

# HARTING PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes** of the meeting of the **Planning Committee** held at  
Henry Warren Hall, Nyewood,  
at **6.30pm** on **Monday 26 January 2026**.

**Present:** Mr Bonner, Mrs Bramley (Chair), Mrs Cormack, Mrs Curran, Mrs Martin, Mr Miller and Mr Shaxson.

In attendance: Trish Walker, Parish Clerk.

**72. Apologies for absence:** Mrs Maxwell Davies and Mr Palmer.

**73. Declarations of Interest:** Mr Shaxson declared a non-prejudicial public service interest as a member of the SDNPA's planning committee. He noted the SDNPA had 'called in' agenda item 6.1 and therefore he would not be expressing any opinion or voting on the item. Mr Shaxson also noted a non-prejudicial interest in agenda item 6.1 as he has a cousin who owns a wild camping site, with permitted development, in the neighbouring parish.

**74. Members of the Public Present:** There were four members of the public present.

**75. Minutes of the meeting on 15 January 2026:** The minutes were agreed and signed.

**76. Matters of Urgent Public Importance:** None.

**77. Current Planning Applications:**

**77.1. SDNP/25/03104/FUL**

**[Change of use of agricultural land to permanent use as a seasonal campsite with 18 no. pitches between May and October each year.](#)**

Land and Building South of Clarefield Copse, Dumpford Lane, Nyewood, South Harting, West Sussex

The Chair introduced the application and gave some background to the site. Representations were made by members of the public, all in objection to the application. The issues raised were:

- Experience shows that the campsite not only detracts from the beauty of the landscape but also cannot be run without unnecessarily negative impact on the local community
- The new Management Plan makes more and more promises, however it is fundamentally the same as the previous Management Plan for the temporary permission and this was not adhered to
- There is a promise of 24 hour supervision including a night-time warden between 7pm and 7 am, however there is no accommodation for such a person
- The last 5 years of operation of the campsite do not indicate the site can be managed properly
- There has been an increase in vandalism and trespassing since the campsite has been in operation
- The footpath has been moved and this causes confusion to walkers
- If the wild camping site is given permission and become a permanent site surely this can no longer be classed as wild camping
- Hard surfaces have already been laid without permission

- The existing site plan is not factually correct as there are other buildings which are on site, next to the proposed utility block, not showing
- There are also more gateways on the site allowing access from directions other than the main entrance

The Council considered the application and unanimously agreed the following comments. Mr Shaxson abstained from the vote.

The Council OBJECTS to the proposed development for the following reasons:

Temporary planning permission was granted for this site in June 2021 as a “trial period to assess the effect of the development on the area in terms of landscape, neighbours’ amenity and wider environmental impacts.” 18 conditions were imposed, many to be satisfied before the commencement of the activity, although they were not discharged until September 2023. That temporary permission expired in October 2024. Since this application for permanent permission was considered by the SDNP planning committee in December 2025 a new Management Plan has been produced. Although more detailed than the previous plan the new version repeats much of the content of earlier versions which have not been implemented in the past. The Council is concerned that the promises made in the new plan will not be implemented and are not achievable. The suggestion of 24 hour supervision is unlikely to be financially viable.

The Council reiterates its objections based on local experience during the period since the temporary permission was granted when the conditions of that permission were not met and earlier versions of the campsite management plan were not observed.

**In particular:**

**During the camping period**

- no warden was resident on the site to impose the conditions;
- cars were driven to the camping area and parked beside pitches rather than remaining in the parking area;
- tents were regularly pitched in groups and not in accordance with the plan;
- noise caused serious problems for neighbours including amplified music;
- access to the area was not controlled by keypad as proposed;
- traffic did not respect the need for careful driving on the single track Dumpford Lane, much used by riders and walkers;
- Comments on the “Pitchup” website (while generally very positive about the location) suggested that campers have found no-one present on the site to greet them on arrival and show them the parking arrangements, with some complaints about the state of the amenity building.
- Campers trespassed onto adjacent woodland to cut timber for campfires
- Campers trespassed into the nearby farm property causing danger to animals

**During the off season**

- the amenity building was not removed from the site;
- no cattle have grazed the land.

**Further**

It is to be noted that the adjacent farm is no longer in the ownership of the applicant. This throws some doubt on the farm diversification case and means that the farm shop, originally a pivotal aspect of the sustainability of the site, is now closed.

A hedge along the western edge of the site has been removed, this was an established hedge, and the removal has enabled the track to the ponds to be widened and hard surfaced.

The ground does not appear to have been used for cattle grazing since the permission was applied for in 2020.

The amenity facilities are inadequate for the number of potential visitors and this has led to people not using them. Despite the proposed increase in facilities, it is feared this will still not be sufficient and will be unduly cramped given that the size of the amenity hut is unchanged. A member of the public confirmed to the planning committee that he had stepped in human excrement on the public footpath.

Drainage has been installed on the site without planning permission.

The footpath running through the site has been diverted.

Hard surfaces have been introduced without planning permission.

The many comments made in the Landscape Planning Advice document are supported by the Council, noting particularly the many inconsistencies in the application documents and concerns about the implementation of the proposals.

### **Conclusion**

Given the way in which the site has been operated over the last four years it seems clear that its effect is to contravene the first purpose of the National Park, has a deleterious effect on landscape character and tranquility in this rural location and adversely affects views. The revised Campsite Management Plan seems unlikely to be implemented, given the experience of lack of implementation of earlier versions of such plans. The agricultural use of the land should be retained.

#### **77.2. SDNP/26/00025/TCA**

[Notification of intention to reduce back to previous wound points on 2 no. Cherry trees \(T1 and T3\) and 1 no. Hornbeam tree \(T2\).](#)

Ffowlers Bucke The Street South Harting West Sussex GU31 5QB

The Council has no objection to the recommended revisions dated 22 January 2026.

#### **77.3. SDNP/26/00052/TCA**

[Notification of intention to crown reduce height and widths by up to 0.5m \(all round\) on 1 no. Yew tree.](#)

Bystocks The Street South Harting West Sussex GU31 5QB

No objection.

**78. To note any planning appeals:** None

**79. To note any planning appeal decisions:** None.

**80. Date of next meeting:** 19 February 2026 at Harting Community Hall, time to be confirmed.

The Chair closed the meeting at 7.11pm.