

## Draft Minutes of Haresfield Parish Council Meeting

**Held in the Village Hall on Tuesday July 29th 2025**

**Present:** Councillors Alan White, Nicky Ford, John Hunt, County councillor John Patient

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

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**Appoint Chair:** Councillor Ford took the chair

**Public Participation:** none

**Apologies:** District Cllr Mark Ryder, councillor Ursula Jeakins

**Declaration of Interests /Dispensations:** none

### **County Councillors and District Councillor's Reports:**

Cllr Patient reported: The current timetable for Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) as follows:

28.11.25          Deadline for submission of LGR proposals including a preferred devolution arrangement

Mid 2026          Government LGR Decision

May 2027          Possible shadow elections to new unitary authorities

May 2028          Possible vesting of new councils and abolition of existing councils

Unknown          Election of Regional Mayors

Opportunity to implement 20 mph speed limits

Over the summer, GCC will be writing to all parish and town councils as part of a wider review of speed limits across the area. This will include an opportunity for parish councils to submit formal requests for 20mph speed limits or other related Traffic Regulation Orders (TROs).

To ensure all requests are considered consistently and fairly, Highways kindly ask that any proposals be submitted through that upcoming process. Further details will be provided in the correspondence to councils in due course. NOTE: Clerk has already responded to the SDC email and registered to receive updates.

If there are roads which the council feel need to be switched to 20mph, the starting point will be establishing the average current speed. This is required to determine whether or not additional speed management will be needed.

### **Cabinet 18 June 2025**

A recording is available at [https://gloucestershire.public-i.tv/core/portal/webcast\\_interactive/996056](https://gloucestershire.public-i.tv/core/portal/webcast_interactive/996056)

This includes more detail as listed below:

Public questions on buses. <https://gloucestershire.moderngov.co.uk/mgConvert2PDF.aspx?ID=110205>

Councillor questions on the following:

- Social value
- Inclusion and the prioritisation of high academic attainment
- The absence of figures for the % of unclassified roads where maintenance should be considered.

<https://gloucestershire.moderngov.co.uk/mgConvert2PDF.aspx?ID=110206>

Report from Fire Scrutiny Committee

<https://gloucestershire.moderngov.co.uk/mgConvert2PDF.aspx?ID=109853> Fire Scrutiny Committee recommended, unanimously, that the change to the shift pattern for full-time fire fighters be abandoned. This was noted by cabinet and the issue has been referred for arbitration.

Finance, performance and risk monitoring report

<https://gloucestershire.moderngov.co.uk/mgConvert2PDF.aspx?ID=109609> An explanation of the Council's financial position at the end of the financial year 2024/25.

Community and Adult Skills Programme

<https://gloucestershire.moderngov.co.uk/mgConvert2PDF.aspx?ID=109834> Recommends the investment of £2.7m into Community Learning and Adult Skills Programmes during 2025-2026.

No report was received from Councillor Mark Ryder.

### ***Matters arising:***

***Village maintenance:*** The spring on the gate to the Merryfields has been removed due to the constant repairs required. It has been reported that a group of children have been seen jumping on the cricket ground covers. Councillors concern for the safety of the children is uppermost, however these covers are the property of the Cricket Club and people are reminded please not to play on them.

***Infrastructure Group:*** Cllr White attended the last meeting and Cllr Ford will attend the next scheduled for 20/8. The group aims to present a cohesive response by local parishes to the issues regarding the lack of infrastructure in the locality, with the initial action to write and approve a joint letter signed by each parish and sent to all the relevant authorities, councillors and MP's.

***Village Hall:*** Next Chatters will be Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> August and a Harvest Chatters is being planned for October. The Coffee morning fundraiser for the Children's Society will be held on Saturday October 4<sup>th</sup>.

***Energy from Waste & CLG:*** The next meeting is scheduled for 30<sup>th</sup> September, if any parishioner has any questions or queries regarding the plant or running of it, they are invited to email the clerk who represents Haresfield parish on the committee. The grant applications are slowly being received, any group who wishes to submit one has until the end of August to do so. Details can be found here:  
<https://gloucestershireefw.co.uk/community-fund>

**Highways, traffic and parking:** Clerk will prepare and submit the winter plan, including the request for bagged salt: deadline for which is 22<sup>nd</sup> August. Highways have been asked to consider traffic calming measures due to the increased speed at which vehicles are travelling through the village.

**Biodiversity:** An order has been placed for Barn Owl and Tawny Owl boxes in consultation with Rich Gibbs. The invasive Himalayan Balsam plant is present at many locations in the village, and thanks to those who have been removing it. If you think it may be near your property, please contact the clerk.

**Merryfield trustees:** Councillors are broadly in support of the Sri Lankan festival which has been held on the Merryfield for the last two years. Concerns have been raised regarding the parking and noise on previous occasions; however, no request has been received to hold the festival this year. It was agreed that should a request be received to use the MF in future, these issues would be taken into consideration.

**Road closures:** Temporary Road Closure - Blanket - Haresfield - Stroud - 12/08/2025 until 14/08/2025 Ref/85468. Description A430 Bath Road, Stonehouse Bath Road, Hardwicke B4008 Bath Road, Stonehouse Haresfield 450m Trial holes in preparation of J12 Improvement Scheme B4008 Bath Road, Stonehouse A430 Bath Road, Haresfield Mount Farm Lane, Stonehouse Haresfield 175m Trial holes in preparation of J12 Improvement Scheme. The said roads are expected to be closed during the hours of 20:00 and 06:00 from 12th August 2025.

**Correspondence:** Concerningly, fires have been deliberately started at Langet Covert on two separate occasions. These fires have been reported to the police. Please be vigilant and report any concerns to the clerk. Clerk contacted Mat Brisland, the local community officer, regarding this and other recent anti-social behaviour, Mat has been invited and accepted our invitation to the September PC meeting. The vandalism is to be reported to the Woodland Trust, the covert owners, from whom the PC leases the woodland. Firefighting equipment is to be re-installed there as required. Signs have been erected stating that the land is private property and that wildlife cameras are in use there. Clerk to meet Mrs Bacon, school head, to discuss the actions taken to address the issues at the covert.

Gloucestershire County Council has written to parish, town and district councils requesting expressions of interest in its community is 20s and Safer Roads initiatives, clerk has completed the online form. Residents are being asked to confirm electoral register information and this request is to be promoted.

**Finance & Clerks Report:** The Annual Internal Audit Report and for 2024/25 was discussed and contents of the internal auditor's report were noted. Clerk to address the points raised in the report and present at the September PC meeting. Certificate of Exemption submitted to the external auditors PKF Littlejohn by the agreed July deadline.

**Transactions/payments agreed:**

*Cheque payments were agreed and authorised by councillors.*

**Any other business:**

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.05 pm

**Date of next meeting:** Tuesday September 30<sup>th</sup> 2025