

HARTING PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the **Highways and Byways Advisory Committee (HABAC)** held via Zoom on **Tuesday 6 May 2025** at **6.00pm**.

Present: Anthony Palmer (AP)(Chair), Penny Curran (PC), Alex Olphert (AO) and Andrew Shaxson (AS).

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

1. Apologies for absence: Vicky Maxwell Davies (VMD).

2. Declarations of Interest: None.

3. Minutes of the meeting on 7 January 2025: 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 20mph scheme is now in force in the centre of South Harting with the new 40mph zone leading out to the Playing Fields. It is felt this is a big improvement and will hopefully be beneficial. There was some initial shock at the size of the '20' signs painted in the roads, but they will fade in time and become part of the norm.

There is an issue with the new car park surface by the crossing as a lot of weeds have grown up through the tarmac. WSCC have been informed of this and had confirmed they will take a look. Trish will follow this up.

One of the bollards by the crossing had been knocked over but WSCC have reinstated it.

5.2. Community Speedwatch update

The police are assessing the nine potential sites for the Speedwatch group to operate. There are several criteria which need to be satisfied:

100 metre visibility

200 metre from a speed limit change

2 metre space for operators to stand in

It is hoped the sites will be agreed over the next couple of days.

The Phase II online training is planned for Tuesday 13 May and will last for two hours.

The equipment has been ordered and should be delivered in the next few days.

It is hoped the scheme will be active by mid June, or earlier if the police indicate this is acceptable.

5.3. Uppark Road Closure

The Uppark Phase II road closure has now been completed, slightly ahead of schedule.

There are some night time road closures, from 8pm to 6am, planned for this stretch of road to Compton over the coming weeks:

22-29 May Carriageway repairs
9-25 June Surface dressing
26-30 June Sealant

The Clerk will advertise these dates on the village Facebook page.

5.4. No.1 Brookside Cottages

On 14 April 2025 a very large vehicle carrying an excavator broke the Give Way sign by the Old Ship pub and continued through the church narrows where it is knocked over the pillar at the end of Coach House wall. The details of the lorry were not captured at the time but a dashboard camera and the CCTV at the Uppark road closure barrier have uncovered the details and this has been passed on to WSCC.

There is no further progress on the 1 Brookside Cottage works. It seems, before planning permission can be obtained, there is still further information required about the bats as well as the various building processes and materials to be used to make the repairs. It is likely to be some while before this is all completed.

5.5. Potholes

AP had met Anthony Higgs (WSCC) whilst on a walk in West Harting and he was inspecting and marking out pothole and road repairs, so it would seem these will be happening in due course. It was noted there were also markings in Hollist Lane.

5.6. Hurst road 40mph TRO application

It seems, following communication between Hampshire County Council (HCC) and Buriton Parish Council, that HCC may be willing to reconsider the situation.

WSCC have confirmed they are trying to arrange an online meeting with HCC to discuss the potential for placing signage on the Hampshire side of the border.

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

The Clerk is still trying to find out if this would be via a TRO or CHS application.

5.8. Damaged fingerpost at West Harting

AO has managed to set the fingerpost upright and turn it to face the correct way. It will need some concrete to hold it in place at some point.

5.9. Speed Indicator Device (SID)

AP and PC had met with Mike Dare (WSCC) and agreed potential positions for a new SID pole near the Village Hall in Nyewood. The Council will need to apply for a licence to install the pole and this will be followed up by the Clerk.

New batteries have been purchased for the SID and seem to be working well. There is a dial in the unit which enables settings to be changed to fit the various speed limits.

6. Hedges

There aren't too many issues at the present time.

The Hurst hedge has been cut and this is a great improvement. AP and AS were able to cut the hedge at Mead House.

7. Footpaths

7.1. Footpath spreadsheet

VMD had circulated the footpath spreadsheet and had confirmed it had been sent to WSCC to aid the next inspection which was due to take place imminently.

7.2. Warren BMX tracks

There had been some discussion on the village Facebook page about young people using a small area of the Warren as a BMX track. The comments on the page had been mostly in support of the activities. There was some discussion about this and it was noted that some activity had been ceased in 2019 as it was in the SSSI area. The current activity is not in this area and seems to be confined to a small area and does not impact any official footpaths. It was noted that this sort of activity had taken place in the Warren over many decades and had not, to date, caused any obvious harm.

There have been no complaints or issues raised directly with the Parish Council so it was felt, at this stage, to monitor the situation and allow the young people the space.

8. Flooding/drainage/gulleys/grips

8.1. Operation Watershed application

The Operation Watershed project is due to start in the week beginning 26 May, presumably work will get underway on 27 May due to the bank holiday. TW has emailed the contractor to advise them of the Festivities and associated road closure.

WSCC have appointed a new contractor to carry out gully clearing and it had been confirmed this would take place on a 2 yearly cycle rather than the previous 4 year cycle.

AS had uncovered a substantial gully at the junction of B2146/B2141, this has been reported to WSCC so they can add it to their list.

8.2. North Lane & East Harting/Turkey Island

AP and AS are meeting Anthony Higgs (WSCC) shortly to discuss the issues in North Lane, East Harting and Turkey Island.

9. Bike rack – This has now been replaced and will hopefully withstand any further issues.

10. Items for next meeting: None other than the standard items.

11. Date of next meeting: Tuesday 2 September 2025 at 6pm via Teams

The meeting closed at 6.38pm.