

Minutes of Haresfield Parish Council Meeting

Held in the Village Hall on Tuesday 30th June 2026

Present: Councillors Alan White, Nicky Ford, John Hunt, Tina Holbrook, Charlotte Tilsley, County councillor John Patient

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

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Public Participation: Four members of the public attended the meeting to discuss the 'call for sites' item on the published agenda. This is an early public consultation held by a local council to identify land available for future development. It invites landowners, developers, and the public to suggest parcels of land that could potentially accommodate housing, commercial spaces, or community facilities. It was noted that many sites around the village, some within the village boundary, have been put forward as potential sites for development. These include The Orchard and the field behind the Merryfield (to the eastern boundary). The full map can be found here: <https://www.stroud.gov.uk/environment/planning-and-building-control/planning-strategy/new-local-plan-2026/call-for-sites-2026/> (The map that includes Haresfield can be found on the North Cluster). Discussions centred around the likelihood of any of the sites being accepted as viable by SDC and the appetite of the village for more housing.

It was noted that councillors had supported planning application: S.26/0098/P3Q Location: The Dairy House, The Round House, Haresfield, Stonehouse. Application Type: PD - Agri to residential Description: Change of use of three agricultural buildings to 7 dwellings.

David Keyte, planning consultant and resident, is to represent the parish council regarding the above. Mr Keyte noted that there is a presumption in favour of sustainable development, however this is unlikely to apply in Haresfield due to the lack of infrastructure to support any further housing.

Apologies: Cllr Ryder

Declaration of Interests /Dispensations: none

County Councillors and District Councillor's Reports:

Cllr Patient reported:

County News

- New supported lodgings service registered with Ofsted; hosts urgently needed.
- Gloucester Nightstop seeking more volunteer hosts for emergency youth accommodation.
- GCC's three children's homes rated 'Good' by Ofsted.
- A435 Cycleway (Cheltenham–Bishop's Cleeve) opening event announced.
- New traffic enforcement powers launching at 15 sites to improve safety and reduce congestion.

- GCC publishes report on how housing quality affects health across Gloucestershire.

Consultations

- Public views sought on future SEND provision.
- Consultation open on future transport strategy for Gloucestershire.
- Feedback invited on road safety proposals for Cheltenham.

Full Council

- New Chair: Cllr Sarah Hands (Lib Dem); Vice Chair: Cllr Steve Robinson (Labour).
- Cllr Joe Harris resigns; replaced by Cllr Mark Harris in Cabinet.
- Three motions passed unanimously: Housebuilding strategy (with amendments on affordable housing & infrastructure); Male suicide prevention and Fairer SEND funding.

Cabinet Decisions

- Approval to enter DfE agreement for Tailored Learning & Adult Skills 2026–27.
- Approval of substance use grant funding for 2026–2029 to support treatment services.

Community Funding

- Grassroots Neighbourhood Fund: £14,000 of your £20,000 allocation already requested for Haresfield & Upton projects.

Libraries

- Library Challenge 2026 launching in July; theme: *Tales Through Time*.
- Councillors encouraged to promote the challenge locally and on social media.

Other News

- Library of Things expanded to Quedgeley library, significant CO₂ and cost savings reported.

Councillors agreed to apply, via Cllr Patient, for a reduction in the speed limit to 50 or 40 along the Haresfield Court Lane. Clerk to action and include photographs of the recent RTA. Clerk to email new headteacher of the school to discuss PC issues and supporting the school.

District Councillor Mark Ryder reported via email:

Transitional Arrangements – Local Government Reorganisation: The extraordinary meeting at Ebley Mill on 10th June was called specifically to look at the transitional arrangements for the new unitary authority(ies) in Gloucestershire. Whilst the Minister of Housing, Communities and Local Government will make a final decision on the arrangements, the seven existing Councils have an opportunity to present their recommendations.

One of the responses will impact Parish and Town Councils that you should note and that is whether the next Parish and Town Council elections are brought forward to May 2027 to coordinate with the unitary elections. This will be discussed at the extraordinary meeting, however with the lack of time to consult on the matter there is broad agreement in principle. Our proposed response is that the ministry should consult with Parish and Town Councils of Gloucestershire before making their decision.

Other than funding being approved for works to open the Stroud Lido this summer, there is very little else to report on since the last report.

Minutes of the last meeting: The minutes of the previous meetings dated 28th April 2026 and 26th May 2026 were agreed as true records and signed by the Chair.

Matters arising:

Village maintenance: The defibrillator is awaiting the fitting of a new box and the installation of an electricity supply to provide lighting as previously agreed.

Village Hall/ village activities: The proposed composting workshop is currently being advertised, councillor Holbrook to book and advise date.

Energy from Waste & CLG: Grant applications are being invited – deadline August 2026.

Highways, traffic and parking: With the multiple ongoing issues, Clerk and Cllr Hunt are meeting Yakub Mulla, Highways manager to explore options and solutions. Topics to include: White H markings; parking and misuse of yellow zig zags; potholes and heavy traffic.

GRCC consultation proposal: Following various meetings with Barbara Pond, GRCC, councillors discussed the pros and cons of holding a consultation and concluded that the parish council will hold a parish consultation event in the autumn, with our planning representative, Dave Keyte. Ms Pond to be thanked for her input and a donation to GRCC be made in respect of this. Arrangements to be made and a date will be advertised for a village open morning following liaison with SDC. Local landowners to be invited to represent their views.

Review and adoption of the Parish and Town Council Charter: carried forward to July meeting.

Biodiversity: Working with the Church authorities and tower captain, Rich Gibbs has constructed and installed swift boxes inside the church tower. Clerk to attend an SDC tree Management workshop re management of Langet Covert.

Merryfield trustees: Councillor Hunt has offered to liaise with trustees regarding the installation of safety netting/matting in the entranceway of the Merryfield from the Southern corner adjacent to the gate. It was suggested that a grant application to UBB be made to cover the costs.

Road closures: 1. temporary closure of Beacon Lane (ref 89147) July 2-3, 2026. Closure needed for sewer repair works between Malthouse Farm and Brides Cottage. 2. Gloucestershire Highways advising A38/A430 night resurfacing works start July 2nd. Works occur 20:00–07:00, proposed July 2nd–July 13th (approx. 10 nights).

Website: Ongoing issues with the website provide have meant that some documents on the site are not downloadable, clerk to address this issue.

Planning: Councillors objected to application S.26/0843/FUL Location: Tump Farm, Edge, Stroud, Gloucestershire. Application Type: Full Planning Application Description: Erection of a self-build dwelling (Class C3). The objection is to be made on the grounds that it is outside the settlement boundary and is contrary to planning policy.

Correspondence: The PC has been notified that the bridleway to Cromwell Stone from Beacon Lane is overgrown and it is asked that the PC take steps to locate the landowner and approach them to make it passable. Clerk to action.

Councillor Patient asked, on behalf of Mark Heywood, whether the parish is still in favour of a one-way system to the Hunts Grove development, barred back from. Councillors discussed the question and concluded that given no correspondence had ever been received from a member of the public in favour of two-way traffic, then the decision voted for previously still stands.

Finance & Clerks Report:

ANNUAL GOVERNANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY:

- i. Review and approval of Annual Governance Statement
- ii. Review and approval of Accounting Statements

Transactions/payments agreed:

Cheque payments were agreed and authorised by councillors.

HMRC	PAYE	£622.60 (cheque no.400972)
Ms M King	Administration to the council Apr-June	£1,852.15 (cheque no.400973)
Ms M King	Stationery	£39.11 (cheque no.400841)

Any other business:

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.45pm

Date of next meeting: Tuesday 28th July 2026. No meeting in August.