

HARTING PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES

Minutes of the Meeting of Harting Parish Council held at Harting Village Hall, South Harting
on **Thursday 20 April 2023** at **7.30 p.m.**

Present: Mr Shaxson (Chair), Mr Bonner, Mrs Bramley, Mrs Curran, Mrs Dawson, Mrs Martin, Mrs Maxwell Davies, Mr Olphert and Mr Palmer.

In attendance: Trish Walker, Parish Clerk.

There was one member of public in attendance.

277. Apologies for absence: Mrs Gaterell, Mr Miller and Dr O’Kelly, County and District Councillor.

278. Declarations of Interest: None.

279. Minutes from Meeting held on 16 March 2023.

The minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 16 March 2023 were agreed and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

280. Questions from the Public:

The member of public raised concerns about the recent tree works that had been carried out in the Warren and suggested the contractor did not know what they were doing. They then continued to suggest there had been a list of complaints and problems which had not been addressed.

The Chair confirmed the work had been carried out by professionals following advice from the Tree Hazard survey. He also reiterated the request for the individual to persist from raising criticism and complaints about the Warren, some of which related to actions three years ago. The member of the public was again reminded of the methods for making an official complaint against the Council or an individual councillor.

281. Matters of Urgent Public Importance: None

282. Reports from the County and District Councillor

Dr O’Kelly, the County and District Councillor, was not present but had circulated a report ahead of the meeting. It was noted that Chichester District Council had made a grant of £250k to aid Midhurst businesses suffering as a result of the fire at the Angel Hotel and subsequent road closure.

283. Discharge of untreated sewage from South Harting sewage treatment works

The Eco Rother Action (ERA) Group had contacted the Council with details of the discharge of untreated sewage from South Harting sewage treatment works in the 2022. There was great concern at the continued level of discharge which would undoubtedly also be having an impact on parishes further downstream. Earlier in the evening the planning committee had considered an application for the expansion of the wastewater works in Harting and had concluded this was a welcome development if it resolved the problem of untreated sewage discharge.

It was noted that the problems at the treatment works are not as a result of the high water table in the area but rather the high infiltration of surface water from the roads into manholes, this is particularly the case in East Harting.

After some discussion it was agreed a letter would be sent to Southern Water to question, in light of the planning application and the historic information, how the problems of discharge are to be addressed and why the discharge in this area is so high. The ERA had also invited members to the May talk, by Tim Eaton from Southern Water, on 15 May 2023 at 7pm in Rogate church.

The following proposal was made and agreed:

That the Council considered the information provided by the Eco Rother Action group and agreed that a letter should be sent to Southern Water asking why the discharge levels are so high and what is being done to address this and if and how the planned expansion of the site will make a difference.

284. Highways and Byways Advisory Committee - HABAC

The minutes of the meeting held on 12 April 2023 were noted.

It was noted that WSCC had confirmed there would not be any road closures for the South Downs Classic cycle event on 25 June 2023.

A verbal report was given of the joint meeting with members of Buriton parish council, WSCC and HCC Highways officers and the local county councillors to consider ways to improve the Hurst Farm to Stanbridge farm section of the B2146 road. There was discussion about the extension of the 40mph speed limit from Stanbridge Farm through Nursted Rocks. HCC's current policy does not allow this to happen, however the WSCC officer felt a TRO application could be made to extend the 40mph section from the County boundary to Hurst Farm.

The meeting had been very helpful and local landowners had indicated an agreement in principle to allow a new footpath to create a safe route away from the main road.

The following proposals were made and agreed:

- i. that the Council noted there were no planned road closures for the South Downs Classic event.*
- ii. to note the verbal update given regarding the meeting in relation to the Hurst Farm to Stanbridge farm section of the B2146 road.*

285. Bike Stands

Following a site meeting ahead of the recent HABAC meeting a proposal had been made that WSCC should be asked to give 'in principle' agreement to a bike stand to the north side of the phone box in the Street. The previously considered site outside Port and Starboard cottages (the old Ship pub) was felt to be unsuitable. The site on the verge opposite the village shop had also been deemed unsuitable by the WSCC Highways officer.

Subsequent to the HABAC meeting further information had become available and it was suggested that a style of bike rack that would simply fix to the wall and allow the wheel to slot into place might be preferable and this would mean the racks could be placed in front of the noticeboard without causing any obstruction. It was agreed this should be investigated further and that the permission from WSCC should be sought for locations adjacent to the phone box.

It was noted that the public toilets, where the racks might be fitted, were owned by the White Hart pub and permission would need to be sought from them.

An amendment was suggested to change the words 'on the north side of' with 'adjacent to' add the words 'in principle' to the proposal which read:

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.

The amendment was agreed.

The following proposal, including substantive was then agreed:

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

286. Standing Orders

In April 2022 the 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.

It was noted the proposed changes were statutory requirements and the revised Standing Orders were adopted.

The following recommendation was made and agreed

That Council adopt the updated Standing Orders.

287. Finance

287.1. Previously approved payments made during the month were noted:

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

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

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
Trish Walker	Monthly Zoom subscription	15.59

287.3. It was agreed that Mrs Bramley and Mr Shaxson would authorise the April online payments.

287.4. The income for March 2023 was noted.

Final balance of Tree Council grant £4763.78

Interest £269.79

288. Bank Reconciliation for April 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.

289. Bank balance as of 31 March 2023 - £78,118.28 (earmarked funds £43.6k)

290. To note the budget statement to 31 March 2023

Noted

291. Planning Committee

The minutes of the Planning Committees held on 16 March 2023 were noted.

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

WMPF

There were no updates.

HCH

Mrs Maxwell Davies confirmed the reception and outside signage would be redecorated during August and September.

293. Correspondence

None

294. Clerk's report

Noted.

295. Items for future meetings

Restoration of water pump

South Downs Local Plan review and Parish Statements

296. Date of next meeting: The next meeting, Annual Parish Council meeting, would be held at the earlier time of 6.30pm on Thursday 18 May 2023 at Harting Village Hall. This will allow the Planning committee to meet after it has been appointed at the Annual Parish Council meeting.

After the formal business had been concluded the Chair gave thanks to Mrs Dawson and Mrs Gaterell for their contributions to the Council in the last term. Mrs Dawson had served as a councillor for 8 years and Mrs Gaterell for 4 years during which time she had been key to the village Covid emergency group.

The meeting closed at 8.25 pm.