

HARTING PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES

Minutes of the Meeting of Harting Parish Council held at Nyewood Henry Warren Hall
on **Thursday 19 October 2023 at 7.30 p.m.**

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

Mr Tim O’Kelly attended in his role as District Councillor.

In attendance: Trish Walker, Parish Clerk.

There were two members of public in attendance.

140. Apologies for absence: Mrs Martin, Mr Miller and Dr Kate O’Kelly (County Councillor).

141. Declarations of Interest: None.

142. Minutes from Meeting held on 21 September 2023.

The minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 21 September 2023 were reviewed and, with an adjustment to minute 114 to alter the word ‘persist’ to ‘desist’, were agreed and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

143. Questions from the Public: None.

144. Matters of Urgent Public Importance: None.

145. Reports from the County and District Councillor

Dr O’Kelly, the County Councillor and Mr O’Kelly, the District Councillors, had circulated reports prior to the meeting covering some of the following points:

- Chichester District Council (CDC) had allocated £120k to a Tree Planting Programme for non-wooded areas in the District.
- Hydes Homes has a new Chief Executive and Chair who is working closely with councillors to try to improve the communication and speed of repairs by Hyde.
- Recycling – Currently about 90% of the content collected from recycling bins is recycled.
- Drop In with County and District councillors – White Hart pub on 9 November 2023 from 12noon – 1pm.

Mr O’Kelly also addressed the concerns that were raised about the sale of Hyde housing in Harting and Rogate. He confirmed he had spoken to Hyde management who had confirmed the policy regarding this had been changed on 21 September 2023. There should no longer be any void sales in sustainable rural areas, the only exception is where the costs to refurbish to an appropriate level to re-let are too high.

146. Parish Priority Statement Working Group (PPSWG)

Parish Councils within the South Downs National Park Authority (SDNPA) have been invited to prepare Parish Priority Statements (PPS) setting out the principal needs and prevailing views of the local community. These would be used in the preparation of the Local Plan Review and to inform decisions on policy development, land allocation and designations. The PPSWG had met on three occasions and had developed a survey based on the SDNPA's proforma. The survey will be available online, for download and in hard copy form. A flyer has been delivered to every household in the parish to encourage people to give their views and they will also be available at various events in the village in the next two months. A portable tabletop display board had been purchased, agreed by the Clerk and Chair with regard to 4.1 of the Financial Regulations, to enable information to be moved and displayed easily at the various meetings.

The following proposals were made and agreed:

- i. To note the report*
- ii. To note that the Chair in conjunction with the Chair of Finance and the Clerk agreed, with regard to 4.1 of the Financial Regulations, that a tabletop folding display board should be purchased at a sum of £119.17 + vat.*

147. Bollards at Furze Meadow, Nyewood

Hyde housing own the open space area, containing the play area, in Furze Meadow, Nyewood. Local residents were very concerned in July when Hyde started to repair the wooden fencing along the roadside and then proceeded to install a series of concrete bollards alongside the road leading into the Furze Meadow estate as they were seen to be out of character with the area, unnecessary, and would not prevent children running through them onto the road.

The local residents raised their objections with Hyde and following a meeting between them and 26 residents at the Henry Warren Hall, they agreed to replace the bollards with wooden fencing. This work has now been completed.

The Parish Council agreed that the Clerk should send a letter to Hyde thanking them for their swift action.

The following proposal was made and agreed:

To note the report.

148. Highways and Byways committee (HABAC)

The minutes from the HABAC meeting held on 3 October 2023 were noted. There was an update on the Community Highway Scheme (CHS) as the lead officer had confirmed that the design had been completed and subject to the audit process would be finalised. They had indicated there would be a meeting to discuss this in November.

There was concern that the Council had not had any input to the Scheme other than through the initial application and it was agreed the Clerk would raise this with WSCC. The Speedwatch registration had finally been completed following some IT issues with the website, it is hoped that volunteers will shortly be able to sign up and the main training event will be arranged.

The members discussed the proposal, and agreed, that an application should be made for a TRO (Traffic Regulation Order) to introduce a 40 mph limit on the stretch of B2146 leading from the Hampshire border to Hurst Farm. It was noted this was a dangerous stretch of road for cyclists, pedestrians and horse riders and that a lower speed limit would be beneficial. The Assistant Highways Manager from WSCC had previously indicated it would be worth making the application.

The following proposals were made and agreed:

- i. To note the minutes of the HABAC meeting held on 3 October 2023*
- ii. That the Council agreed to make an application 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.*

149. Bike Rack

The White Hart pub had finally given written permission for the bike racks to be attached to the wall of the public toilets in the Street. The most suitable site for the racks is under the Parish Council noticeboard on the southerly side of the phone box, this will mean there is no permanent obstruction on the pavement and the noticeboard will remain accessible. The suggested rack will accommodate up to four cycles and will cost in the region of £90+vat. The members agreed that this project should proceed and agreed a sum of up to £300 + vat for the purchase and installation of the racks.

It was agreed this cost should be offset against the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) monies held by the Council. It was also agreed to check whether there is the need for WSCC to issue a licence to enable this to happen, as it could have an impact on the pavement.

The following proposals were made and agreed:

- i. That the Council agreed to purchase and fit a wall mounted bike rack for up to 4 cycles on the wall of the public toilets adjacent to the phone box at a cost of up to £300.*
- ii. That the cost of the bike rack is offset against the Community Infrastructure Levy held by the Council.*
- iii. That the clerk contact WSCC to make them aware and ask if there is the need for a licence.*

150. D Day 80th celebrations 6 June 2024

National celebrations for the 80th anniversary of DDay are due to take place in June 2024. This will include the lighting of Beacons starting in Normandy at 8.15pm (British Summer Time) culminating in the lighting of UK Beacons at 9.15pm.

Harting Parish Council has followed the traditional of lighting Beacons with the last taking place for the Queen's Jubilee in 2022.

The members discussed the many factors that needed consideration and permission to enable the Beacon lighting to take place. This included the agreement of the Olphert family to undertake the erection and lighting of the Beacon along with the necessary permissions the Clerk would need to obtain from the landowners, the National Trust, and Natural

England. It was agreed this should be taken forward and the first steps should be undertaken.

The proposals were then considered, and an amendment was proposed to add the words 'and Natural England' to proposal (iii) which read:

lil If (ii) is agreed and there is an intention to light a Beacon, and appropriate resources to erect and light it, that the Clerk should register this with the National scheme and make initial contact with the landowner for permissions.

The amendment was agreed.

The following proposals, including substantive proposal (iii) were then agreed:

i. To note the report

ii. That the Council agreed to celebrate the D Day 80 anniversary on Thursday 6 June 2024 and to ask the Olphert family if they are happy to erect and light the Beacon.

iii. That subject to ii that the Clerk should register this with the National scheme and make initial contact with the landowner and Natural England for permissions.

151. Grant request '4 Sight'

The Council had received a grant request from the charity 4Sight. They confirmed they were currently working with one client in the parish and were keen to spread information about the help they are able to offer more widely.

The members discussed the application and agreed to grant the sum of £110 which would, according to the charity information, allow two clients to be helped for one year.

The following proposal was made and agreed:

That the Council agreed to provide a grant of £110 to 4Sight.

152. Parish Council Facebook page

The Council currently communicates via the Parish News, Parish Council website and occasional household leaflets, although this reaches a fair section of the parish there is currently no use of social media which may reach a different section of the community and also allow information to be fed out more speedily when the need arises.

There is an active 'Harting and surrounding villages' Facebook group which the clerk uses to advertise events for the Council but entries have to be agreed by an administrator and this can sometimes take a few hours.

It was proposed that a Parish Council Facebook page should be created to promote Council related matters, meetings and events with links to the Council website. The comments section of the page would be switched off and users would be encouraged to contact the Clerk directly.

The members agreed this would be a positive move and also considered and agreed to adopt the Facebook Policy necessary to ensure the proper use of the page.

The following proposals were made and agreed:

i. That the Council agreed to set up a Facebook page to further communications within the parish

ii. that the Council agreed to adopt the Facebook Policy

153. Review of Terms of Reference – Complaints Committee and HABAC

The following proposal was made and agreed:

- i. To note the Terms of Reference for the Complaints Committee have been reviewed by the Chair of that Committee and no changes are recommended.*
- ii. To note the Terms of Reference for the Highways and Byways Advisory Committee has been reviewed and no changes are recommended.*

154. Finance

154.1. It was agreed that the following payments should be made:

Undisclosed	Clerk and RFO Salary	1,364.71
Parish Council Websites	Annual website hosting and maintenance	300.00
Clarity Accounting Associates Limited	Payroll August to October 2023	27.00
Trish Walker	Monthly zoom subscription	15.59
M H Kennedy & Son Ltd	Grass cutting	193.76
Mulberry & Co	Mid year Internal audit	210.06
Mr A Christie	Annual Allotment rent	25.00
Petersfield Citizens Advice Bureau	Donation - S137	300.00
Harting Parochial Church Council	Burial Grant	200.00
Harting Congregational Church	Burial Grant	200.00
Mr A Shaxson	Chairman's Allowance	200.00
Debra Harknett- Godfree	Hall bookkeeping	106.25
David Chaffe	Process 2 Matters - DPO role	150.00
Petaprint	Parish Priority leaflets	95.00
Trish Walker	Clerk expenses - display board, ink and paper	255.28
Gallagher	Harting Community Hall insurance	2,088.93
Petaprint	Parish Priority Posters	10.00
4 Sight	Grant	110.00

154.2. It was agreed that Mrs Curran and Mrs Bramley would authorise the October online payments.

154.3. The income for October 2023 was noted:

2 nd instalment precept	£27,966.00
Bank interest	£627.88

154.4. Bank Reconciliation for October 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.

155. Bank balance as of 30 September 2023 - £109,660.04 (includes earmarked funds £39.6k and budgeted spend £26k)

156. Budget Statement to 30 September 2023

Noted.

157. Planning Committee

The minutes of the Planning Committees held on 21 September 2023 were noted.

158. Feedback from WMPF and HCH representatives

There was no report from the WMPF.

The HCH representative confirmed that a grant application had been submitted to the Council for a battery to store the energy from the solar panels. It was also noted the new Humphrey Sladden room was being well used.

159. Correspondence

The Clerk has received a letter from a West Harting resident asking the Council to consider applying for a grant for a defibrillator in the West Harting phone box.

160. Clerk's report

The report was noted.

161. Items for future meetings

Restoration of water pump
2024-25 budget setting

162. Date of next meeting: The next meeting would be held on Thursday 16 November 2023 at Harting Community Hall, probably at 8pm but the time to be confirmed.

The meeting closed at 8.17 pm.