**Minutes: Haresfield Parish Council Meeting**

**Held in the Village Hall on Monday 28th February 2022**

**Present:** Councillors Charlotte Tilsley, Nicky Ford, Jenny Knight, John Hunt.

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

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***1. Public Participation:*** Ursula Jeakins

***2. Apologies:*** County councillor Stephen Davis, District councillor Mark Andrew Ryder

***3. Minutes of the last meeting:***

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

***4. County Councillors and District Councillor’s Report:*** Cllr Ryder reported via email:

Prototype Fusion Plant: Update - The Severn Edge STEP Fusion nomination is a proposal to host the UK’s first prototype fusion power plant at Oldbury; and an associated science & technology park at Berkeley. In October 2021 we were successful in reaching the final shortlist of just 5 sites identified by the UK Atomic Energy Authority (UKAEA). Severn Edge STEP Fusion nomination passes first assessment – South West Nuclear Hub. We face stiff competition to win this investment which would be worth several £billion over the coming decades and could provide more than 31,000 jobs and an extensive skills programme.

Stroud District Council has been recognised in the top 10 nationwide for its response to the climate emergency.

The Council achieved a joint 10th place out of more than 400 local authorities in Great Britain and Northern Ireland, is rated the fourth-best district council in the country, and is the top performer in Gloucestershire.

Stroudwater Canal “Missing Mile” Planning - There has been a major update by SDC planning and Cotswold Canals to the proposals to restore the so- called “missing mile” of canal from Eastington to Whitminster. The plans include crossing the M5, railway and the provision of a new basin and facilities.

Grantfinder - Stroud District Council now offers a grant search service via the online tool Grant Finder. The powerful online tool carries out bespoke funding searches to suit your organisation or project. Once a search has been set up by an SDC officer, it can be repeated at regular intervals to update you on what is available. To arrange a search with one of the Community Health & Wellbeing Team please email hwb@stroud.gov.uk

***5. Matters arising:***

**Village maintenance:** Councillors agreed to advertise the village litter pick in line with the Keep Britain Tidy campaign, this year entitled One Bag. Picking equipment and bags to be placed in the recycling bin at the front of the hall from 1-10 April. To be advertised separately in the Herald and Residents who might have a litter picker or equipment squirrelled away at home are requested to return it to the village hall during these dates.

The Parish Council extend a big thank you to Resident Darcy Whitlock, who has been litter picking along Mount Lane for his Duke of Edinburgh award. All the work he has done is very much appreciated.

***Highways, traffic and parking:***  Reminder to the village not to park on the ‘H’ white lines – these need to be kept clear for traffic movement in and out of the village.

Mount Lane corner work has been completed and the work appears to have been carried out to a good standard. Clerk has written to Highways to thank them for this.

St Modwen – PC have been invited to visit to tour the units and discuss concerns re the waste found at St. Modwen corner.

***Incinerator & Community liaison group:*** The window for grant applications opens again on 1 April. Note that these need to be for the benefit of the community, and applications need to be linked in some way with the below criteria, further details of which can be found on the website <https://www.ubbgloucestershire.co.uk/community-fund>

* 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.

***Langet Covert:*** The variation of the lease of Langet Covert was signed and duly witnessed. Clerk to return to The Woodland Trust for dating and countersigning.

***Village hall/activities:***  Jubilee Party – planned for Sunday 5th June. If you would like to help with this event in any way please contact Sue Thorpe, Dee Gibson Wain or Caroline Segelov.

***Footpaths/grit bins/bins -*** New grit scoops have been purchased and placed in the grit bins. If people use them, they are kindly asked to replace them in the bins.

***Defibrillator:*** The batteries and pads have been replaced in the defibrillator, located in the village BT phonebox.

***6. Village Hall Focus Group:***The group has not been able to make any progress regarding a possible alternative site for the village hall. They have submitted a report about their activities and meetings and have decided not to continue as a group.

***7. Weather/Severn Trent*:** Breaks in the water mains which caused numerous problems were repaired by Severn Trent. These were due to problems with the pressure valves that caused a knock-on effect with a sequence of breaks in the mains. Councillors identified that some ditches along Haresfield Lane need clearing. PC to notify land owners and to attempt to clarify ownership of the related fields. Councillors agreed that a map showing ownership of all the parish would be useful in addressing problems as they arise. Clerk to look into how to obtain this information.

**8. *Merryfield Trustees:*** Hedging plants have been put in and plans are ongoing to kill the brambles along the Merryfield fences and mulch the ground around the new plants. Councillors discussed a suggestion to replace the Jubilee bench from 1977 and look into any grants available.

**9. *Road and footpath closures:*** Emergency Bridleway Closure: Public Bridleway EHD 17 (Haresfield), also the Cotswold Way from a point adjacent to Ringhill Farm at Ordnance Survey Grid Reference 382312/209214 and then extending in a generally east- north-easterly direction for approximately 1040 metres to OSGR 383242/209439 adjacent to Cliffwell Cottages. The closure is necessary to protect the public from injury from dangerous/unstable trees following damage caused by Storms Eunice and Franklin. This Notice comes into force on the 22nd February 2022 and will continue for up to 21 days. However, if the works to remedy the problem have not been completed during this time scale it will be necessary to either extend the closure by Notice for a further 21 days or make an Order.

***10. Planning***: Symmetry application S.21/2579/OUT As previously reported, the PC has been working with neighbouring councils and a Transportation report by an independent traffic consultant has been submitted on behalf of those parishes. Many objections to the scheme have been submitted, notably by Natural England and Haresfield parish council – which can be found via this link: [https://publicaccess.stroud.gov.uk/online-applications](https://publicaccess.stroud.gov.uk/online-applications/simpleSearchResults.do?action=firstPage)

With regards the concerns on protected views, landscape impact etc, the planning department are well-aware of the sensitivities from the pre-app consultation Parishes submitted. SDC has decided to commission an independent consultant to provide their own landscape assessment. Highways England have requested a delay to the decision, related to the highways impact on J12 and the B4008.

***11.*** ***Electoral Boundary changes:*** The secondary consultation on the proposed new map of constituencies in England will take place from Tuesday 22 February to Monday 4 April 2022. During this consultation, you will be able to provide your feedback on the proposed new constituencies via the consultation website, [bcereviews.org.uk](https://www.bcereviews.org.uk/), by email or letter, or in person during a public hearing. The booking system is now open for public hearings. The PC has previously submitted objections to this change which proposes moving Haresfield (the Hardwicke ward) into the Cotswold District.

***12. Finance & Clerks Report:***

*Cheque payments were agreed and authorised by councillors.*

**Any other business:**

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.17pm

**Date of next meeting: Monday March 28th 2022**