

HARTING PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES

Minutes of the Meeting of Harting Parish Council held at Harting Community Hall,
South Harting

on **Thursday 18 December 2025** at **7.30 p.m.**

Present: Mr Shaxson (Chair), Mr Bonner, Mrs Bramley, Mrs Curran, Mrs Maxwell Davies, Mr Miller and Alex Olphert. |

In attendance: Trish Walker, Parish Clerk.

There were two members of public in attendance.

Before the meeting commenced, the Chairman drew the Council's attention to the fact that Mr Ronald Beckett had died aged 95 on 16 December. Ron Beckett had been a member of Harting Parish Council from 1976 to 2007.

168. Apologies for absence: Mrs Cormack, Mrs Martin, Mr Palmer, Katherine Hewetson, Mr O'Kelly (District Councillor) and Mrs Gravely (County Councillor). The Council noted that Mrs Hewetson had not attended a meeting of the Council or one of its committees since the Council meeting on 17 July. As it is approaching six months since then, the Council noted her reasons for absence and granted her a dispensation.

169. Declarations of Interest: None.

170. Minutes from Meeting held on 20 November 2025.

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

171. Questions from the Public: Members of the public made the following representations, all were in relation to the ongoing impact of the lorry strike on 1 Brookside Cottages, South Harting:

- It is a year to the day since the temporary traffic lights had been installed and still no further progress. Residents in the area continue to suffer from the impact of queueing traffic, cars jumping the lights and speeding
- 20mph is not observed between the traffic lights
- What is the progress on the HGV ban
- Several Potholes have developing through the closed section. WSCC are due to repair them.
- No obvious progress on the planning permission, recent documents uploaded to the planning portal are either out of date or have insufficient information
- WSCC will now only authorise any works ie Southern Water works or road works, in that location at night
- Is there any way the Council can help

The Chair responded by confirming the Council had asked WSCC to carry out a survey aimed to protect the house and improve the movement of traffic in its vicinity but they have confirmed this will not be done until the remedial works to the house have been completed. There is a possibility they may consider re-cambering the road.

The Chair confirmed he would ask Tim Slaney, Director of Planning at the South Downs National Park Authority, if he would meet him to thoroughly discuss all aspects of this seeming impasse from the planning point of view, with the aim of seeing if there is anything that can be done to accelerate a satisfactory conclusion to the situation.

172. Matters of Urgent Public Importance:

It was noted there had been 2.5 inches of rainfall during the day which had impacted the local roads considerably. The B2146 through Hurst had been closed by the fire brigade due to severe flooding. The Operation Watershed work carried out last summer on the B2146 adjacent to Cow Lane couldn't cope with all the water running off fields on both sides of the road, but with the use of sandbags on the pavement by the Telephone Exchange, no flood water got beyond the Congregational Church. There was no flooding in front to Smithfield

173. Reports from the County and District Councillor

Mr O'Kelly and Mrs Gravely had circulated their reports ahead of the meeting. There were no comments regarding them.

174. Standard grants applications 2026/27

The Chairman outlined the proposed grants for the year 2026/27 and confirmed the proposed grants for Harting Community Hall and the War Memorial Playing Fields had been increased in line with inflation.

The following proposals were made and agreed:

- i. To agree that the Council allocate the following grants in 2026/27*
 - a. Harting Community Hall and the War Memorial Playing Fields – (£2830 each)
£5660 total*
 - b. Harting Parish hospital car scheme - £180*
 - c. Petersfield Citizens Advice Bureau - £300*
 - d. Allotment rents -£25*
 - e. The Parish Church and Congregational Church burial grants – (£200 each) £400 total*
 - f. Henry Warren Hall insurance premium – up to £1850*
- ii. To agree, as part of their overall grants, to recommend that the Council also covers the cost of the insurance premiums for Harting Community Hall and the War Memorial Playing Field and the cost of a bookkeeper for the former.*

175. Budget and Precept 2026/27

Mr Bonner, the Chair of Finance outlined the proposed budget (see appendix A) and precept requirements for 2026/27. He noted that the Finance Committee had reviewed and agreed the proposed budget.

The members reviewed and agreed the budget should be set at £64506. The precept was then agreed at £62500, an increase of £500 or 0.81% on the previous financial year. The budget will be balanced by offsetting £2006 against the reserves.

The precept would increase the parish council portion for a Band D property from £79.05 pa to £80.52 pa.

Mr Bonner proposed, and Mrs Maxwell Davies seconded, and it was unanimously agreed:

- i. that the Council agreed the Budget of £64506 for the financial year 2026/27*
- ii. that the Council agreed to request £62,500 as the precept from CDC (Chichester District Council) for the financial year 2026/27.*

176. Local Government Reorganisation Proposals – Consultation

The local government and homelessness minister had announced consultations on proposals from principal authorities in East Sussex, Brighton and Hove and West Sussex and a consultation set up with a closing date of 11 January 2026. [Proposals for local government reorganisation in East Sussex and Brighton and Hove, and West Sussex - GOV.UK](#)

WSALC (West Sussex Association of Local Councils) had considered the proposals at a recent meeting but was unable to formulate a response that would satisfy all the local councils that it represented.

The members immediately dismissed the option proposed by Brighton and Hove UA as ill-considered, noting that it had no backing from other primary authorities. The Council then discussed the two other options for some time but were unable to reach a conclusion as it was felt there not suitable information to aid an informed decision. They were concerned about the implications of a single unitary inheriting the culture of WSCC. Conversely, they had concerns about being in the rural North-Western part of a South Coast orientated unitary made up of the current Chichester, Arun, Worthing and Adur Districts. As a result they considered that the perceived advantages / disadvantages of one option might be countered by the perceived advantages / disadvantages of the alternative. It was further agreed that at the end of the day, the way the new unitary authority was administered would probably be more important than whether there are one or two of them representing West Sussex.

The following proposal was made and agreed:

That the Council respond to confirm that it is not possible to make a decision with a reasonable argument and to highlight concerns that parishes just north of the Downs are concerned they may get sidelined.

177. CDC All Parishes Meeting

The All Parishes Meeting, organised by CDC is due to take place via Zoom on Monday 2 February 2026 at 5.00pm, two members of the Council are invited to attend.

The following proposal was made and agreed:

That Mr Bonner and Mr Shaxson would attend, via Zoom, the CDC All parishes meeting on 2 February 2026.

178. Finance

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

Undisclosed	Clerk and RFO Salary	1,441.65
HMRC	Tax and NI contributions	1,109.43
Trish Walker	Speedwatch batteries, paper and ink	33.24
Clarity Accounting Associates Limited	Payroll November 2025 to January 2026	36.00
Gallagher	WMPF Insurance - Grant	1,536.94

178.2. It was agreed that Mrs Curran and Mr Miller would authorise the December online payments.

178.3. Income to note for November 2025 - None

178.4. Bank Reconciliation for November 2025

It was noted that the bank reconciliation had been scrutinised and signed by the Chairman of the Finance Committee in accordance with the Financial Regulations.

178.5. Bank balance as of 31 November 2025 - **£76,754.56** (earmarked funds £14.1k)

178.6. Budget statement to 31 November 2025 -Noted

179. Planning Committee

The minutes of the Planning Committee held on 20 November 2025 were noted.

180. Finance Committee

181. The minutes of the Finance Committee held on 25 November 2025 were noted

182. Feedback from WMPF and HCH representatives

There were no new updates from the HCH or WMPF representatives.

183. Correspondence

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

184. Clerk's report

The Clerk's report was noted.

185. Items for future meetings

Car park wall

Restoration of water pump

Car parking

Bus shelters in South and East Harting

186. Date of next meeting: The next meeting would be held at 7.30pm on Thursday 15 January 2026 at Harting Community Hall, South Harting.

The meeting closed at 8.39 pm.

Appendix A

HARTING PARISH COUNCIL BUDGET 2026-27

Headings	Budget 2025-26	Likely spend 2025-26	Proposed Budget 2026/27	Budget Increase/decrease	%	Notes
Staff Salaries						
Salary	20,200.00	21,087.42	20,800.00	600.00	2.97	
Pension	700.00	-	700.00	0.00	0.00	
Total Staff Salaries	20,900.00	21,087.42	21,500.00	600.00	2.87	1
Admin						
Website and phone	350.00	300.00	350.00	0.00	0.00	
Microsoft licence	850.00	829.20	850.00	0.00	0.00	
IT support	1,120.00	1,807.50	2,011.00	891.00	79.55	
Chairmans allowance	200.00	200.00	300.00	100.00	50.00	2
Audit fees	630.00	757.10	630.00	0.00	0.00	
Admin	650.00	842.32	650.00	0.00	0.00	
PC & Hall Insurance	4,500.00	4,309.21	4,500.00	0.00	0.00	
Training	500.00	540.00	500.00	0.00	0.00	
Room Hire	200.00	100.00	200.00	0.00	0.00	
Legal	1,000.00	-	1,000.00	0.00	0.00	
Election	100.00	-	100.00	0.00	0.00	
Total Admin	10,100.00	9,685.33	11,091.00	991.00	9.81	
Subscr/Memberships						
SALC/NALC	780.00	783.86	780.00	0.00	0.00	
Capital expenditure						
Open spaces major repairs	1,000.00	-	1,000.00	0.00	0.00	
Total Capital	1,000.00	-	1,000.00	0.00	0.00	
Maintenance						
Warren & South Gardens	1,500.00	500.00	1,500.00	0.00	0.00	
Highways	1,000.00	-	1,000.00	0.00	0.00	
Mixed repairs	2,500.00	380.00	2,500.00	0.00	0.00	
Dog bins/gloves	800.00	797.92	800.00	0.00	0.00	
Grass cutting	2,000.00	1,828.75	2,000.00	0.00	0.00	
Lengthsman	750.00	688.00	750.00	0.00	0.00	
Tree survey	600.00	550.00	600.00	0.00	0.00	
Total Maintenance	9,150.00	4,744.67	9,150.00	0.00	0.00	
Grants						
Hall	2,720.00	2,720.00	2,830.00	110.00	4.04	
S137 -	600.00	300.00	300.00	-300.00	-50.00	
WMPF	2,720.00	2,720.00	2,830.00	110.00	4.04	
Churchyards	400.00	400.00	400.00	0.00	0.00	
Hospital car	200.00	-	200.00	0.00	0.00	
Allotment rent	25.00	25.00	25.00	0.00	0.00	
Hall bookkeeping	1,000.00	1,048.01	1,000.00	0.00	0.00	
WMPF insurance	1,500.00	1,500.00	1,600.00	100.00	6.67	
Other grants	6,500.00	3,500.00	6,500.00	0.00	0.00	
Total Grants	15,665.00	12,213.01	15,685.00	20.00	0.13	
Contingency	4,405.00	-	5,300.00	895.00	20.32	
Increase to reserves	-	-	-	0.00	-	
Total Budget	62,000.00	48,514.29	64,506.00	2,506.00	4.04	
	PRECEPT					
Precept met from reserves	62000 0 62000		62500 2006 64506	500	0.81%	

Notes to accompany budget

1. This takes accounts of projected cost of living increase from 1 April 2026 of 3%.
2. The Chairman's allowance has been updated as it has not increased for well over 10 years.