

HARTING PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the **Highways and Byways Advisory Committee (HABAC)**
held via Zoom on **Tuesday 7 January 2025 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).

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

1. Apologies for absence: None.

2. Declarations of Interest: None.

3. Minutes of the meeting on 3 September 2024: The minutes were agreed as a true record and will be signed in due course.

4. Matters arising: None.

5. Highways/Traffic Working Group

5.1. Community Highways Scheme (CHS) update

The crossing has now been successfully completed. There has been some concern about the loss of parking spaces, however there has also been feedback confirming people feel safer and more comfortable crossing the road as the crossing point is better placed and more obvious.

The CHS also includes the introduction of a 20mph zone in Harting village.

The consultation for this TRO (Traffic Regulation Order) ended on 19 December and it is anticipated implementation will be between 10-18 March 2025.

5.2. Community Speedwatch update

Mr Chris Mesney has offered to lead the Community Speedwatch team and this was agreed at the December Council meeting. It is hoped the Scheme will now be able to move forward.

5.3. Uppark Road Closure

A stakeholder meeting, hosted by Andrew Griffith (MP), is due to take place on Friday 10 January 2025 with attendees from the National Trust, WSCC, local businesses and farms and Harting and Compton parish councils. The aim of the meeting is to consider the issues resulting from the Phase 1 works and to agree potential dates for the Phase 2 works. The Phase works will last for 7 weeks and will involve a road closure on the B2146 from south of the junction with Harting Hill to Uppark.

To date there had not been any further progress on compensation for local businesses and this will be raised at the stakeholder meeting.

5.4. No.1 Brookside Cottages

The supporting scaffolding is now in place enabling the road to open on traffic lights. There is a 3-metre width restriction which is causing some issues as signage is not terribly clear until vehicles are in the main Street and then need to turn around.

The work on the cottage will not start until planning permission has been gained, there is currently no indication when this might be. It was agreed the Clerk would contact the planning officer and ask for an update on the situation.

5.5. Potholes

There do not appear to be any big issues with pot holes at the current time.

5.6. Hurst road 40mph TRO application

WSCC are happy to go ahead with the TRO but felt the zone should start just over the Hampshire border to avoid a speed change on the sharp bend. However, Hampshire CC are not in agreement with this as they feel vehicles will not keep to the speed limits. Robert Mocatta, the County Councillor for the Hampshire side of the border is supportive of the TRO.

This matter will be taken forward and further discussions will be held with WSCC.

5.7. Potential TRO/CHS application for banning HGV's over 7.5 tonnes

It is likely this TRO will be difficult to achieve as it is not preferred by WSCC or the Police, however there is a need to progress the application regardless. There will be a need to collect evidence of support from the local community and this could be gathered at the next public meeting.

It is unknown at this stage if the TRO will need to be part of a CHS application.

5.8. Damaged fingerpost at West Harting

The fingerpost is still in the same position, no update has been received from WSCC. AO is happy to take a look at the post and see if it can be adjusted, he will liaise with a local farmer if necessary.

5.9. Speed Indicator Device (SID)

The current SID is moved to a new location every 3 weeks and the batteries are changed and recharged. As the batteries are getting older they require recharging every week rather than every two weeks and this is becoming quite onerous. Currently, the batteries are recharged by Mr Johnson Hill at no cost to the Parish Council.

There is also an issue as two of the SID locations now sit within the 20mph zone which means the Clerk will need to change the setting of the SID each time it is relocated by visiting the site and connecting via the laptop.

In the light of the above it was agreed a recommendation should be taken to the Council to agree that the purchase of solar panels for each of the SID locations could be investigated. Initial research indicated the cost would be £390 per location. This would be more eco friendly and mean the visits to the locations would be reduced.

There was also some discussion about the possibility of purchasing a new SID, with one being set at 30mph and one at 20mph, and ideally having two operating at the same time. AP will speak to Mike Dare (WSCC) to see if the previous 3 week rule still applies. Consideration was also given to creating another location at the northern end of Nyewood, AP will also discuss this with Mike Dare.

The following recommendation was made:

That the committee ask the Council to consider, subject to costings, purchasing solar panels for the 4 or 5 SID locations in the Parish.

AP reported there had been another accident near Alitex at the weekend as a result of the icy conditions. He had asked WSCC to erect a permanent 'Icy road' warning sign.

Temporary signs have been put out already but have blown over

6. Hedges

The hedge at Mead House is still an issue and AO has this on his 'to do' list. The hedge by Bridge Meadow was also discussed and AO will contact the owners about this as well. The hedge through the narrows opposite Hurst Cottage is causing some concern, AP will mention this to Will Davey when he next sees him as it is thought he farms there. There was also some discussion about the Poplars alongside the Petersfield road. It appears Will Davey is waiting for his trees to be removed and will then replant hedging. There has been no further update from the Nugent's, TW will follow this up. An issue was raised concerning the overgrown tarmac path outside the Manor House in North Lane. AO will speak to the owners.

7. Footpaths

VMD had circulated the footpath spreadsheet and indicated it would be circulated to the footpath monitors for update. The next WSCC inspection is due in February 2025 and the updated spreadsheet will be passed to them for information. There are several fingerposts that need maintenance.

It was agreed the Village footpath FP3543 would be added to list as this will enable a conversation about the fencing.

8. Flooding/drainage/gulleys/grips

8.1. Operation Watershed application

The Operation Watershed application had been successful and Landbuild had been instructed to carry out the works. They had initially hoped to start work at the end of February but have been unable to secure road space as there are other works already booked in the area. It is thought these works to repair the road along the Uppark road and this will be raised at the stakeholders meeting on Friday to request this is carried out at the same time as the next stage of the sewage works. This may then release the road space for Landbuild.

The sandbags placed by the telephone exchange were very effective during the recent heavy rainfall and successfully diverted the water into the drain.

8.2. Gullies

Anthony Higgs (WSCC) is meeting with AS and AP on Thursday to discuss the problems in North Lane. It is hoped there will be an update at the Council meeting on 16 January 2025.

AS confirmed he had again reported an issue to WSCC regarding a gully by Down Lodge, East Harting which had been tarmacked over.

AP mentioned the gully Hurst Cottage is continually silting up, the owner had cleared it twice during the heavy rainfall at the weekend.

8.3. Flooding signage

Further information is awaited from WSCC.

9. Other items

9.1. Bike rack – This is still outstanding and the contractor keeps saying they are going to reinstall

9.2. Litter pick – This will be added to the Council agenda for January 2025 and it is suggested there may be two dates agreed with one being more suitable for children.

10. Date of next meeting: Tuesday 6 May 2025 at 6pm via Zoom

The meeting closed at 6.53pm.