

# HARTING PARISH COUNCIL

## MINUTES

Minutes of the Meeting of Harting Parish Council held at the Henry Warren Hall, Nyewood  
on **Thursday 20 March 2025 at 7.50 pm.**

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

In attendance: Trish Walker, Parish Clerk.

There were three members of public in attendance.

**260. Apologies for absence:** None.

**261. Declarations of Interest:** Mrs Maxwell Davies and Mr Miller declared an interest in Agenda Item 11 as Parish Council representatives on the Harting Community Hall Management Committee.

Mrs Hewetson declared an interest in Agenda Item 11 as a member of Harting Climate Action Network.

**262. Minutes from Meeting held on 20 February 2025.**

The minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 20 February 2025 were agreed and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

**263. Questions from the Public:**

None.

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

None.

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

Mr Shaxson confirmed that Dr O’Kelly had resigned as County Councillor and thanked her for all she had done during her term of office and for the support given to the Parish Council. A by-election will be held on 1 May 2025.

Mr O’Kelly (District Councillor) had circulated his report ahead of the meeting. He confirmed the Chichester District Council (CDC) element of the council tax would go up by £5.58 a year for a Band D property. A Community Assets Programme has been agreed and the Supporting You scheme will be fully funded for another year.

**266. South Downs National Park Local Plan Review and Partnership Management Plan**

Further to the report at the February Parish Council meeting, a detailed response had been drafted and agreed by the councillors via email.

The response objected to Policy SD86, Land at Loppers Ash and explained why the suggested multiple access points would be impractical and undesirable. There were also responses to the questionnaires in relation to other policy changes.

The full responses can be seen in Appendix A below.

*The following proposal was made and agreed.*

*To note the comments submitted to the South Downs National Park in relation to the Local Plan Review and the Partnership Management Plan.*

## **267. Consultation on the Sussex Mayoral Arrangements**

The members agreed that the Parish Council should, in principle, comment on the Sussex Mayoral Arrangements. However, WSALC (West Sussex Association of Local Councils) and ESALC (East Sussex Association of Local Councils) are going to make a joint submission on behalf of all the parishes they represent, and it was agreed the Parish Council should support this approach. The Clerk will confirm this to WSALC.

Mr Shaxson is a member of WSALC so will be involved in the debate and final comments agreed.

*The following proposal was made and agreed:*

*that the Council note the report and agreed to support the mayoral views of WSALC (West Sussex Association of Local Councils) and ESALC (East Sussex Association of Local Councils) bodies.*

## **268. Harting Wastewater Treatment – protracted raw sewage release**

The Clerk had contacted Southern Water to ask for an explanation for the continued discharge of raw sewage from Harting Waste Water Treatment Works into the stream running into the Rother. An invitation was given for a member of Southern Water to attend a Council meeting.

A response had been received which unfortunately, as well as declining the invitation to attend a meeting, had not addressed the issues raised. The members were concerned that, despite the extensive works being carried out to the local treatment plant over the last two years, there was still such a huge problem.

It was agreed a follow up letter would be sent to Southern Water and copied to OFWAT, the local MP, Trotton Parish Council and Veronica Carter (Chair of Eco Rother Action).

*The following proposal was made and agreed:*

*To agree a response should be sent to Southern Water, copied to OFWAT, the local MP, Trotton Parish Council and Veronica Carter (Chair of Eco Rother Action).*

## **269. Finance Committee – Year end budget**

The minutes of the Finance Committee held on 12 March 2025 were noted. Mr Bonner, the Chair of Finance, confirmed the financial situation was strong coming in under budget. However, there was the need to vire some funds between budgets to take account of some unbudgeted items.

The following proposals were made and agreed:

- i. To note the Finance committee has reviewed the budget for the financial year ending 31 March 2025 and to agree the following recommended virements:*
  - a) movement of £1.3k from the “admin” budget to the “staff salary” budget.*
  - b) movement of £300 from the “capital” budget to the “staff salary” budget.*
- ii. To note the Finance committee has reviewed the earmarked funds for the financial year ending 31 March 2025 and to agree the following recommended movements of funds:*
  - a) movement of £7000 from the general reserves to the earmarked reserves for the Harting War Memorial project.*
  - b) movement of £6357.00 from the general reserves to the earmarked funds for the play area repairs.*
- iii. to note the Finance committee confirms the Council asset values for the year ending 31 March 2025 have been agreed.*

*iv. to note the Finance Committee has reviewed the Internal Control Review for the 2024/25*

**270. Community Hall Solar Project Grant/Loan request**

*This item was discussed following item 6 on the agenda.*

Mr Twiss, the Chair of the Community Hall Management Committee, was present at the meeting and was able to present the details of the Community Hall Solar Project.

The committee had requested and 'in principle' agreement from the Parish Council for a grant or loan, or combination of, for the sum of £35,300.

The project aims to install 68 solar panels plus a storage battery at the Community Hall, planning permission had already been granted. The project will also include the installation of electric vehicle charging points in the car park. It is hoped there would be a total payback of at least £5k per year.

Three quotes had been sought and the total cost was:

The total costs of the project are detailed below, three quotes had been received:

Panels + inverter	38,300
Less earmarked funds held by PC	(6166)
<u>Less contribution from HCH</u>	<u>(3834)</u>
Total funding requested	28,300

There was a great deal of discussion about the project and the funding request, and several questions were raised and answered by Mr Twiss. It was agreed this was a worthy project and would benefit the community as there may, in future years, be less of a reliance on grants from the Parish Council.

The members noted there were funds available in the earmarked funds that could be made available held under the Community Infrastructure Levy and Laura Bristol Legacy amounting to £18035. However, any further funding would need to be taken from the general reserves and the members noted these should be retained at a level of between 3-9 months of the precept.

After serious consideration of the financial impact on the Council finances, the members agreed to provide funds of up to £26,300 for the Community Hall Solar Project. This would be made up as follows:

Earmarked CIL funding	15035.30
Earmarked Laura Bristol legacy	3000.00
<u>Interest free loan of up to</u>	<u>10000.00</u>
Total	28035.30

*The following proposals were made and agreed:*

- i. That the Parish Council agreed, in principle to support the Community Hall Solar Project*
- ii. agreed to provide total funding of £28035.30 to the Community Hall Solar Project made up of earmarked funds £15035.30 CIL, £3000 Laura Bristol legacy and an interest free loan of up to £10000*
- iii. That the loan amount of £10000 should be repayable within a period of two years.*

## 271. Finance

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

Undisclosed	Clerk & RFO Salary - March	1,275.24
HMRC	Tax and NI contributions	1,455.03
Trish Walker	Monthly Zoom subscription	15.59
Trish Walker	Clerk's expenses Jul 2024 to March 2025	177.63
SLCC Enterprises Ltd	Clerk Training - AI	18.00
WSALC Limited	Councillor training	48.00

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

### **271.3. Income to note for February 2025**

None.

**272. Bank reconciliation** for February 2025 was noted and had been scrutinised and signed by the Chairman of the Finance Committee in accordance with the Finance Regulations.

**273. Bank balance as of 28 February 2025 £142,802.85** (earmarked funds £90.1k)

### **274. Budget Statement to 28 February 2025**

Noted.

### **275. Planning Committee**

The minutes of the Planning Committees held on 20 January 2025 were noted.

### **276. Aims and Objectives Advisory Committee (AOAC)**

the minutes of the AOAC held on 12 March 2025 were noted.

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

HCH – there was no update in addition to the earlier agenda item.

WMPF – there was no update.

### **278. Correspondence**

A letter had been received from the Petersfield Museum asking if the loan for the Durford Abbey tile might be extended. The Chair in conjunction with the Clerk had agreed this was acceptable.

### **279. Clerk's report**

The report was noted.

### **280. Items for future meetings**

Restoration of water pump

Car parking

**281. Date of next meeting:** The next full meeting would be held on Thursday 17 April 2025 at 7.30pm in the Community Hall, South Harting.

The meeting was closed at 8.59pm.

## Appendix A

### SD86 (Loppers Ash allocation) comments

- 1) Harting Parish Council (HPC) does NOT agree with the proposed amendment.
- 2) We note that the amendment doesn't remove the possibility that a single access will be used, but in the opinion of HPC it gives prominence to the creation of two or more accesses, which will have an avoidable negative impact.
- 3) Issues that need to be taken into account include the impact on New Lane, the requirement to provide all necessary vehicular parking on site, and the need to minimize hard surface areas on the site.
- 4) New Lane, along with its associated banks and vegetation, is an Historic Rural Road, as defined by para 6.28 of Local Plan policy SD21.
- 5) New Lane adjacent to the allocated site has a ruling width of only 2.5 metres. Furthermore, it is sunk more than a metre below the site, and bounded by steep banks on both sides. Consequently, any vehicular access from it climbing into the site would entail a considerable amount of engineering works, including large splays and the battening back of banks to provide entrances. A small refuse freighter has to pick up domestic waste from properties on that stretch.
- 6) The northern stretch of New Lane between the C 26 Elsted Road and the eastern access into South Gardens is about 100mm wider. It is relevant to note that the fairly recently created access from it into No 4 Loppers Ash has a bell-mouth in excess of 6 metres wide. Even with this width, because of the narrowness of New Lane, only small cars can use it in both direction. Larger vehicles have to access the site coming from the southern direction, and lorries, for example those delivering fuel, park in and block New Lane.
- 7) The 20 metre wide bell mouth entrance from New Lane into South Acre estate was created in the early 1960s. HPC recommend that the point **directly** opposite (east of) this already widened point should provide a single entry point to the site, which would greatly reduce the harm to the historic Rural Road. It would provide unencumbered access for most vehicles, including those driving up or down New Lane, utilising this already widened area to easily turn 90 degrees onto the site.
- 8) Whilst the slope of this access would have to be a hard surface to prevent eroded material running into the road and blocking gullies, a general parking area at the top for all vehicles could be a porous surface.
- 9) Well-designed this should ensure that overall the area of hard surfacing on the site would be **less** than that created by several individual drives and bell mouths. These drives would be likely to require hard standings for vehicle parking to ensure that gravel or other loose material doesn't wash into New Lane, exacerbating an existing drainage problem.
- 10) Multiple accesses onto the site would be in greater potential conflict with para 2 of policy SD21, which states that "*particular attention will be given to new access points and other physical alterations...*"

- 11) Concentrating the parking in one area would eliminate the situation where car parking is adjacent to individual dwellings and therefore effectively allocated to it, regardless of the needs of individual properties. If that car parking is under-used, the extra parking need of another property cannot utilise it.
- 12) A single parking area would enable better, and more easily managed, landscaping of that part of the site.
- 13) Such a layout would not only provide a wide view of Harting Down and Beacon Hill from the relatively open area at the South Acre / New Lane junction but would, if all the dwellings are located south of the access point and parking area, ensure that the Loppers Ash cottages retain a lot of the view of the Downs they have enjoyed for over a century.
- 14) Regarding the current policy requirement to enable 'glimpsed landscape views' from other parts of New Lane, as it is sunken by over a metre they would in any case be limited. Furthermore the impact of the dwellings that would be built, domestic clutter and garden planting would no doubt reduce them even further.
- 15) In periods of heavy rain, water migrating from the wider field through the allocated site, runs into the garden of No 4 Loppers Ash. This needs to be borne in mind. The Parish Council's proposal would enable the northern end of the site to be more easily landscaped to provide a SUD scheme to address this, taking account of changes proposed in revised policy SD 50. In any case, existing drainage issues need to be taken into consideration in any design.

### **Other policy comments**

*For further information about each policy refer to the SDNPA website [Have Your Say Today - South Downs National Park Authority Local Plan Review - Commonplace](#).*

The Parish Council responses are shown in **blue bold type**.

### **SD48 – Climate Change and Sustainable Use of Resources**

**What are your views on Policy SD48 Climate Change and Sustainable Use of Resources?**

**Strongly agree.**

**Please explain your answer here:**

**It should cross-refer to the Net Zero Carbon Buildings Standard. Reference to embodied carbon is appropriate – it is essential to make the policy as strong as possible.**

**Are the standards in this policy appropriate, legible for applicants and decision-makers and likely to be relevant until 2032 (when this Local Plan is likely to be reviewed)?**

**Yes**

**Should the policy cross-refer to the UK Net Zero Carbon Buildings Standard?**

**Yes**

**Is criteria 2 on embodied carbon appropriate?**

**Yes**

Should small-scale development (<10 units or <1,000sqm) be required to prepare an embodied carbon assessment, without setting a specific target for upfront embodied carbon emissions?

No

### **SD51 - Renewable Energy**

What are your views on Policy SD51 Renewable Energy

Strongly agree.

Please explain your answer here:

We must push the boundary. It gives local communities a voice and opportunity to undertake work both for their benefit and for the SDNP.

### **SD9 - Nature Recovery**

What are your views on Policy SD9 Nature Recovery?

Strongly agree.

Should the Local Plan have policy requirements for integrated wildlife boxes/bricks?

Yes

If yes, what matters should the policy address?

Noting swifts which already inhabit Harting habitats.

Do you agree that a higher percentage of Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG), beyond the statutory minimum of 10% should be considered?

Yes

Do you agree with the scenarios proposed to be tested?

Yes

Scenario 3 – as Scenario 2 plus 33% for strategic greenfield sites (Liphook)

What are your views on Policy NEW2 Designated Sites Hierarchy? NEW2 Designated sites hierarchy

Strongly agree

### **SD17 - Protection Water Environment**

What are your views on Policy SD17 Protection of the Water Environment?View –

Strongly agree.

Please explain your answer here:

climate change exacerbating existing flooding events, and the need to adapt by positive, pro-active measures.

### **SD49 – Flood Risk Management**

**What are your views on Policy SD49 Flood Risk Management?**View

Strongly agree.

**Please explain your answer here:**

Reason, increase in rainfall and the impact of it.

### **SD 50 - SUDs**

**What are your views on Policy SD50 Sustainable Drainage?**

Strongly agree.

**Please explain your answer here:**

Increase in rainfall etc -specially important is prevision for ongoing maintenance - see para 4 of policy.

### **Policy NEW 1 – Accessible Homes**

**What are your views on Policy NEW1: Accessible Homes?**

DISAGREE.

**Please explain your answer here:**

All new homes should be wheelchair accessible '*unless it is demonstrated not to be practical to deliver this provision*'. How can one pre-judge which property is occupied by somebody who might need a wheelchair, either temporarily or long-term.

### **SD 29 - Rural Exception sites**

**What are your views on Policy SD29 Rural Exception Sites?**

Agree

**Please explain your answer here:**

proven to be necessary to recommend this change.

### **SD30 / SD31 - Extensions & replacement dwellings**

**What are your views on Policy SD30 Replace & Subdivision of Dwellings?**

Neutral .

**Please explain your answer here:**

we understand the proven problems in trying to provide a catch-all policy beyond judging a development by its landscape impact. We do not have an alternate view on a workable solution.

### **SD47 – Local Green Spaces**

**What are your views on Policy SD47 Local Green Space?**

**Strongly agree**

Add our *Green Spaces* where enabled to do so by clicking on green writing

South Gardens and Warren / War Memorial Playing Field / Furze Mead. Nyewood / East Harting Green / East Harting Flood Pond / Hutts Orchard Allotments