

## Minutes of Haresfield Parish Council Meeting

Held in the Village Hall on Monday April 24<sup>th</sup> 2023

**Present:** Councillors Nicky Ford, Alan White, Ursula Jeakins, John Hunt

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

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**Apologies:** District councillor Mark Ryder, County councillor Stephen Davis, Cllr Jane Triber

**Chairman:** Vice chair Nicky Ford took the chair

**Public Participation:** Nikki Stoneman, 14 Representatives from Harescombe PC and Harescombe village, Jackie Groves and Robert Hardman

### **Minutes of the last meeting:**

The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chair.

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

- In the recent Secondary School Admissions round 99% of pupils were offered a place at a school of their choice. 92% received their first preference. This is despite a bulge of 265 students this year, a bulge not repeated next year. However I am aware that there have been some local issues and would be interested in hearing of these and helping where appropriate.
- In the recent budget Gloucestershire received £4m for pot hole repair, recognising that this has seen a particularly wet and cold winter.
- Those families hosting Ukrainians have received an additional £15 per month funding. This is paid for by Central Government.

### **Matters arising:**

**Village maintenance:** Clerk has requested further input from the Community Payback scheme. Jackie Groves and Rob Hardman are pursuing options for tree-screening of the view to the incinerator which is an eyesore both to residents and to anyone entering the village. Clerk advised on grant sources.

**Highways, traffic and parking:** Highways, traffic and parking – ongoing concern expressed about heavy traffic on Haresfield lane and deterioration of the roads due to the huge Pegasus and Smiths lorries. Clerk to request Highways rep to attend PC meeting. Highways have questioned the 30 sign on Little Haresfield Lane and after some correspondence have agreed to remove the sign but not the gateway.

**Village Hall / Village activities:** PC expressed huge appreciation for the new cladding and insulation which has been enabled using funding from the Incinerator community grants scheme.

1<sup>st</sup> Haresfield Brownies have notified the Village Hall committee that the pack will close in April after 41 years in the village. This is due to consistently low numbers of girls joining the pack. Councillors expressed sadness at the closure and expressed their thanks to Julia and Chris who have run the pack for many years.

Planning for the Village Coronation Celebration is well underway and posters are to be printed by the clerk to advertise.

**Incinerator / CLG:** At the recent EFW meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> April, further discussion took place regarding times when noise is an issue from the incinerator. Resident has been asked to record specific times and dates so that the UBB data analysed. Residents are invited to send questions or queries to the clerk to raise at future meetings.

**Footpaths/ bins:** Nikki Stoneman attended the meeting in her role as Footpaths Warden, explaining the challenges with reinstating some of the rights of way in and around the village. Of particular difficulty is the blocking of the footpaths at Hayes Farm. Nikki has been working with Neil Christopher; the Head Cotswold Warden for our area; and the Public Rights of Way (PROW) officer on this project. The landowner has been in violation of the public right of way for some time, which violation has also been noted by the Ramblers Association. The SDC footpaths officer has commented that this is an egregious infringement of the right of way. Mr Hinman has not responded at all to communications sent to him about his illegal blocking of this public right of way, and this does not suggest that residents can have confidence that he will confirm to planning regulations regarding his proposed development.

Due to difficulties with installation of the new dog waste bin, this will now be done by a different tradesman. The first of the leaflets detailing a 'stroll around Haresfield' has been uploaded the PC website: [haresfield-pc.co.uk](http://haresfield-pc.co.uk) and a further is in development. Thanks to Nikki Stoneman for her hard work in making this available.

**Merryfield trustees:** Delivery has been made of the ground stabilising matting to be installed on the Merryfields.

**Road closures:** Blanket Closure - TTRO 3839 – The railway crossing and path either side. NOTE: Emergency and pedestrian access will not be maintained. Working Times: From 23:30 on the 30th June 23 until 09:00 on the 09th July 23 And From 22:30 on the 12th August 23 until 09:00 on the 13th August 23

Beacon Lane will be closed from 27/07/2023 to 27/07/2023 to allow internet service repair works by Gigaclear.

### **Planning:**

1. Councillors objected to S.23/0544/FUL Hayes Farm, Harescombe, Gloucester, Gloucestershire. Application Type: Full Planning Application Description: Change of use and conversion of a Dutch Barn to create a venue (sui generis). Erection of a Hobbit House for wedding use, orchard planting, landscaping, six mini golf holes and change of use from agricultural to amenity/event use. EXTENSION granted for comments to 26<sup>th</sup>

Caroline Ractliffe, Chair of Harescombe PC, reported that residents of Harescombe are very unhappy with the proposal, and have submitted a new objection to this proposal. The objections are clearly set out in relation to the Stroud District Plan. The area is an acoustic sound bowl, and noise and light pollution are expected to be offensive. Fireworks and lanterns are bad for farm animals. The village is a very rural location and although a new access road has been built, motorists do not find this using Satnav devices leading to traffic blocking the single lane roads through the village. These problems would be made much worse with an increase of traffic from the cars of wedding guests, and all the commercial traffic associated with catering and hospitality. The proposed number of events (20 per year) are likely to group in the summer months which would be an unacceptable disruption for residents. It was repeatedly stressed that Harescombe is an agricultural village, not an urban centre, and the use of the land for leisure facilities would be entirely inappropriate. Issues around the eco survey were raised, and it was questioned as to whether this has been carried out sufficiently thoroughly. The proposed development area infringes an established public right of way and concern was also expressed regarding an ancient oak which is on this land.

2. Councillors strongly objected to S.21/2579/OUT Symmetry Park Tritax Symmetry planning application at J12

Comments to be submitted to include previous objection with the addition of key notes on the objections below:

We note that the height of the buildings has been reduced from 34m to 22m which is welcome although this is still significantly higher than the neighbouring development at St. Modwens and we would like this height further reduced.

The applicant's response to the consultation with Natural England are dismissive of their concerns and little effort has been made to address them.

The Parish Council would ask the applicant to respond to the consultation response from the owners of The Lodge regarding encroachment onto their land and disturbance to wildlife including bats and newts.

Most significantly, we remain deeply concerned about the impact of increased traffic on M5 Junction 12 and the B4008. At peak times of the day there are already long queues of traffic trying to access the M5 and any increase prior to the planned upgrade of Junction 12 will exacerbate the current issues. The development is forecast by National Highways to generate 2776 2-way daily trips, yet it is suggested that this will not make a significant impact on Junction 12 or the B4008. A more realistic impact assessment should be carried out.

The cost of the proposed upgrade to J12 is estimated at £10m. The applicant is offering a contribution of £179k. This does not equate to a 'reasonable' contribution as requested by National Highways.

We maintain that the improvements to the B4008 and Crosskeys roundabout, plus replacing J12 of the M5 (i.e. the proposed two-bridge design) are essential prerequisites to the safety and operation of the local highways network. The applicant's dismissal of the realistic transport

impacts and financial contributions offered would severely compromise the delivery of the scheme.

3. No objection was raised to Application Number: S.23/0716/ADV Location: Dobbies Garden Centre, Bath Road, Haresfield, Stonehouse. Application Type: Advertisement Application Description: Installation of 3 no. non-illuminated signs

***Correspondence:***

Further correspondence from Mr Roger Cowburn, informing the PC of the content of his most recent email to BT openreach/payphones, this was acknowledged by the clerk.

The parish council have written to express support to neighbouring parishes for the planned Gloucestershire cycle spine route.

Haresfield Cricket Club have notified that following antisocial behaviour the cricket toilets will now be locked.

Haresfield school requested permission to light fires at the woodland classroom at Langet covert under certain conditions. The clerk referred this request to the Woodland Trust, from whom the Covert is leased. The Woodland Trust declined the request as the terms of the lease do not permit fires. The school have also enquired about recycling facilities for the plastic milk bottles used in catering for the schoolchildren, clerk to reply.

***Finance & Clerks Report:***

Cheque payments were agreed and authorised by councillors:

Notification has been received by the government appointed external auditors PKF Littlejohn that the AGAR deadline is Monday 3rd July 2023. Councillors agreed to the appointment of the internal auditor employed for the 2022/23 accounts, Ms D Hill. This appointment is independent from the parish council.

***Any other business:***

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.10pm

**Date of next meeting: The Annual parish council meeting will be held on Monday May 22<sup>nd</sup> 2023, all welcome.**