

HARTING PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES

Minutes of the Meeting of Harting Parish Council held at Harting Community Hall
on **Thursday 17 July 2025 at 7.30 p.m.**

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

In attendance: Trish Walker, Parish Clerk.

There were no members of public in attendance.

86. Apologies for absence: Mrs Bramley, Mrs Cormack, Mrs Martin, Mr Miller and Mr O’Kelly (District Councillor).

87. Declarations of Interest: None.

88. Minutes from Meeting held on 19 June 2025.

The minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 19 June 2025 were agreed and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

89. Questions from the Public: None.

90. Matters of Urgent Public Importance: None.

91. Reports from the County and District Councillor

Mr O’Kelly had circulated a report ahead of the meeting. The report outlined ways in which Chichester District Council (CDC) are endeavouring to further reduce carbon emissions despite the levels for CDC already being quite low. Mr O’Kelly also confirmed that empty blister pill packs and empty toothpaste tubes can now be placed into the recycling bins.

92. SDNPA Partnership Management Plan Consultation

At its meeting in June 2025, the Council had noted the new draft SDNPA (South Downs National Park Authority) Partnership Management Plan which sets out the aims identified by the SDNPA in the next 5 years. A consultation, via a ‘Have your say today’ survey, was running from 9 June to 1 August 2025.

The Council’s responses to the survey were circulated to councillors ahead of the meeting and it was agreed that, subject to a few minor tweaks to wording, that they should be submitted. A copy of the response can be found by clicking on this [link](#).

The following proposal was made and agreed:

That subject to minor tweaks the comments for the SDNPA Partnership Management Plan Consultation were agreed.

93. Feedback from the Harting Wastewater Treatment works tour – 10 July 2025

Southern Water invited the Parish Council to send representatives on a tour of the newly upgraded Harting Wastewater Treatment works on 10 July 2025. There were also representatives from Eco Rother Action and Western Sussex Rivers Trust. Mr Miller and Mr Olphert attended on behalf of the Council and the following report was provided:

The site has just benefitted from an £8.5 million investment and upgrade to provide extra capacity and to significantly reduce the future likelihood of pollution into the River Rother from the site. This had been caused by an inability to cope with very adverse weather and storms, as well as the need to be able to cope with new planned building developments for the area.

We were hosted by various managers from Southern Water, including Ben Murray, Storm Overflows Engagement Officer, as well as the site manager and a couple of other managers / directors.

I was impressed with the knowledge, openness, and commitment of the Southern Water team. They clearly explained the processes for clearing of physical waste, removal of toxic chemicals and the filtration processes to produce clean water, which met tough new government standards. They explained how the recent investment at the treatment plant should ensure that breaches should be minimised and would cope with new planned developments. The exceptionally dry weather conditions of this summer have meant that the new system has not been fully tested in real time yet. The Southern Water team openly admitted they considered their communications and messaging to the public and stakeholders had not been good enough, and they were working on improving this through a programme of site visits involving key local groups, engaging with local schools, as well as better social media involvement.

I had previously been unimpressed by the bureaucratic reaction to their failures, such as their handling of recent floods and consequent effluent pollution into the River Rother. However, I left the visit, as did the others, with a positive feeling of cautious optimism.

The members welcomed the report and noted that, in the light of the lack of rain in recent months, the system is still to be properly tested.

The following proposal was made and agreed:

To note the report

94. Southern Water leaks (Nyewood)

In the previous few months there had been multiple problems with the water supply due to pipe issues at Nyewood. It seems this is an ever-increasing problem which affects a large area of the parish and the neighbouring parish of Elsted.

In previous weeks, tankers had been parked, on different occasions, in East Harting and in Elsted to surcharge the system but despite this, houses have still been left without a reliable amount of water. Although the recent problems have been resolved within a matter of hours, the frequency of the leaks is very concerning and unless improvements are made, this will certainly become a more pressing and far-reaching issue.

An officer at the site of the last leak had suggested Southern Water may be considering replacing the part of the system that is causing the issues, this runs from the reservoir at Hill Brow through to Harting. This would potentially improve the situation for the parishes of Harting, Elsted and Rogate and so the members agreed it would be a good idea to consider a joint approach with the other parish councils, if agreeable, to put pressure on Southern Water to carry out the works.

The following proposal was made and agreed:

To approach Rogate and Elsted & Treyford parish councils to ask if they would like to make a joint approach to Southern Water to request works to the system running from Hill Brow feeding Rogate, Harting and Elsted is considered as soon as possible to avoid the regular issues with water supply in those parishes.

95. Speedwatch equipment and signage

The Speedwatch group had held 11 sessions in recent weeks based at 3 approved sites in the Parish, further sites are awaiting approval from the Police. The 11 sessions tracked a total of 1091 vehicles with 225 exceeding the speed limit, the Police have subsequently send out warning letters to the offenders.

At some of the busier sites it can be challenging to accurately record the passing vehicle details due to the high volume of traffic. The Police have recommended a body cam should be worn to help capture information and also enable a record to be made of anti-social behaviour by drivers, although this is rare.

As the body camera was on sale, with a £40 reduction, in the week ending 11 July 2025 the Clerk agreed in liaison with the Chair and the Chair of Finance, in accordance with section 4.1 of the Financial Regulations, agreed to make the purchase at that time.

The members were also asked to consider the possibility of permanent signage to indicate people are entering a Speedwatch zone and although there were mixed feelings about additional signage in the area and the lack of suitable places to add them, it was agreed the Clerk should contact WSCC and the Police to firstly see if there are any suitable locations.

The following proposals were made and agreed:

- i. To note that the Clerk in conjunction with the Chair and Chair of Finance, and in accordance with section 4.1 of the Financial Regulations, had agreed the purchase of the Speedwatch body camera at a cost of £107.91*
- ii. That the Clerk should make initial enquiries with WSCC, in conjunction with the police, to investigate the potential for Speedwatch signage in the parish*

96. Media and Press policy

The Media and Press policy was reviewed and agreed.

97. Correspondence policy

The Correspondence policy was reviewed and agreed.

98. Retention policy

The Retention policy was reviewed and agreed.

99. Grants policy

The Grants policy was reviewed and it was noted this would need to be updated in the next 9 months.

100. Metal Detecting policy

The Metal Detecting policy was reviewed and agreed.

101. Finance

101.1. The following payments made ahead of the July 2025 meeting were noted.

Harting Community Hall	25% deposit for solar panel project	8,626.02
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101.2. It was agreed that the following payments should be made:

Undisclosed	Clerk and RFO Salary	1,352.24
HMRC	Tax and NI contributions	1,045.93
Clarity Accounting Associates Limited	Payroll May to Jul 2025	36.00
Debra Harknett-Godfree	Year end prep	132.50
Debra Harknett-Godfree	Hall bookkeeping	251.75
Archibald Shaw	Site inspections for solar panels - Hall grant	1,332.00
Trish Walker	Clerk expenses April to June 2025	69.57
M H Kennedy & Son Ltd	Grass cutting	441.00
Trish Walker	Speedwatch body camera	129.49
WMPF	Lengthsman	168.00

101.3. It was agreed that Mr Shaxson and Mrs Curran would authorise the July online payments.

101.4. Income to note for June 2025

Unity Bank Quarterly interest £571.05

101.5. Bank Reconciliation for June 2025

It was noted that the bank reconciliation had been scrutinised and signed by the Chairman of the Finance Committee.

101.6. Bank balance as of 30 June 2025 - £83,610.37 (earmarked funds £51.5k)

101.7. Budget statement to 30 June 2025 -Noted

102. Feedback from WMPF and HCH representatives

There were no updates from the HCH representatives.

The WMPF were still awaiting information from the planning authority regarding the car parking area.

103. Correspondence

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

104. Clerk's report

It was noted that an update had been received to confirm a public consultation for the Hurst TRO was due to run from 24 July to 15 August 2025.

105. Items for future meetings

- Car park wall
- Restoration of water pump
- Car parking

106. Date of next meeting: The next meeting would be held at 7.30pm on Thursday 18 September 2025 at Harting Community Hall.

The meeting closed at 8.11 pm.