

HARTING PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the Highways and Byways Advisory Committee (HABAC)
held at 7.30 pm at Ivy House, South Harting on Monday 28 January 2018

Present: Anthony Palmer (Chair), Andrew Shaxson, Nigel Johnson-Hill and Simon Powys Maurice

In attendance: Trish Walker, Parish Clerk

1. Apologies for absence: Sheila Bramley.

2. Declarations of Interest: None.

3. Minutes of the meeting on 14 November 2018: Having been agreed, the minutes were signed by the Chairman.

4. Membership of Committee – Appointment of non-councillor members

An article had been placed in the December Parish Magazine asking for parishioners who might be interested in joining the HABAC. No applicants had come forward so the committee decided it would be appropriate to ask the member of the community, who had initially showed an interest, if they would like to join HABAC.

It was agreed that it would be particularly useful to have a Nyewood representative on the committee, the Nyewood footpath representative will be approached to see if they are interested.

*Action: Clerk to contact member of community
NJH to contact Nyewood Footpath representative.*

5. Flood Prevention plan

The Flood Prevention Plan had been developed further and had identified most of the problem areas across the parish. It was noted that there some areas to be added, in particular North Lane, that pose a problem. There are areas in the parish where the gullies are often covered by parked cars and are then missed when WSCC come around to clear them.

It was agreed that a map showing the locations of all the gullies would be beneficial, along with an understanding of WSCC policy on drain clearance.

It would be useful, once the gullies are identified, to ask residents to “adopt” areas and agree to clearing debris from them or report the problem to WSCC, particularly after bad weather.

Action: Clerk to contact WSCC for information about gully locations and programmes for clearance.

6. Footpath Lights

The ongoing issue regarding the constant vandalism of the footpath lights was discussed. HABAC will look at a variety of new lighting solutions and then take some options to the full Council for consideration. The possibilities being considered at this stage are:

- advice and details of potential schemes is being sought from an industrial lighting company which has offices at Church Farm.
- Solar powered “eyebrow” style lighting
- Luminous surface

It was agreed there may need to be some site visits to see systems in operation.

7. Footpaths

7.1. Rights of Way Routine Inspection and Maintenance Schedule

The next routine inspection is due to take place in March 2019, the final date will be notified to the clerk. The current Access Ranger, Kevin Dewitt is very helpful.

It is important to feedback any issues raised by the footpath monitors to WSCC so they can consider maintenance plans or contact any landowners who may be responsible for those issues.

The clearance programmes run by WSCC cover a certain number of paths each year, agreed after they carry out the inspections, this will be October 2019.

7.2. Time running out to save lost walks

An article from the Times newspaper had been circulated which referred to a campaign to save historical walks. There had been many applications made, and the final date for applications was by 2026.

7.3. Monitors

There had been an extremely good response to the request for footpath monitors, all areas of the parish seem to have been covered which is really good news. The monitors did not wish to form a sub-committee as they are all happy to just report any issues directly to NJH.

8. Highways

8.1. Traffic Working Group update

There was no further Traffic Working Group update since the last full Council meeting.

8.2. Traffic Issues in the rest of the Parish

The committee discussed the traffic issues that may arise as a result of the re-opening of the West Heath Sand Quarry in West Harting. As this is a planning issue the Planning Committee will be responding to the “Soft Sand Review”.

8.3. Fingerposts

It was noted that there a number of fingerposts across the parish in need of maintenance. Details of each fingerpost have previously been recorded by a councillor and the clerk will collate these ready for the next HABAC meeting.

There are some residents who have offered to adopt and maintain a fingerpost, these details also need to be consolidated.

It was suggested that a rolling plan of maintenance should be considered and that any costs should be fed into the 3 year rolling budget plan.

Action: TW to collate information about fingerposts

AS to contact John Spencer-Smith from Elsted regarding fingerpost refurbishment

9. Funding

The possible areas to be considered for the 2020/21 budget are likely to be:

- Footpath lighting
- Fingerposts

10. Any other business

- It was noted that the Winter Management Plan needed to be uploaded to the Parish website.
- It was agreed it would be useful to find out how other Council's used and employed lengthsmen.

Action: TW to contact other parish councils about the lengthsmen.

11. Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 23 April 2019 at 7pm at Noddswood, Ditcham.