

HARTING PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the **Highways and Byways Advisory Committee (HABAC)**
held at Harting Congregational Church Hall on **Tuesday 3 October 2023** at **6.00pm**.

Present: Anthony Palmer (AP)(Chair), Sheila Bramley (SBR), Penny Curran (PC), Vicky Maxwell Davies (VMD) and Andrew Shaxson (AS).

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

1. Apologies for absence: Alex Olphert (AO).

2. Declarations of Interest: None.

3. Minutes of the meeting on 12 April 2023: The minutes were agreed as a true record and signed.

4. Matters arising

4.1. South Downs Classic event

The members were unsure if this event had happened as there had not been any evidence of it and hence no disruption.

4.2. Gulleys at Coombe

It was noted this had not been properly resolved.

5. Review of Terms of Reference

The Terms of Reference were reviewed, and it was agreed no changes were necessary.

The following recommendation was agreed:

The members agreed to report to the Council that the Terms of Reference for the Highways and Byways Advisory Committee have been reviewed and no changes are recommended.

6. Bike Stand/s

AP had spoken to the new manager of the White Hart who had indicated the request to fix a bike rack to the public toilet wall in the Street had been passed to the head office for consideration.

7. Highways/Traffic Working Group

7.1. Community Highways Scheme update

The Schemes were noted as showing on the published WSCC Highways Department Delivery Programme for 2023/24. They appear to be at the design and pre-construction phase. A member of public had seen two contractors near South Gardens who had confirmed they were carrying out an independent risk assessment for the potential new crossing. This is encouraging.

The clerk had been given the name of the project manager and it was suggested they would be in touch with the aim to meet towards the end of October.

Action:

TW to contact the project manager, Maria Vasileiadou to arrange a meeting date.

7.2. Community Speed Watch update

The clerk had temporarily registered as the lead person for this project in order to get it up and running and to allow the other volunteers to properly register. The clerk needs to undertake a 30 minute training session to set this off, a PIN number required to finalise registration is awaited.

It was noted there will only be certain locations that are deemed to be suitable for Speedwatch as there are certain legal requirements regarding visibility. The police will identify these sites.

7.3. Hurst road speed limit

The cross boundary joint working group is still ongoing and there has been no further progress since the meeting on 19 April 2023.

As a result of the meeting Mike Dare, WSCC Highways, had suggested the Council may like to investigate a TRO to try and limit the speed along that stretch of road.

After some discussion it was agreed a recommendation should be made to the Council to apply for a TRO to introduce a 40mph speed limit on the stretch of the B2146 from the Hampshire County border to Hurst Farm.

The following recommendation was agreed:

The members agreed to recommend to the Council that an application is made for a Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) to introduce a 40mph speed limit on the stretch of the B2146 leading from the Hampshire County border to Hurst Farm.

7.4. Durford Bridge

Kate O'Kelly (county councillor) had received an email from Mike Theobald, WSCC on 17 July to confirm the bridge would need to be dealt with by their contracted stone mason as it is an Ancient Monument, a date for this work is still to be scheduled. Rogate parish council, whose border is also on the bridge has been pushing for a meeting with WSCC and English Heritage to discuss the situation. They will invite Harting parish council to take part in that meeting if it occurs.

7.5. Pot holes

It was noted the pot hole 'season' had not really started yet. However, there were a few around and it is important to encourage people to report them via the 'Report a pothole online'.

The deteriorating road surface on the junction of the B2146/B2141 was noted to be dangerous and the clerk was asked to report this matter to WSCC.

Action: TW to report road issue at junction.

8. Footpaths

VMD has now taken the lead on footpaths following the resignation of Nigel Johnson Hill from HABAC.

VMD had circulated a table of footpath issues and necessary actions. It was noted that all the issues were scheduled for works in November 2023. The only outstanding issue was the Nugents permissive pathway although the official footpath is okay.

The Rambling Society are aiming to notify VMD of any footpath issues they come across in the area.

It was noted that Andrew Lee from the SDNPA is in contact with WSCC Rights of Way officers regarding the BOAT applications in the area.

9. Flooding/drainage/gulleys/grips

There had been some further flooding by Smithfield following the heavy rain storm in September. It was noted a lot of the flooding is caused by debris washing down and blocking the gulleys. It is not known if any of the Smithfield residents regularly clear the debris.

The gulleys in Nyewood are still blocked and cause pockets of water across the road.

Tim Riches always keeps the gulley by the South Gardens car park clear of debris and this has helped the flooding in that area.

AO had sent a report about the gulleys and flooding in East Harting and confirmed everything was flowing well at the moment, but this would most likely change over the coming months as more debris builds up.

It was agreed it would be useful to re-list and report the problem gulleys in the area again and to encourage residents to try to keep them clear.

Action

TW to send East Harting gulley map to AO

TW to try and find out if anyone from Smithfield clears the debris from the gulley

10. Hedges

AO has been doing some good work cutting hedges around the parish, it is hoped that the landowners are recompensing him for this work. He is hoping to cut back some of the hedges running alongside the Chichester and Compton roads and is in discussion with the landowners about this.

It was noted the hedge on the roadside by Mead House, East Harting is growing out into the road and is in need of cutting.

Action

AP to look at Mead House hedge then TW contact landowner if necessary.

11. To note Highways and Byways Issues

AS was thanked for producing a useful list of Highway and Byway issues and who is responsible for them. See Appendix B below.

As a result of this it was noted the fingerpost by the bus shelter at the East Harting crossroads was very dirty as it had been splashed by vehicles going through the flooded area on the junction.

There was also a discussion regarding the problem of parking in the main village, especially on the corner opposite the North Lane junction and also up North Lane. This seems to have become more of a problem since the new café has opened. It was felt there was little that could be done, however it would be useful to monitor the situation.

12. Budget Request for 2024-25

There was no budget requirement for 2024-25.

13. Items for next meeting

Update on CHS

14. Date of next meeting

15. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 9 January 2024 at 6pm in the Congregational Church Hall.

The meeting closed at 7.08pm.

Appendix A

HABAC – FOOTPATHS May 2023 – May 2024

Details	Notified by	Date	Actioned	Acknowledged	Results
2 finger posts missing arms off Mizzards lane	Rosemarie Lewis	150523	Passed to Kevin Dewill 24/5/23 and thence to TW and ultimately to LG.	050623	Chased 110723 LG says will be assessed at next inspection June 2024
Footbridge nr Homes Farm	Rosemarie Lewis	150523	As above	050623	Chased 110723 LG reverted 180723 to say MW will update
Earthworks and permissive path above South Gardens	VMD & then Anthony P	250523	Passed to Clerk	250523	Clerk to follow up with Madeleine Nugent
Tree down at	Rosemarie Lewis	310523	Passed to LG	050623	

Footbridge nr other side of Homes Farm					
Overgrown footpath at Hampshire Farm	Barry Mackay <barry- mac@hotmail.co.uk>	180623	VMD called Carl Bates 070723	060723	Clearing begins 100723 Engine Field to snipped by VMD
Footpath HAR/859/1	Anthony Palmer	140723	AS identified owner/Farmer VMD to chase	190723	

Appendix B

Harting Parish - Highways and Byways Maintenance Issues

HIGHWAYS

Road surfacing

- Potholes – ensure they are filled properly and in a timely manner
- Resurfacing and Patching - work must be carried out to the edge of the carriage way, which must be uncovered and reinstated as necessary. The work must not impede drainage by tapering up at the edge of the road, and must take account of gulleys, grips etc.

Road drainage

- General – get water off the highways as quickly as possible, to prevent erosion and debris build up.
- To enable the above, carry out study of existing highways drainage.
- Gulleys – clean out on a regular / needs-be basis.
- Drain runs - ensure they are kept clear and working efficiently.
- Replace open gulleys that can block drains with grilled alternatives to prevent avoidable debris blockages.
- Clear ditches on a regular / needs-be basis.
- Identify problem areas and ensure they are dealt with (eg opposite Down Lodge).

Road signage

- Ensure road signage is maintained to ensure it is in good order, clean and easily readable. Weathered signs get dirtier and cannot be cleaned. Wash / paint / replace as necessary in a timely manner.
- Paint white lines and information on roads where necessary and ensure they are replaced when worn.
- Ensure all parts of highways notices - and utility poles - are located at least half metre back from the edge of the carriageway, and kept clear of vegetation that prevents them being read.

Problems affecting use of highways

- Gravel drives to properties – the gravel tends to ‘migrate’ onto the highway. This should be rectified, either by using a different material or clearing the gravel from the highway as necessary. It is dangerous, especially for cyclists, and blocks drains.
- Cutting verges and hedges – debris left on the road is a hazard and blocks drains.
- Mud from fields must be cleared from the highway. Sweeping it onto the side of the road narrows the usable width of the carriageway.
- Migrating verges have meant that many carriageways have ‘shrunk’ over the years. With more and larger vehicles using the highways work must be carried out to identify problem areas and rectify this.
- Ensure all visibility splays are kept in good condition.
- Obstruction of the highway, in breach of s137, Highways Act 1980. An arrestable and finable offence. Includes unauthorized cones on highway to ‘reserve’ parking spaces, rocks or posts on a verge, parking in a way to restrict emergency vehicle access.

Roadside vegetation

- Overgrown hedges - roadside growth, including hedges, should be at least half metre from the edge of the highway *at all times*, and 5 metres vertically from ground level. This enables wide and high vehicles to use the road in a safe manner that restricts inconvenience to other road users and reduces the likelihood of verge creep.
- Verges and hedges adjacent to road junctions must be cut back sufficiently hard to ensure good sight lines and general visibility.
- Seek to identify the ownership of the 42 miles of roadside verge in the parish, to enable HPC and others are able to approach any owners about a perceived problem

Parking

- Parking issues caused by roadside parking – South Harting, and East Harting Street.
- We are awaiting the long-overdue outcome of a national survey carried out some years ago, which might greatly impede parking in S Harting, where pavements are by necessity being used.
- Try to ensure that any new development has sufficient parking allocated to it.
- Ensure junctions are kept clear of parked vehicles.

BYWAYS

Surface

- Highway Authorities (WSCC) have a duty to maintain Rights-of-Way (RoW) to a reasonable standard. Parish Councils have some discretionary powers in this area.
- Landowners must ensure there are no obstructions on a RoW.
- Landowners must keep RoWs clear of crops (other than hay or silage) to ensure they do not inconvenience users. [NB growing grass is a grey area.]
- Where a right of way crosses a field which is ploughed for crops it must be made good to at least its minimum width within 14 days of first being cultivated and within 24 hours of any subsequent cultivation.
- NB above – notwithstanding the timings of the need to properly re-instate a path, the line of a RoW across a cultivated field must remain apparent at all times.
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Overgrowth adjacent to a RoW

- Landowners are responsible for cutting back overgrowth encroaching on a RoW, impacting on its 'reasonable use'.
- Overgrowth adjacent to a bridleway must be kept a minimum of 10foot above the surface.

Minimum dimensions of footpaths and bridleways *clear of crops and overgrowth*, if no alternative width has been otherwise agreed

- Field edge footpath - 1.5 metres on uncultivated land clear of growing crops
- Field edge bridleway – 3 metres on uncultivated ground clear of growing crops.
- Cross field footpath – reinstated to 1 metre minimum, clear of growing crops.
- Cross field bridleway – reinstated to 2 metres minimum, clear of growing crops.