

# HARTING PARISH COUNCIL

## MINUTES

Minutes of the Meeting of Harting Parish Council held at the Community Hall, South Harting  
on **Thursday 16 January 2025 at 7.30 pm.**

**Present:** Mr Shaxson (Chair), Mr Bonner, Mrs Bramley, Mrs Cormack, Mrs Curran, Mrs Hewetson, Mrs Maxwell Davies, Mr Miller, Mr Olphert and Mr Palmer.  
Mr Tim O’Kelly attended in his role as District Councillor and Dr Kate O’Kelly in her role as County Councillor.

In attendance: Trish Walker, Parish Clerk.

There were two members of public in attendance.

**218. Apologies for absence:** Mrs Martin.

**219. Declarations of Interest:** None.

**220. Minutes from Meeting held on 19 December 2024.**

The minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 19 December 2024 were agreed and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

**221. Questions from the Public:**

The members of the public present voiced concerns about the speed of traffic passing through and approaching the traffic lights in the narrows by the Church. It was felt this was dangerous especially with the new crossing to the South Gardens now in operation. Vehicles appear to be exceeding the 20mph limit and speed up to get past the traffic lights before they change.

*The Chair responded and agreed this should be brought to WSCC attention as soon as possible.*

**222. Matters of Urgent Public Importance:**

A matter was raised about the potential for a community orchard on the grassed area to the north of Lower Culvers. Harting CAN were keen to take advantage of the CDC funding for community orchards which was due to close on 31 January 2025, hence the item was raised under ‘urgent matters’. Mrs Hewetson outlined the possible plans which would need a minimum of 5 trees to be planted to qualify. It was noted the land is owned by Hyde and they would need to give permission for this to go ahead.

There was some discussion about the need to liaise with the Lower Culvers residents to gather their views as currently several children use that space to play.

There was no decision to be made by the Council as they are not the landowner, however the scheme was seen to be a positive move as long as the project was properly researched and there was communication with residents.

**223. Reports from the County and District Councillor**

Mr O’Kelly and Dr O’Kelly had circulated reports ahead of the meeting.

Mr O’Kelly confirmed the District Council (CDC) had produced a Devolution paper to become one Unitary Authority. Information has come back from the Government to confirm there will be limited numbers of councils in the first phase and they do not want

to defer local elections for more than one year. It was felt insufficient planning had been undertaken to have a workable set up within a year. It is almost certain this will happen at some time, but there will need to be proper consultation.

Dr O’Kelly reiterated Mr O’Kelly’s comments and felt a year was too short to ensure proper consultation and consideration of parishes.

#### **224. South Downs National Park (SDNP) Local Plan Review and Partnership Management Plan**

The SDNP is starting the process for the review of their Partnership Management Plan and launching the Regulation 18 consultation on the Local Plan. The consultation is taking place from 20 January to 17 March 2025. Further details can be found on the SDNP website [Have your say on South Downs National Park’s Local Plan Review - South Downs National Park Authority](#)

A briefing event was being held on 22 January 2025 at SDNP, Midhurst. Mr Shaxson is attending in his capacity as an SDNPA member.

*The following proposals were made and agreed:*

- i. To confirm that Mrs Bramley and Mrs Hewetson would attend the SDNP briefing meeting on 22 January 2025.*
- ii. To agree to delegate the initial consideration and format of responses to the Local Plan and the Partnership Management Plan to Mr Shaxson, Mrs Bramley and Mrs Hewetson*

*Dr O’Kelly and Mr O’Kelly left the meeting.*

#### **225. Highways and Byways Advisory Committee (HABAC)– Solar charging for SID (Speed Indicator Device) locations**

The minutes of the HABAC held on 7 January 2025 were noted. There were some updates following the meeting:

- Uppark road closure – the stakeholder meeting, hosted by Andrew Griffith (MP) had been very useful and potential dates for the Phase II works had been discussed, they will be published shortly. This Phase will be more of a concern to the Compton parish as the main B2141 to Chichester will remain open.  
It is hoped a Parish meeting will be held with the National Trust and WSCC ahead of the closure.  
The matter of compensation for the local businesses, as a result of the Phase I work was still being pursued.
- SID (Speed Indicator Device) – this is currently not working, and it is thought the extremely cold weather may have caused a problem. The Clerk is contacting the manufacturer Evolis.  
Further enquiries with WSCC regarding the extra use of SID, solar powered panels and an extra pole in Nyewood had not been encouraging. The WSCC officer had confirmed that regulations had not changed and SID could only be at one location

for 3 weeks at a time. It was also confirmed solar panels could require the current location poles to be reinforced and that the solar panels are frequently stolen. The members agreed proposals to purchase and install the solar panels should not be taken any further.

- Traffic lights in the Street – concerns had been raised by residents living at either end of the lights regarding the speed of vehicles as they accelerate to catch the lights before they change. It was felt WSCC should be informed of this issue.

*The following proposal was made and agreed:*

*To note the unconfirmed minutes of the Highway and Byways Advisory Committee held on 7 January 2025*

## **226. Annual Parish Meeting**

Parish Councils throughout England are required by law to hold an Annual Parish Meeting. This meeting must take place between 1 March and 1 June (inclusive) and must not commence before 6pm. (*Local govt act 1972 s14 (1)(2)*)

The members discussed various dates for the 2025 Annual Parish Meeting, and it was agreed it should take place on Monday 12 May 2025 in Harting Community Hall, the format being the same as recent years.

*The following proposal was made and agreed:*

*That the Annual Parish Meeting should be held on Monday 12 May 2025 in Harting Community Hall.*

## **227. Litter Pick Dates**

It was agreed the Annual Litter Pick was a good community event and it would be desirable to hold this event again in 2025, on the 8 March. The Clerk will advertise this in the Parish Magazine and via the village Facebook page.

However, it was also felt that a Family Litter Pick should be arranged later in the year aimed specifically at children. Mrs Cormack agreed to organise this event and liaise with the Primary School to encourage participation. A date will be arranged in due course.

*The following proposals were made and agreed:*

- That the Annual Litter Pick should be held on 8 March 2025 at 9.30am*
- That a Family Litter Pick will be arranged during the summer months to involve school children*

## **228. Finance**

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

Undisclosed	Clerk & RFO Salary - January	1560.94
Trish Walker	Monthly Zoom subscription	15.59
WSCC	Contribution to Community Highways Scheme	40,000.00
Clarity Accounting Ltd	Quarterly Payroll fee	27.00

**228.2. Bank Signatories** - It was agreed that Mrs Curran and Mr Miller would authorise the January online payments.

### **228.3. Income to note for December 2024**

Unity Trust Bank      Quarterly interest      £568.55

### **229. Bank Reconciliation for December 2024**

The bank reconciliation was noted and had been scrutinised and signed by the Chairman of the Finance Committee in accordance with the Finance Regulations.

**230. Bank balance as of 31 December 2024** - £135,623.90 (earmarked funds £76k)

### **231. Budget Statement to 31 December 2024**

Noted.

### **232. Planning Committee**

The minutes of the Planning Committees held on 19 December 2024 were noted.

### **233. Feedback from WMPF and HCH representatives**

HCH – there was no update.

WMPF – although there had not been a meeting, Mr Olphert was able to confirm a drain had been put in by the gate to try and stop the water running into the area planned for installation of matting.

### **234. Correspondence**

Letters had been received from Eco Rother Action, 4Sight and the Kent, Sussex and Surrey Air Ambulance thanking the Parish Council for the recent grants.

A letter had also been received from a parishioner requesting speed data from the Speed Indicator Device in order to make an application to WSCC for a 20mph speed limit. The Clerk had responded to confirm a 20mph limit had already been agreed and would be implemented in March 2025.

### **235. Clerk's report**

The report was noted. An update from WSCC had indicated the gulley clearance work at the southern end of North Lane was due to start on 27 January 2025.

### **236. Items for future meetings**

Local Plan Review  
Partnership Management Plan  
Restoration of water pump  
Car parking

**237. Date of next meeting:** The next full meeting would be held on Thursday 20 February 2025 at 7.30pm in the Community Hall, South Harting.

The meeting was closed at 8.41pm.