

HARTING PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES

Minutes of the Meeting of Harting Parish Council held at the Community Hall, South Harting on **Thursday 14 April 2025 at 7.30 pm.**

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

In attendance: Trish Walker, Parish Clerk.

There was one member of public in attendance.

Ahead of the meeting the Chair asked the members to stand for a moment's silence after he paid tribute to Humphrey Sladden who had recently passed away. Humphrey was the longest serving parish councillor to date, holding office for a total of 48 years from 1967 to 2015. During that period, he stood as Chair for a total of 8 years over 3 separate occasions.

282. Apologies for absence: Mrs Martin.

283. Declarations of Interest: Mrs Maxwell Davies declared an interest in Agenda Item 7 as Clerk to the Governors at Harting Village Hall. Mrs Cormack and Mrs Hewetson also declared interests in Agenda Item 7 as parents of children attending the school.

284. Minutes from Meeting held on 20 March 2025.

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

285. Questions from the Public:

None.

286. Matters of Urgent Public Importance:

None.

287. Reports from the County and District Councillor

There was no elected County Councillor at the time of the meeting and no report had been received from the District Councillor.

288. Harting Village School – request for support for Community Infrastructure Levy application for Outdoor Learning Facility and Play Equipment

An email had been received from the Friends of Harting School (FOHS) outlining the application for SDNPA Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funding and asking the Council to support the application by providing a letter of support. There had also been an additional email from the headteacher regarding the funding of the project and giving details of a serious fraud committed against the school by contractors due to install an upgrade to the play area. He hoped the Council may be able to provide a grant to support the FOHS project.

Pippa Walden-Jones, the Chair of FOHS, attended the meeting and spoke about the planned project and the issues that had arisen. The members asked a number of questions and agreed, as the school is a critical part of the future viability of the community, that the project was essential. The Roundhouse, when refurbished, will

again be able to provide a key outdoor learning space and can also be opened to the wider community.

On this basis the members agreed unanimously to provide a letter of support for the CIL application.

It was noted that the Council had recently allocated all available grant money to other parish bodies, and that the CIL funds held by the Council were all currently earmarked for the Hall Solar Panel project. However, if any more CIL becomes available it might be allocated to this kind of project.

After some further discussion and consideration of the financial position and available funds within the 2025/26 budget, it was agreed to provide a grant of £500 to FOHS for the Outdoor Learning Facility and Play Equipment project.

The following recommendations were proposed and agreed:

- i. That the Council would provide a letter of support for the Community Infrastructure Levy application being submitted by the Friends of Harting School to request funds for Outdoor Learning Facility and Play Equipment at Harting Primary School.*
- ii. That the Council agreed a grant of £500 to the Friends of Harting School towards the Outdoor Learning Facilities and Play Equipment Area and confirmed that, if funds were available, that the parish Community Infrastructure Levy might be used towards this project.*

289. Sussex Police Rural Crime Team – Street Surgery Invitation

An email had been received from the Sussex Police Rural Crime Team (RCT) who are launching a new Street Surgeries initiative aimed at engaging directly with rural communities across the county.

The sessions aim to give residents the opportunity to:

- Meet members of the RCT and learn more about their work in rural areas
- Raise any rural crime concerns
- Received tailored crime prevention advice relevant to farms, smallholdings, equestrian yards and other rural properties
- Learn about initiatives such as Neighbourhood Watch

The Clerk, in discussion with the Chair, had responded to Sussex Police to confirm there would be local interest to hold either a Street Surgery in the Parish or a joint event with another local parish if there is a high demand from Sussex Parishes for surgeries

The following recommendation was proposed and agreed:

To note the report

290. Finance

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

Undisclosed	Clerk & RFO Salary – April	1352.44
M H Kennedy & Sons Ltd	Grass cutting	210.00
Clarity Accounting Ltd	Payroll Feb - Apr 2025	27.00
West Sussex ALC Limited	Annual WSALC & NALC subscriptions	545.86
Chichester District Council	Litter and dog bins - annual fee	777.50
Debra Harknett-Godfree	Hall bookkeeping	231.88

Friends of Harting School	Grant	500.00
---------------------------	-------	--------

290.2. Bank Signatories - It was agreed that Mrs Curran and Mr Miller would authorise the April online payments.

290.3. Income to note for March 2025

Unity Bank Quarterly interest £590.91

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

292. Bank balance as of 28 February 2025 £140,398.27 (earmarked funds £113.5k)

293. Budget Statement to 31 March 2025

Noted.

294. Planning Committee

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

295. Feedback from WMPF and HCH representatives

HCH – the structural engineer was due to assess the roof structure to confirm it can take the weight of the solar panels. , Once this is confirmed, the solar panel company can be instructed to commence work.

WMPF – there had been a good committee meeting recently and the ‘do I need planning permission’ form had been completed and submitted in relation to the proposed car parking area.

296. Correspondence

There had been no correspondence other than regular items and those already included in the main agenda.

297. Clerk’s report

The report was noted, and the following points were highlighted:

- The Uppark road works were progressing well, and it was hoped the road might be opened earlier than expected
- A lorry had caused damage to the Give Way sign by the Old Ship and the pillar of the wall outside the Coach House, through the area under traffic lights. The driver had not stopped, it is hoped the CCTV being used by the Uppark roadwork contractor may have captured details of the lorry.

298. Items for future meetings

Restoration of water pump

Car parking`

Annual Governance and Accounting Statements

299. Date of next meeting: The next meeting, the Annual Parish Council Meeting, will be held on Thursday 15 May 2025 at 7.30pm in the Community Hall, South Harting.

The meeting was closed at 8.32pm.

