTING PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the **Highways and Byways Advisory Committee (HABAC)** held at Harting Congregational Church Hall at **6.00pm** on **Wednesday 12 April 2023**.

Present: Anthony Palmer (AP)(Chair), Sheila Bramley (SBR), Penny Curran (PC), Vicky Maxwell Davies (VMD), John Miller (JM) and Nigel Johnson Hill (NJH)

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

The meeting commenced on site in The Street to assess potential locations for bike stands. Following this the members continued the meeting at the Congregational Church Hall. Mr Johnson Hill left the meeting at this point.

- 1. Apologies for absence:** Andrew Shaxson (AS).
- 2. Declarations of Interest:** None.
- 3. Minutes of the meeting on 4 January 2023:** The minutes were agreed as a true record and signed.
- 4. Matters arising**
 - 4.1. South Downs Classic event**

The WSCC Roadworks online map appears to indicate a road closure for the cycling event due to take place on Sunday 25 June, this is worrying as the published information about the event does not refer to any road closures. Kate O Kelly, Council and District councillor, is following this up with the Highways department for further information. It is hoped there will be an update for the Council meeting on 20 April 2023

The following recommendation was agreed:

That the committee should recommend that the Council consider any further information available from WSCC with regard to the South Downs Classic event.

5. Bike Stands

Following the site meeting at the start of the meeting the members discussed the ongoing issue to find suitable locations for bike stands in South Harting.

It was noted there were sufficient bike stands at the rear of the White Hart pub to hold ten cycles. However, they were not visible from the main street and it was felt unlikely the landlord would continually welcome non patrons using the stands, although it had been indicated this may not be the case.

The previously considered site outside Port and Starboard cottages (the old Ship pub) were felt to be unsuitable. The site on the verge opposite the village shop had also been deemed unsuitable by the WSCC Highways officer.

After some consideration it was agreed the only potential location for bike stands would be against the wall of the public toilets to the north side of the telephone box. Currently this area is filled with a shrub which has grown over the wall from the neighbouring property. The owners will be approached about cutting back the shrub and the recommendation to approach WSCC to place a bike stand by the phone box will be taken back to the Council.

Action – AP to contact owners of The Old House regarding cutting back the shrub adjacent to the phone box

AP to update village store owners

The following recommendation was made:

That the committee should recommend that the Council agree to put forward a proposal to WSCC for a bike stand sited to the north side of the phone box in The Street, South Harting.

6. Litter Pick

The Litter Pick had taken place on 18 March 2023. There had been a good turn out with over 20 people taking part on the day with several other people, who were unable to make that date, clearing other sections earlier in the week.

The event had been a great success with around 25 bin bags of rubbish being collected. It was noted that there had been some extensive fly tipping in West Harting and this had been reported to Chichester District Council.

7. Highways/Traffic Working Group

7.1. Community Highways Scheme update

There was no further update on this. AP had tried to find the project on the WSCC Highways website but it was still showing details for the previous financial year. The next stage of the project will be meetings with the WSCC engineers to assess the feasibility of the proposals.

7.2. Community Speed Watch update

TW has been emailing the PSCO in charge of Speedwatch training and, despite four emails, has not had a response. It is hoped training might be given to the whole group of Speedwatch volunteers at the same event.

7.3. B2146 Hurst to Stanbridge road meeting in liaison with Buriton PC with Hampshire and West Sussex County Councils

This meeting is due to take place on Wednesday 19 April. It is hoped a verbal update can be given at the Council meeting on 20 April.

The following recommendation was agreed:

That the committee should recommend that a verbal update will be given, if possible, at the next Council meeting.

7.4. Pot holes

Pot holes are now reported via the 'Report a pothole online' website or phone app. It was felt, in the majority of cases, this had worked well and there had been a good response. It was noted that the unresolved problem with the stretch of road in West Harting, south of Deer Park Farm, was related to the camber of the road rather than potholes.

There was some discussion around the criteria used to decide if a pothole should be given a permanent repair as opposed to a temporary one. It was agreed TW would make some enquiries about this.

Action – TW to contact WSCC to ask if there is a criteria for permanent pot hole repairs rather than temporary ones.

7.5. Road sign cleaning

AP confirmed he had recently cleaned the direction sign opposite the T junction in the Street as it had become very green and increasingly illegible. The result was good and it was felt others should be encouraged to clean signs where it is safe to do so.

VMD left the meeting.

8. Flooding/drainage/gulleys/grips

There were no reported flooding issues and the situation on the stretch of road leading from Petersfield into the village had been vastly improved since the drain clearance was carried out.

It was noted the Nyewood gulleys were still causing a problem and water spreads across the whole road by Furze Meadow in extremely wet weather.

A further update was awaited regarding the gulleys in East Harting and outside Coombe.

Action – AP to ask Alex Olphert for an update for East Harting
VMD to give Coombe update

9. Hedges

The ongoing issue is the hedge at Lower Culvers which is overhanging the path. It is thought this is owned by Hyde.

Action – TW to contact WSCC/Hyde about ownership.

10. Footpaths

It is unknown if NJH is wishing to continue as a co-opted member of HABAC and specifically as the lead on footpaths. VMD had indicated she would be willing to take over this role if needed.

Action – AP to check with NJH

11. Items for next meeting

Update on CHS

12. Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be held on Monday 4 September 2023 at 6pm in the Congregational Church Hall.

The meeting closed at 7.05pm

The following recommendations are made:

- iii. that the Council consider any further information available from WSCC with regard to the South Downs Classic event.*
- iv. to note a verbal update to be given, if possible, regarding the meeting in relation to the Hurst Farm to Stanbridge farm section of the B2146 road*

Agenda Item 9 - Bike stands in South Harting

At its meeting in March 2023 the Council discussed the possible installation of cycle racks in the village. It was agreed that a decision would be deferred until the HABAC had met to consider the situation further. The minutes from that meeting (copied above under agenda item 8) contain details the considerations made.

The background to this project is as follows:

Need: there are currently no bike stands in South Harting, despite it being a frequent stopping place for cyclists. Having bike stands in the village should generate additional business for both the pub and the shop. Harting CAN is keen to progress it and it has the support of our district and county councillor.

Locations: following a meeting with Mike Dare of WSCC Highways Department the feasibility of two locations was agreed subject to parish council approval, one outside the old Ship and one to the northside of the telephone box outside the White Hart, both on WSCC land. It might also be possible to put one against the south wall of the shop, but that is private land so not for consideration by the parish council. Subsequent discussions have shown that the only feasible location is by the phone box.

Cost: bike stands range from £50 to £500 depending on the design and the number of bikes. One attractive example is the PlantLock from the Front Yard Company (approximately £300). It is possible this cost could be rolled into the Community Highways Scheme, Mike Dare will



PlantLock — Front Yard Company Ltd

be consulted about this.

The Council is asked to consider approaching WSCC for an in-principle agreement. Further information about potential suppliers would be considered in more detail once this has been gained.

The following recommendation is made:

That the Council agree to put forward a proposal to WSCC to gain an in-principle agreement for a bike stand on the north side of the phone box in The Street, South Harting.

Agenda Item 10 - Standing Orders

In April 2022 NALC (National Association of Local Councils) updated the model Standing Orders (SO's). The financial updates to section 18 'Financial controls and procurement' were included and adopted in May 2022. However, the interim internal audit highlighted some amendments in relation to the Transparency Act and Data Protection were overlooked. The Standing Orders would normally be reviewed in May of each year but it is proposed the members consider the adoption of the updated Standing Orders in April when the agenda is lighter and there is more opportunity for discussion.

A copy of the revised SO's is attached the changes to sections 3,11,12,15,20 and 21 and 22 have been highlighted in yellow.

It is important to note all the changes from the model standing orders are in bold type which indicates they contain legal and statutory requirements and so must be included.

The following recommendation is made:

That Council adopt the updated Standing Orders.

Clerk's Reports - Harting Parish Council –20 April 2023

Agenda Item 15

Items raised at previous meetings:

Topic/Date first raised	Item Detail	Action by	Status
Tree Works	Tree works resulting from Tree Survey & storm damage	Clerk	Works identified in Tree survey have been completed and some additional works to clear newly fallen beech
HABAC November 2020	South Downs Safer Roads Task Force Broken South Harting sign in North Lane Flooding in South Harting	WSCC	No further update Reported to LoveWestSussex – reported to new WSCC system Awaiting further information about the date for the 4 yearly gulley clearance.
B2146 Hurst to Stanbridge Min 122 Sept 2022	To investigate a joint cross boundary approach with Buriton PC to help improve the safety of the stretch of road.	AS – Harting DJ - Buriton	Cross boundary meeting arranged with Chairs of Harting and Buriton parish councils, WSCC and Hampshire Highways officers and County Councillors on 19 April 2023, verbal update to be given at the Council meeting on 20 April 2023.
POSAC/Woodland and Tree Sub committee	Commission Management Plan for South Gardens	Woodland & Tree Sub	Council agreed aims and objectives for the Plan.

(minute 172 – 2022/23)		Committee (WTSC)	Petra Billings is unable to help with the South Gardens Management Plan due to other work commitments. Other ecologists are being approached for quotes.
Traffic Working Group	To consider the possibility of applying for a Community Highways Scheme (CHS) to improve safety for pedestrians and to reduce the speed of traffic in the village		Confirmation has been received that the CHS has been successful. Feasibility studies will be carried out between April-Sept 2023 with implementation in 2024/25.
Water Pump restoration	June 2022		<u>Village pump restoration project</u> Information to be sought on potential grants and follow up further quotes. Local stone mason ha been approached and is happy to take a look and advice, they may or may not quote.
Community Hall Freehold (Minute 264 2021/22)	To register the freehold of the Village with land registry.	TW	Awaiting confirmation of Land Registry.
Insurance Claim	Claim from Hastings Direct for damage to a car from a tree falling from Council land on 28 February 2020	TW	A claim had been received from Hastings Direct, on behalf of a client, regarding alleged damage to a car from a tree falling from Council land in February 2020. Insurers maintain the Council is not at fault. The statute of limitation is 7 years (injury 3 years) so the case cannot be fully closed until that time.
Concrete bus shelter base May 2022	The concrete base is breaking up and needs attention	TW	Contractor needed to make safe.
South Downs Local Plan review	Council feeding into Local Plan Review		Settlement Facilities Assessment – submitted Open Space Assessment – due 20 October 2023 Parish Statements – due 20 October 2023