

Minutes of Haresfield Parish Council Meeting

Held in the Village Hall on Monday September 25th 2023

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

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

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Appoint Chair: Vice chair Nicky Ford took the chair

Public Participation: Dee Gibson-Wain

Apologies: County councillor Stephen Davis

Declaration of Interests /Dispensations: none

County Councillors and District Councillor's Report:

Report received from County Councillor Stephen Davies:

GCC has launched a free healthy lifestyle programme for children and families. Funded by GCC and run by BeeZee Bodies it helps educate families on healthy eating.

A national film on Fostering "Any of Us" was launched in Gloucestershire. It covers the journey of Chloe entering fostering.

GCC Libraries have been shortlisted for the annual 2023 Vaisey Awards.

An independent enquiry has been commissioned to look at historic complaints about historic racism in the Gloucestershire Fire Service. These claims date back 20 years.

Gloucestershire firefighters were on the winners podium for the British Firefighter Challenge.

Ofsted inspectors recently conducted a Joint Targeted Area Inspection of the County Council, Police and NHS on the response to the identification of initial need and risk, also known as the "Front Door." The report praises the work done and is very positive.

£9,000 of illegal vapes have been seized by Trading Standards.

Councillor Mark Ryder reported:

Local plan status: Stroud DC is waiting for the response of the planning inspectors with regard to DC's request to pause the local plan process for 6 months. Controversial aspects of this include necessary improvements to the M5 J12, impacting Hardwicke, Whaddon and Symmetry Park as well as other developments in other areas of the county. This affects both housing, community facilities and employment allocation in this area. A planning coordination group between the different parishes has been proposed.

The paved footpath that runs adjacent to the school in front of the Merryfield houses facing the field, has, after some investigations, been recognised as the responsibility of Stroud District Council so they will now take steps to maintain the path.

Response to the Beacon Inn planning application has not yet been determined. Councillors agreed that the clerk write again in support of the application.

Any recent queries to SDC planning department have yet to be addressed because the senior enforcement officer for planning on SDC has left the post and there is no officer in place at the moment.

Matters arising:

Village maintenance: Verge cutting has taken place. The dog waste bin is not yet installed due it being used as a temporary bin replacing the one on the Merryfield, whilst the grass regrows through the recently installed matting.

Incinerator / CLG: Clerk has represented Haresfield at the grant awarding committee meetings where the grants have been allocated and are due to be presented to UBB for sign off.

Woodland Trust: Tree surveys – following advice from GAPTC, we have had 2 quotes for a survey and the PC agreed to go ahead with cheaper quote. Any work identified will be addressed and the school has offered financial support.

Highways, traffic and parking: clerk has followed up drain-cleaning requests. Highways immediately cleared out the drains through the centre of the village and Highways have reported that the Weir drain (the one in the kerb) is now working properly. A request has been made to clear those along Little Haresfield Lane.

It was noted that the Soak-away opposite the Beacon Inn is not effective and PC have requested investigation and improvement. Highways have requested that the PC note when flooding takes place and send photos.

Parking on double yellow lines outside the school is an ongoing issue. Clerk to investigate obtaining eye catching figures; to replace the cones currently used; to be place on the yellow zig-zag area to deter parking by parents. School to be contacted for their requirements and to agree proposed purchase.

Boundary changes:

The Boundary Commission for England has completed a review of Parliamentary constituencies which will impact communities in the Stroud district.

Changes to the Parliamentary boundaries mean that Stroud district will now form part of three parliamentary constituencies, rather than the two it currently does.

1. **Stroud constituency** (76,249 voters) will be formed of 22 Stroud wards.

2. **North Cotswolds constituency** (70,915 voters) will be formed of The Cotswolds, Tewkesbury and four Stroud wards (**Bisley, Hardwicke, Minchinhampton and Painswick and Upton**).
3. **South Cotswolds constituency** (72,856 voters) will be formed of the Cotswold and Wiltshire local authority areas and one ward (Kingswood) from the Stroud district.

The full report including the final recommendations can be found here <https://boundarycommissionforengland.independent.gov.uk/2023-review/>

It concludes: “Despite our thorough consideration of all the wards, we acknowledged that there is no perfect solution that would satisfy all residents of the District of Stroud.”

SDC Acting Returning Officer and Chief Executive Kathy O’Leary added: “Although these changes could alter the Parliamentary constituency that you live in they do not affect which council area you live in, nor the services you receive.”

Merryfield trustees: Coronation Bench has been requested and is on order.

Village hall/activities: report from Dee Gibson-Wain.

Garden maintenance at the village hall has been reviewed. A WhatsApp group for lawn mowing is proposed. The new oven is now in use. It is proposed to repaint the hall porch and to address disability access issues including a grab handle at the entrance and steps onto the stage.

Fundraising; including serving refreshments at the 5k race; has raised over £200 and the Village Hall has a current balance of approx. £5,400.

A grant application for the replacement of the village hall doors has been submitted to UBB Community Liaison Group scheme and has been approved subject to final sign off.

Road closures: Naas Lane, Quedgeley/ Brookthorpe This road will be closed 20th – 24th November to allow for works underneath the railway bridge to facilitate an electric supply to Mount View as part of new housing development for Taylor Wimpey Homes. **EMERGENCY ACCESS WILL BE MAINTAINED**

M5 junction 11 to 12 resurfacing work - 4 September to 10 October 2023
Work will take place overnight Monday to Friday

26 September to 10 October – M5 southbound J11a to J12, overnight, Monday to Friday. Lane closures from 7:30pm to 6am. Please note, closure times are subject to traffic flow and may vary depending on volume of traffic.

Planning: S.21/2579/OUT. The application has been resubmitted for the Hybrid planning application for employment development for B8 (Storage or Distribution) Uses, ancillary offices, energy centre, landscaping, fitness trail and amenity areas and new access.

- i) Outline for whole site (with all matters reserved except access)
- ii) Full application for Units 1, 2 for B8 (Storage or Distribution) Uses and the energy centre (all

matters submitted). Councillors noted that a response has already been made and to reiterate our comments re the latest application.

Correspondence:

Mrs A Williams requests any updates from PC in relation to issues of heavy traffic using Haresfield Lane, outside the prescribed weight limit for the road. Despite many requests for official response to PC enquiries, there has been no progress in this matter, and PC continues to have concerns relating to proposed future developments, for example at Whaddon. PC to review steps taken thus far on this matter. Clerk to complete the ongoing log of actions taken and correspondence received on the matter and to report back.

A Williams has brought to the attention of the PC the existence of an App through which problems with traffic through the village can be reported. The app is called *Community Matters*, and you can use the 'Report Anything Else' part of the menu to report a problem of inappropriate traffic on the lane, and attach pictures.

Hedgehogs R Us Highway Project - PC supports the hedgehog programme and it was noted that some residents have confirmed healthy hedgehogs in residence in the village.

Aimee Jones contacted PC regarding safe routes for horse riding in the village – Aimee invited to attend PC meeting to discuss these concerns.

PC acknowledges receipt of further correspondence received from Mr Cowburn regarding the telephone box. PC proposes that ownership of the telephone box be conceded to Mr Cowburn.

Finance & Clerks Report: Insurance - Clerk has researched insurance rates and PC approved a change of insurer for the next 3 years.

Transactions/payments agreed:

Cheque payments were agreed and authorised by councillors.

Any other business: PC notes with disappointment that discarded Nitrous Oxide cannisters have been found outside the school on a regular basis. The use of this substance is illegal, and the PC strongly opposes this sort of antisocial behaviour, which is also a danger to children playing and to traffic on the roads.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.45pm

Date of next meeting: Monday October 30th 2023