

HARTING PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the **Highways and Byways Advisory Committee (HABAC)**

held via Teams on **Tuesday 2 September 2025 at 6.00pm.**

Present: Anthony Palmer (AP)(Chair), Sheila Bramley (SBr), 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 6 May 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

At the Annual Parish Meeting in May 2025 a member of public raised concerns that there was only one handrail on the ramp near the new crossing and that this did not conform to building standards. The Clerk raised this with WSCC who confirmed the two rail approach is a legal requirement for domestic properties and is not necessary in this instance.

AP suggested that additional 20mph roundels should be painted on the B2146 between the parish church and the Tipper Lane junction, it is hoped WSCC will agree to this once the temporary traffic lights have been removed.

5.2. Community Speedwatch update

The Community Speedwatch group is still working well and holds sessions on a regular basis. There is a new site agreed at the northern end of Hill Lane. It is currently difficult to hold Speedwatch in the village area at the moment as there are currently three sets of traffic lights which have negated any potential sites.

5.3. No.1 Brookside Cottages

There has been no further progress on this. A group of residents living near the property are working together to try and ask the insurers, owner and other interested parties to consider the current scaffolding arrangements which are compromising two of the neighbouring properties. To date they have not had positive feedback or progress.

The planning application process still seems to be held up by the lack of a satisfactory bat survey and building scheme.

A wider group of residents from the area and the Street are considering drawing up a petition to place pressure on WSCC to consider a one way system through the church narrows to ease the problems caused by the traffic lights by the Church.

5.4. Potholes

There do not seem to be many issues with pot holes at the current time.

5.5. Hurst road 40mph TRO application

Since the last HABAC meeting, Hampshire HCC had agreed to the placement of signage over the Hampshire border enabling WSCC to submit the TRO scheme for public consultation. This had taken place between 24 July and 15 August 2025.

The clerk contacted residents in the area of the TRO and encouraged them to lodge support to the consultation. It is also believed that Alitex were intending to lodge their support.

TW will contact the WSCC officer for an update.

5.6. 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. The County Councillor has offered to find out some more information.

5.7. Damaged fingerpost at West Harting

The fingerpost has been righted and AO will ask the Bates (farmers near the fingerpost) if they are able to secure it with some concrete when they are carrying out any building works.

5.8. Nyewood Speed Indicator Device (SID)

The Council needs to apply for a licence to install the pole. TW will follow this up with WSCC.

It was noted the SID positioned in the Petersfield Road, in the new 20mph zone, is not as effective as previously as it is picking up vehicles in the 40mph zone. However, it was agreed it was still a reminder to drivers and did have some impact.

6. Hedges

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

An issue with the hedge overhanging the pavement running alongside the Manor House, North Lane had been raised. AP will carry out a site visit and will contact the owner if any work is required.

7. Footpaths

The footpath spreadsheet (see Appendix A) was considered and the following points were noted:

- The items marked 'August 2025 replaced' have now all been dealt with
- Village path – there is a need to establish a meeting with WSCC to establish ownership and ensure it is included in the WSCC framework. TW to follow up.
- FP881 – this had now been resolved as new signage has been installed
- Item 10 should read 'realignment' instead of 'diversion'
- FP 880/1 at Sheepwash – this is a concern as there is a mains water pipe and a BT facilities conduit running through the structure to be repaired

8. Flooding/drainage/gulleys/grips

8.1. Operation Watershed application

The Operation Watershed works have now been completed, however the new system will not be fully tested until the wetter winter months.

The Phase 2 section of the Operation Watershed is still in hand with WSCC and progress was delayed by the need to find a place to dispose of the spoil. It is hoped the Caine's may be able

to help and AO will ask them. The works would be unlikely to take place ahead of summer 2026 if a field is identified.

8.2. North Lane & East Harting/Turkey Island

Anthony Higgs (WSCC) had supplied information about investigations and proposed works in North Lane and at East Harting, see Appendix B.

9. Review of Terms of Reference

The Terms of Reference were reviewed and there were no changes required. It was agreed that, as there had been no amendments in several years, that a recommendation is taken to the Council to agree to review the Terms of Reference on a three yearly basis.

10. Budget requirement for 2026/27

The members agreed there were no additional requirements for the 2026/27 budget and this would be confirmed to the Finance Chair.

11. Items for next meeting: Status of the maintenance of the village path

12. Date of next meeting: To be confirmed for early January 2026

The meeting closed at 6.48pm.

Appendix A

	Details	Notified by	Date notified	Actioned	Acknowledged	Results to date
1	Finger post collapsed beside dog poo bin on footpath 3543 beside Harting Community Hall	Giles Davies	011224			April 2025: Now upright, but not cemented in. August 2025 Replaced
2	Signpost on south side of South Downs Way where 849 begins is very hard to see, almost encompassed by foliage	Anthony Palmer	140824			
3	Signpost just below Church Farm has been demolished (possibly by lorry's wing mirror) 3544`	N J-H	210724			August 2025 Replaced
4	BRIDLEWAY 880/1 THROUGH Sheepwash, officially closed by WSCC since winter 2022 as the causeway had become washed out and dangerous. One year closure notice on it which expires early July 2027.	Andrew Shaxson	060524	Reported to Lysiane Dallen 060624		We have been told that a replacement structure would be planned in financial year 2024/25, and constructed in 2025/26.
5	3543 Village Path – fencing missing. This path belongs to WSCC.	Anthony Palmer	010524	Reported to Trish Walker who has reported to WSCC. No response as yet		
6	Fingerpost has been uprooted at corner of Petersfield road and Cow Lane HAB4544	Giles Davies	151123	Reported to WSCC 151123		August 2025 Replaced
7	Permanent closure of FP 839	Nigel J-H	090425	Reported to LD, WSCC 100425		LD “to make investigations as the right of way cannot be blocked like this”. 220425 May 25, LD reports that the “new footpath” actually follows

						the original footpath line. VMD/AP to walk the path. June 2025 – LD proved correct New signage requested where footpath veers off from field
8	Footpath at the bottom of the Sussex Border Way and Petersfield Road FP530	Janet Swift	2022	Reported to LD 20/5/25		Finger post propped up with twine for the last three years. August 2025: overgrowth removed but still upright with the help of twine and cable ties.
9	FP 881 – Footpath confusion due to lack of signage	Anthony Palmer/Andrew Shaxson	280425	Reported to LD, WSCC, 280425		LD visited and has actioned 2 new waymarker posts to be installed. RESULT?
10	Diversion of FP2845	Andrew Shaxson	June 2025	AS emailed LD with a proposal to be agreed by WSCC and landowner (Langmead).		August 2025: After site visits diversion agreed by landowner and LD

Appendix B

Email from Anthony Higgs (WSCC Highway Steward, Western area)

Further to the emails below, at North Lane the drainage team have confirmed that a minor capital works job (ref 60206314) has been raised and is currently being quoted by our contractor. This is to provide approx. 42m of new 225mm pipework northwards from the double gully location opposite the village stores, up to the next gully. This should deal with the suspected blockage/collapse under the Tythe Barn access.

Whilst in the same general area I can advise that the gullies on West Harting Road near Coombe Cottage are scheduled for jetting/pushrod CCTV on 8th September, subject to the usual caveats of weather, road space, emergency works etc.

At Turkey Island the jetting was completed last week, all previously unrecorded assets have been logged onto the system. The assets around the crossroads were left running well as per the green markers below. As suspected there are defects with the red assets below which the drainage team are currently reviewing – the pipework around the key catchpit with the round concrete lid is blocked in several places and pipework replacements have been recommended by the contractor. I have also asked whether the pit southwest of the crossroads can be formalised but as you know this is dug out of the chalk itself so options may be limited.



