

Minutes of Haresfield Parish Council Meeting

Held in the Village Hall on Tuesday 30th April 2024

Present: Councillors Nicky Ford, Alan White, Ursula Jeakins, John Hunt, County councillor Stephen Davis, District councillor

Clerk: Madeleine King e-mail: haresfieldpc@gmail.com

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Appoint Chair: Vice chair Nicky Ford took the chair

Public Participation: one resident in attendance

Apologies: District councillor Mark Ryder

Declaration of Interests /Dispensations: none

County Councillors and District Councillor's Report: Cllr Davis reported:

- GCC have updated their climate action plan and there has been an increase in tree planting, which has been facilitated by the wet spring.
- Funding has been secured for flood victims – affects people living on the Severn.
- Greener Gloucestershire Community fund has been launched – applications can be made for funding for green-related projects.
- CC has received £6m towards zero emission buses.
- CC has Installed its 100th Electric Vehicle charger – the target is to install 1000!
- County Educational Special Needs work was inspected by Ofsted, recognising that improvements are needed, and a plan is in place to take these forward. There has been a 1000% growth in the number of children with special needs, and there is a national shortage of educational therapists.
- Family Hubs have been launched and there is one in Stroud. The plan is to offer a wide range of family support services, or signposting to other services as needed. This will be a centre where community groups can also provide a service.
- Trading standards continue to be active in seizing illegal vapes.
- Fire services are changing shift patterns to improve safe cover at key times.
- Haresfield Lane – official permission for closure of the lane appears to have expired. This is being chased. Cllr Davis is also chasing the date for the flyover work – at the moment there is a delay while Crest Nicholson commissions the work. The design has been approved so it could be done this summer, though Crest has not committed to any date for this. Crest are also submitting plans for the remaining part of the Hunts Grove development.
- Stroud DC is lobbying government for funding to support Zane's law – protecting people from the health risks of contaminated land.
- Local Plan – there has been no decision to fund improvement to J13. *See below:Planning.*
- Cllr Davis is aware of the considerable traffic problems and severe delays for residents on access roads to and from the village at times of day when traffic around J12 is building

up. It would be helpful if residents would write directly to Cllr Davis regarding the inconvenience they are facing from these delays: this would help him raise the matter more prominently with the Council and Highways. Send your letter to:

cllr.stephen.davies@stroud.gov.uk

Cllr Hunt asked Cllr Davis to look into flooding on Beacon Lane from drains which are still needing clearing.

Matters arising:

Village maintenance: The additional dog poo bin has been installed on the track to the railway crossing and is now officially numbered to ensure regular emptying. This has been agreed with SDC environmental services and is now happening.

SDC Drain cleaner has been round the main part of the village, but some jobs are still required, particularly on Beacon Lane – ACTION clerk to contact SDC.

Village Hall / village activities:

D day event planned on 6th June - beacon on the Beacon. Ian Exton is kindly going to set up the brazier and prepare it to be lit at 9pm, so it is in full blaze by 9.15 pm, to tie in with the lighting of beacons across the country to commemorate this historic event. All residents are welcome, and encouraged to walk or car share as parking is very limited.

Haresfield Guided Walk and Afternoon Tea – many thanks to Sue Thorpe for heading the organisation of this lovely event on the 28th April, and to Martin for leading the walk. Sue provided a generous and very delicious tea, and it made a really special delightful afternoon. The event Raised £250. Sue noted that there is a need to ensure that such an event is ticketed next time to aid all aspects of planning.

The Village Hall and Merryfield Trustees are in discussion about a bench in memory of Caroline Segelov.

Village Hall Noticeboard – a non-wood alternative was considered, but councillors made a decision that oak was preferable. VH Committee are pursuing the designs and sizes available.

Lighting plan for the hall: there will be new LED strips, and uplighters for use at evening events. Single sockets located on the walls are to be changed to doubles. Possible external socket being investigated, eg for external Christmas lights. Also new smoke detectors to be installed which are required to be mains powered.

VH committee has requested an updated Fire risk assessment and fire extinguishers.

VH has had contact from a Personal Trainer interested in using VH for a pilates class.

Highways, traffic and parking: Following a report from a concerned resident, it was noted that a pipe from the verge is directing water onto Beacon Lane – ACTION clerk to follow up with Highways.

Incinerator / CLG: Clerk attended meeting on 4 April. No issues on the findings of current monitoring. The Environment Agency has carried out their first unscheduled visit. There were no concerns, only a minor issue with storage, now resolved.

Residents are reminded that tours of the facility can be arranged via the website <https://www.ubbglooucestershire.co.uk/>

The 2024 window for the submission of grant applications is now open.

Biodiversity: Councillors accepted the proposal for planting of Yellow Rattle on the flag pole corner. The long term plan is for this to become a wildflower area, and once the new plants are established they should inhibit growth of grasses. This will then enable the introduction of further wildflower species. This is a new and ongoing project and progress will be monitored as it develops, noting that it will take some time for the new growth on the corner to become established and this area cannot be mowed so measures are required to ensure this does not happen. The biodiversity plan is currently being developed and any input into this is welcomed, either ideas for increasing biodiversity or offers of assistance.

Footpaths/ bins: Bin and new numbering completed in accordance with SDC environmental department requirements. The new bin is now on the collection round.

Planning:

1. Haresfield Parish Council has been notified that Application No. S.23/0181/FUL has been approved. Permission 23.02.2024 Proposal Erection of single storey building to accommodate five holiday letting rooms (sui generis) to be used in association with Beacon Hotel, Haresfield Stonehouse Gloucestershire GL10 3DX

2. Disappointingly, the **Tritax Symmetry Park** application S.21/2579/OUT has been approved by Stroud District Council at the Development Control Committee meeting on 9th April, despite numerous objections, including the clerk; representing Haresfield PC; speaking at the meeting against the application and all surrounding parishes also submitting written objections. This is a severe blow to Haresfield residents. Although the Inspector stated that J12 is not adequate for the development to go ahead, National Highways did not object to the proposal. Cllr Davis expressed his considerable dismay regarding this outcome and that SDC planning officers did not make any response to the points raised.

3. An objection has been made to application no. S.24/0487/ADV at St. Modwen. Type of Application Advertisement

4. Councillors made no comment on application no. S.24/0494/FUL Location: Caravan Storage at Pool Farm, Haresfield, Stonehouse, Gloucestershire

Correspondence: The GRCC Parish Housing Needs Survey Report February 2024 has been received – PC is considering the report and a request from GRCC to look at possible sites in the village for this development to be considered. This to be c/f to a future meeting.

Cricket club – recent vandalism reported by A. Bolton at the Cricket Club has been reported to the police. A request to the Merryfield Trustees for four regular youth football clubs to use the Merryfield for training and matches was regretfully declined by the trustees as this was considered unsuitable for the space, given the problems with waterlogging of the field and the other uses of the field.

Biodiversity – A resident has expressed concern about the Yellow Rattle planting on the corner as part of the biodiversity plan, and the possibility that it will have both a negative impact on visibility for traffic across the corner and that the Yellow Rattle was an invasive species. Rich Gibbs has been made aware of these concerns and councillors agreed to regular monitoring of the development of this project.

Finance & Clerks Report: Councillors approved the appointment of D Hill as internal auditor. Council advisory body (GAPTC) has recommended an increase in clerk’s salary: PC are looking further into these recommendations. PK Littlejohn are again the government appointed auditors.

Transactions/payments agreed:

Cheque payments were agreed and authorised by councillors:

HMRC	Payments Jan-Mar	£430.11 (cheque no. 400801)
M. King	Salary inc. backpay	£1778.52 (cheque no. 400802)
GAPTC	annual subs	£92.22 (cheque no. 400803)
K. Goodall	Installation of dog bin	£165 (cheque no. 400804)
TEEC	Website annual fee	£194.39 (cheque no. 400805)
U. Jeakins	Herald printing (x3)	£27.44 (cheque no. 400806)
D. Hill	Audit fee	£120.00 (cheque no. 400807)

Any other business:

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.35pm

Date of next meeting: Tuesday 14th May 2024, Annual parish council meeting.