

## Minutes of Haresfield Parish Council Meeting

Held in the Village Hall on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> June 2024, 7pm

**Present:** Councillors Nicky Ford, Ursula Jeakins, Alan White, John Hunt, District councillor Mark Ryder

Clerk: Madeleine King e-mail: [haresfieldpc@gmail.com](mailto:haresfieldpc@gmail.com)

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**Appoint Chair:** Vice chair Nicky Ford took the chair

**Public Participation:** Merryfield Trustee and GRCC representatives

**Apologies:** Cllr Demelza Turner-Wilkes, County councillor Stephen Davis

**Declaration of Interests /Dispensations:** none

**County Councillors and District Councillor's Report:** Cllr Ryder reported Stroud District Council committees are only just starting and committee roles being allocated. More than half the council is new.

Our Councillors for Hardwicke Ward (Brookthorpe-with-Whaddon, Elmore, Hardwicke, Harescombe, Haresfield, Hunts Grove, Longney and Epney, Moreton Valence) are Mark Ryder, Gill Oxley and Demelza Turner-Wilkes. Mark Ryder will continue to be the Cllr nominated for Haresfield and Demelza Turner plans to stand in for him when he is unable to attend a PC meeting.

Political mix has changed – Green Party 22, Labour 16, Labour and Cooperative 4, Conservative and Unionist 7, Liberal 2. Greens have most cllrs – they were formerly in an alliance, and are 3 cllrs short of having a majority, but have decided to run a minority administration.

There is a Platinum Jubilee fund for modernising village halls – up to £75k is available for rural halls. Applicants must have a minimum 21 year lease which rules Haresfield out of applying for the majority of grants, including this one, unless the current lease can be changed.

Hunts Grove – Developers Crest Nicholson are in financial straits, with latest report posting a 30m loss and are not in communication, which is worrying. Stroud DC Planning Officer is actively engaged with CN regarding serious issues of failure to deliver planning agreements – including provision of a community hall and allotment. Sorting out what is happening with Haresfield Lane is on this list of important matters to be addressed, but it is not top of the list. No time scale is indicated for the resolution of these problems. Developers Redrow are planning further housing on the other side of A38 and are also engaged in the discussions.

**Minutes of the last meeting:** The minutes of the previous meeting dated April 30<sup>th</sup> were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chair.

**Matters arising:**

**Village maintenance:** The Coronation Bench has been moved to Village Hall grounds – it is going to be stained and anchored in position.

The Community Payback team have agreed to do some work in the village, including trimming the laurel hedge opposite the pub, tidying up the hall hedge, painting the hall porch, spreading the compost at the rear of the hall garden and other jobs. (The Community Payback Scheme is a way for offenders to work on community projects to pay back the community for their crimes. They have previously done a terrific job on work in the village.)

**Highways, traffic and parking:** Work has commenced on replacing the footpath on the Merryfield. Several reports of potholes by the PC has resulted in these being marked, however no date has been received for this work to be undertaken.

**Village Hall & village activities:** Noticeboard – the style and size has been agreed with the Village Hall committee – PC is purchasing the noticeboard and the VH committee are to contribute £250 and pay for the installation, to be outside the Village Hall. The suggested heading is Haresfield Village as it will be used for both parish council and general village notices.

Open Gardens – event coming up this Saturday 29 June, with the annual Coffee morning in aid of the Childrens’ society and a Harvest Supper planned for the autumn.

**Incinerator / CLG:** The Grant window is now open and some applications have already been received. Residents’ groups/clubs are welcome to apply for projects that meet the guidelines. Deadline for entry is 5pm on 30 Aug 2024. Details and forms are on the UBB website: <https://www.ubbgloucestershire.co.uk/community-liaison-group>

Reminder that the types of projects that may be supported include (but not limited to):

- Minimising waste.
- Limiting pollution.
- Minimising use of resources.
- Enhancing biodiversity.
- Enhancing places.
- Reducing crime and fear of crime.
- Strengthening local communities.
- Creating opportunities for culture, leisure, and recreation.
- Promoting health and wellbeing, including mental health.
- Supporting and promoting activities for younger people.
- Supporting and promoting activities for older people.

**Road closures:** Hiltmead Lane Temporary Road Closure - C215 Colethrop Lane - Haresfield - Stroud - 05/08/2024 until 10/08/2024

Temporary closure of part of the C215 Colethrop Lane Road from its junction with Haresfield to Gloucester Road to outside the property known as 'Round House' for a total distance of approximately 180 metres. The reason for the said closure is for bridge repair works. The road is expected to be closed between 22:00hrs and 06:00hrs daily from 5th August 2024 until 10th August 2024. The alternative route will be signed onsite.

**Clerks pay rate:** councillors agreed an increase in pay as proposed by GAPTC.

**GRCC Housing needs survey results:** Tim Gwilliam. Rural Housing enabler for GRCC, reported on the results of the survey that was sent to all households in the parish. The meeting was photographed by GRCC for use in their digital comms. GRCC is a member of GRHP (rural housing partnership). Action agreed: PC to review the report and consider what action the PC would ideally like to take forward in view of the results and several comments received. It was noted that this document can also be used for reference in the event of planning applications for dwellings which might not actually be needed, as specified by the survey.

**Biodiversity:** Cllr Jeakins attended the GAPTC training on The Power of Local Climate and Diversity Action and shared possible approaches for Haresfield. South Glos Council Local Nature Action Plan (LNAP) document is advised as a very useful guide planning document for our own LNAP. Clerk to take forward LNAP with assistance and advice from Rich Gibbs.

Rope fencing has been placed on the millennium corner to protect the yellow rattle planting, and a message of appreciation has been received from a resident.

PC approved a proposal to approach St Modwen and UBB for the siting of swift nesting boxes – Rich to supply information and clerk to contact both organisations with them with these requests.

Proposal to consider solar panels on the Village Hall roof – vice chair to contact Mark Heywood regarding a possible longer lease to allow access to grant funds.

**Merryfield Trustees:** Jenny Knight attended the meeting, representing the trustees, with a proposal to site signage on the Merryfield. Jenny reported that some residents have expressed concern about non-residents using the Merryfield. (The Merryfield Lease states that the field is for the use of residents and as a playing field for the school during school hours.) Trustees are considering a sign about this, though wording has not yet been agreed. Cllr White and Cllr Jeakins were in favour of a 'live and let live' approach to use of the Merryfield. The proposed wording is to be supplied by the trustees to the PC, councillors felt that this, if erected, should be agreed jointly. A proposal was suggested and agreed to site public footpath waymarkers on either entrance to the field. Action – clerk to contact Cotswold volunteers.

Strim has been carried out at the end of the Merryfield to allow cricket nets to go up.

Proposal to create a wildflower area on the Merryfield, PC to discuss with Rich Gibbs.

Proposal to create a new hedge across the entire back of the Merryfield from the cricket club. Previously, watering new trees has been an issue so a temporary watering system would be

needed while any planting becomes established. Trustees to liaise with the Cricket Club regarding use of their water supply. Clerk to advise trustees about possible funding and tree sources. Trustees to supply measurements required for cost estimates.

Jenny agreed to attend PC meetings from time to time, to report back on the work of the Trustees and to consult PC regarding proposals (Jenny is officially PC rep for the trustees.)

**Planning:** none

**Correspondence:** A revived proposal to support Gloucestershire 20 is plenty – there is another round of meetings relating to the use of these signs, but PC has decided to focus on our Variable speed sign application.

**Finance & Clerks Report:** PC has signed up to SCRIBE accounting package which is now in place. The AGAR submitted to our government appointed auditors, PK Littlejohn.

**Financial declaration:** To certify that during the financial year 2023/24, the higher of the authority's gross income for the year or gross annual expenditure for the year did not exceed £25,000.

**Annual Governance Statement:** This was reviewed and approved

**Accounting Statements:** These were reviewed and approved

**Transactions/payments agreed:**

*Cheque payments were agreed and authorised by councillors:*

R Gibbs	Plants	£177.99 (cheque no. 400808)
M. Heywood	Land rent	£200.00 (cheque no. 400809)
M King	Stationery	£15.55 (cheque no. 400810)

**Any other business:**

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.17pm

**Date of next meeting: Tuesday July 30<sup>th</sup> 2024, 7.30pm, no meeting in August.**