

HARTING PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the Highways and Byways Advisory Committee (HABAC) held via Zoom on Tuesday 9 January 2024 at 6.00pm.

Present: Anthony Palmer (AP)(Chair), Sheila Bramley (SBR), Penny Curran (PC), Vicky Maxwell Davies (VMD), Alex Olphert (AO) and Andrew Shaxson (AS).
Katherine Hewetson (KH) and Nick Ferrier (NF) were also present in relation to the item on Flooding.

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

1. Apologies for absence: None.

2. Declarations of Interest: None.

3. Minutes of the meeting on 3 October 2023: The minutes were agreed as a true record and will be signed in due course.

4. Matters arising

4.1. Mead House hedge – this would be covered under agenda item 10.

5. Flooding/drainage/gulleys/grips

The Chair expressed his sympathy to those that been flooded during the heavy rainfall on 4 January 2024. Unfortunately, there had been extremely heavy rainfall and, combined with the run off from the fields, this has caused 5 properties in the centre of the village to flood. The fire brigade had been in attendance.

AP also thanked NF and his son for their work trying to clear some of the gulleys on North Lane during the weekend and the helpful information that was gathered as a result.

It was noted the work AO carried out on the flood pond in East Harting had made a considerable difference during the periods of heavy rain.

AP suggested that the time had come to try and find some proper solutions to the flooding issues rather than just have temporary fixes. It was agreed that this would need to start with a survey of the gulleys, drains and grips in South Harting, with priority in the area where properties are under threat of flooding. This could be paid for from the Operation Watershed reserve but it was felt a further £2k should be requested from the budget, if needed, to ensure that things could move on swiftly. The results from this would feed into potential gully clearance works and the Operation Watershed applications that were agreed at the Council meeting in November 2023.

It was agreed that this work was urgent and, if agreed by the Council, HABAC should be given the permission to appoint a contractor and move the survey forward as quickly as possible.

It was noted there was need for the Emergency Plan to include a Flood Response Plan and this would be taken forward in the following days by VMD and an

Emergency Committee should be included as an agenda item on the next Council agenda. The Flood Response Plan will ensure there is immediate help on hand.

The following recommendations were agreed:

- i. *That the members agreed to recommend to the Council that a Drainage Working Group should be set up to meet both online and on site to consider the various flooding issues in the parish and to formulate any plans and actions to alleviate the problems*
- ii. *That the members agreed to recommend to the Council that the initial membership of the group should be Anthony Palmer, Andrew Shaxson, Alex Olphert, Penny Curran, Katherine Hewetson, Trish Walker and Nick Ferrier*
- iii. *That the members agreed to recommend to the Council that a survey of the gulleys, drains and grips should be commissioned for South Harting with priority being given to the areas where there is a threat of flooding to properties*
- iv. *That the members agreed to recommend to the Council that a sum of £2,000 should be allocated to cover the cost of the survey if there is insufficient funds within the Operation Watershed reserve*
- v. *That if (iii) and (iv) above are agreed that the Highways and Byways Advisory Committee should be given the authority to appoint the contractor to carry out the work to move things forward as quickly as possible*

KH and NF left the meeting.

6. Bike Stand

The bike stand had been purchased and permission had been gained from the White Hart to fix the rack on the wall of the public toilet building. A Section 115E agreement has to be set up with WSCC as the rack was deemed to be 'sited on a highway', this means the installer has to have New Roads and Street Works accreditation. A local contractor Hennessy has this accreditation and has agreed to install the stand. There is a suggestion they may install free of charge as a goodwill gesture. TW is in contact with contractor to try and complete this as soon as possible.

7. Highways/Traffic Working Group

7.1. Community Highways Scheme (CHS) update

The CHS is gradually moving forward. The Traffic Working Group (TWG) had met with WSCC officers in November to go over plans. This was a positive meeting and the officers took on board some suggestions with regard to the speed limit areas.

A further meeting in relation to the South Gardens Crossing is taking place via Zoom on Wednesday 10 January 2024.

7.2. Community Speed Watch update

There were now about 18 members signed up for Speedwatch. Each member will be invited to register with the Speedwatch campaign and to undergo a 30 minute online

training course. Once all members have undertaken this then a further training event will be organised by the police.

It was agreed that a Zoom meeting should be arranged for all the potential volunteers to update them on the process and help to move things forward.

7.3. Hurst road speed limit

The Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) application had submitted to WSCC along with evidence of support from the local parish councils, county councillors and residents living along the route. The parish council had also pledged £500 to support the scheme, if successful.

7.4. Durford Bridge

AP reported that Durford Bridge had finally been repaired.

7.5. Pot holes

The recent heavy rainfall had culminated in a number of potholes appearing. A particularly bad one was at the junction to Hill Lane, this had been reported was deteriorating rapidly and was now sizeable. AS had contacted the county councillor to ask for urgent action on this.

8. Hedges

There were no obvious hedge issues at the moment. The hedge by Mead House is out in the road slightly and would benefit from some attention. AO was trying to make contact with the owner and will assist if needed.

9. Footpaths

VMD had circulated a table of footpath issues and necessary actions (see Appendix A). It was noted that all the issues were either resolved or in hand. The causeway at Sheepwash was added to the list, this problem was known to WSCC but is likely to be a costly and long term operation to fix.

One of the main footpaths in the Warren had been blocked by a fallen branch following the recent storms. AS had managed to cut a way through to ensure a safe route for anyone using the path.

10. Items for next meeting

Update on CHS

11. Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 7 May 2024 at 6pm via Zoom.

The meeting closed at 7.06pm.

Appendix A

HARTING PARISH COUNCIL

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 27/9 MW* has inspected, feels it will last to next inspection in November with repairs in December.
Earthworks and permissive path above South Gardens	VMD & then Anthony P	250523	Passed to Clerk	250523	Clerk to follow up with Madeleine Nugent - DONE
Tree down at Footbridge nr other side of	Rosemarie Lewis	310523	Passed to LG	050623	

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/ AS DONE
Footpath HAR/859/1	Anthony Palmer	140723	AS identified owner/Farmer VMD to chase	190723	No action required
Fingerpost has become uprooted and now held up with rope at corner of B2146 and Sussex Border Path HAB/530	Janet Swift	151123		151123	Notified to MW 301123
Fingerpost has become uprooted at corner of West Harting Road and Cow Lane HAB4544	Giles Davies	151123		151123	Notified to MW 301123
Fingerpost has become uprooted and is now propped up at corner of HAB/2842 and Poppets Farm drive	Giles Davies	151123		151123	Notified to MW 301123 RESOLVED
Tree down 50m north of deer gate above south Gardens	Nigel Johnson-Hill/ Anthony Palmer	030124	Reported to HPC clerk 080124		Andrew Shaxson has cleared footpath, but further action needed.