

HARTING PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the **Highways and Byways Advisory Committee (HABAC)**
held via Teams on **Tuesday 6 January 2026 at 6.00pm.**

Present: Anthony Palmer (AP)(Chair), Sheila Bramley (SBr), Penny Curran (PC), Vicky Maxwell Davies (VMD) and Andrew Shaxson (AS).

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

1. Apologies for absence: None.

2. Declarations of Interest: None.

3. Minutes of the meeting on 2 September 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 Speedwatch update

The group is now working well and planning sessions one month ahead to ensure all operators are able to sign up to sessions. Some more Nyewood residents have now been trained, and it is hoped they will be able to hold some more speed watch sessions there.

5.2. No.1 Brookside Cottages

A request had been made to Maria Vasileiadou, WSCC for more signage or repeaters to try and reinforce the 20mph limit through the traffic lights by 1 Brookside Cottages. A response is still awaited.

The planning application process still seems to be held and although a new report has been uploaded to the planning system, it does not seem to be any further forward. There was a problem with the traffic lights in the New Year, this was due to the batteries needing changing. The new light set up has been a lot better.

AS is still waiting to have a meeting with SDNPA officers.

5.3. Potholes

There has been a sizeable pothole by Ivy House for some time and it has been difficult to avoid due to the position of the traffic lights. It was noted a vehicle had a puncture as a result of the pothole. The issue had been reported and it was hoped would be resolved very soon. There was also another pothole beyond Engine Farm.

SBr reported the road by Meadowbarn Farm, on the road between East Harting and Nyewood, had subsided and was now quite tricky to drive along. This had previously been reported, but it was agreed it would be reported again.

Action

SBr to take photos and send to TW to report.

5.4. Hurst road 40mph TRO application

There was still no update on the installation date.

5.5. 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.

AS noted that, whilst he had been clearing gullies along the roadside, that there appeared to be fewer HGV's passing through and it was wondered if this is because they are now taking a different route whilst the traffic lights and narrowed roadway is in place. It may also be due to less traffic during the Christmas and New Year period, but it was felt this was unlikely.

5.6. Nyewood Village TRO

A Nyewood resident is going to apply for a TRO for a 20mph limit through Nyewood. This was agreed by the Parish Council as its meeting in November 2025. At the time of the meeting that application had not been submitted.

5.7. Harting to Nyewood TRO

At its meeting in November 2025 the Parish Council had agreed to apply for a TRO for a reduction in the speed limit from North Lane, South Harting to Nyewood. There was some uncertainty about whether a 30mph or 40mph should be requested. TW had sought advice from Oli King, WSCC but no response had been received at the time of the meeting.

An urgent safety assessment of The Severals corner had also been requested as there were a high number of accidents and a further one had taken place on 22 December 2025.

5.8. Nyewood Speed Indicator Device (SID)

The Council needs to apply for a licence to install the pole, TW had contacted WSCC enquiry who had redirected enquiries back to Mike Dare. The final position for the new pole needs to be agreed and can then be resent to Mike Dare for processing.

Quotes will be needed for the post and TW will progress these.

It was noted it had been agreed the SID position at the southern end of Nyewood could be both ways. AP and PC arranged to meet and check that the existing bracket could be used in both directions.

5.9. Broken South Harting sign on Petersfield Road

This appears to have been damaged when WSCC cut the verges. AP managed to twist the sign back round, but it still needs further repairs. TW has reported to WSCC.

6. Hedges

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

There has been an issue with the hedges alongside the pavement at Lower Culvers. TW did report this to WSCC but there has been no response. The issue will be reported to Ashleigh Miller at Hyde as well.

Action

TW to contact Ashleigh Miller

7. Footpaths

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

- Item 1 – completed
- Item 2 – now okay
- Item 3 – completed
- Item 4 – to be edited to read the closure will be for 1.5 years up to January 2027
- Item 5 - Village path – now reported to Nicholas Scott, WSCC and awaiting response
- Item 6 - this had now been resolved as new signage has been installed
- Item 7 – Awaiting new signage
- Item 8 – confirmation received this will be dealt with in the next round of maintenance
- Item 9 – Now okay
- Item 10 - completed

It was noted that FP850 which is part of the Sussex Border Path has several trees fallen across the path. VMD will contact Buriton Estates and ask if they can clear them away.

It was agreed that AS would include a request in the February Parish Council article, to ask people to notify VMD of any issues with footpaths.

Action

VMD to contact Buriton Estates

AS to include footpath information in Parish News article

8. Flooding/drainage/gulleys/grips

8.1. Operation Watershed works and recent heavy rains

The recent heavy rain had been a good test for the new system installed in the Petersfield Road and it seemed to cope okay despite a large run off from the fields. There were no houses flooded and water was successfully diverted into the new drains. Lesley James placed a double height of sandbags by the telephone exchange to ensure the water did not travel further.

8.2. Operation Watershed – Hurst

AS has recently been clearing back verges on the road at Hurst and has met with WSCC to discuss gully clearance. There is one very badly blocked gully there.

On 18 December the road was closed for 5-6 hours as it was completely flooded, there was also a car abandoned in the flood. This stretch of road has been logged as a potential Operation Watershed phase 2, however there is a problem with finding somewhere to dispose of the spoil.

8.3. North Lane

This is still a big problem, especially on the stretch from Coombe. The works are on the WSCC 'to do' list along with the blocked drain opposite the village shop. It is not known when these works will be carried out.

There is also an ongoing dispute with WSCC regarding a drain which is blocked about half way down North Lane, WSCC say this is the landowners responsibility.

The 'drain gang' have done a really good job and have made a difference.

8.4. North Lane & East Harting/Turkey Island

The works are expected to take place between 23 February to 2 March 2026.

9. Items for next meeting: To be agreed.

10. Date of next meeting: Tuesday 5 May 2026 at 6pm via Teams.

The meeting closed at 6.58pm.

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.



