

## **Draft Minutes of Haresfield Parish Council Meeting**

**Held in the Village Hall on Tuesday February 25th 2025**

**Present:** Councillors Alan White, Ursula Jeakins, John Hunt, County councillor Stephen Davis

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

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**Appoint Chair:** Councillor Alan White took the chair

**Public Participation:**

**Apologies:** District councillor Mark Ryder, Cllr Nicky Ford.

**Declaration of Interests /Dispensations:** none

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

Cllr Davis reported:

- £3m is being invested in new 200 place Special School in Abbeydale
- There has been a relaunch of 'Made in Gloucestershire' with a special focus on rural food and drink producers.
- Gloucestershire Fire and Rescue Service is looking to recruit 'on call' firefighters. Anyone interest in in applying should contact GCC.
- New Chief Executive has been appointed: Jo Walker.
- An additional 6 schools are to have solar panels including Eastington Primary School. Cllr Davis has visited schools and answered probing questions from children's environmental groups.
- GCC has launched a new Corporate Parenting Scheme, for children who have previously been in care. The Care Leavers service has had a very positive report from an Ofsted visit.
- Build Back Better still has funding available, so applications can be made, eg for Village Hall need.
- Building of A38 second access into Hunts Grove has begun.
- Crest have new plans for community centre and football fields for Hunts Grove. Though these fall short of the original plans, there is scope for additional facilities when they are in place.
- Haresfield Lane closure having been confirmed as legal, signage has been changed to help prevent people going up the lane and doing U-turns.
- Update on unitary authorities. There will be elections in May, as planned, and in 2027, a shadow unitary authority will be formed. Debates as to whether there will be one or two authorities to cover Gloucestershire are yet to be concluded.

**Minutes of the last meeting:** The minutes of the previous meetings dated November 2024 and January 2025 were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chair.

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

***Village maintenance:*** Clerk has met Tom Barratt, Flood Risk Management Engineer from Stroud District Council, to discuss the ongoing flooding issues along the whole of the Beacon Lane to the railway crossing. Clerk is working with Charlotte Tilsley to map the area and provide information to Mr Barratt as requested. Gary Wilson is working alongside re the flooding issues from a Highways perspective.

Little Haresfield Road side of the path from the railway crossing is reportedly very muddy and could do with clearing. Clerk to investigate whether Payback Team could help with this.

Yellow zigzag repainting – this has been requested and we are informed that it can't be carried out until the new financial year, clerk to ensure this is raised again with Highways for the April allocation.

Grit bin on Beacon Lane which was crushed by a Highways vehicle: clerk is chasing Highways for replacement.

Village Spring Clean, as part of the Great British Spring Clean – from Sat 1 March – notice has been sent out to village mailing list.

Cllr Hunt reported that the school alarm has been going off at night regularly – Mrs Bacon has been informed.

### ***Village Hall/village activities:*** report from Sue Thorpe:

- New noticeboard – installation has been delayed because of the weather but it is hoped this will be up by the end of March. PC is paying first £1000 for this and Village Hall to cover remaining cost.
- Payback team are going to cut grass at the church, VH committee to investigate whether they can do VH grass as well
- Coronation Bench – concern was raised about whether the fixings are secure enough, concrete standings to be investigated.
- Grant has been received for work to seal up the old kitchen door and planning for this is in progress.
- Bookings for the VH are generally good, though we have lost the second Pilates group due to low numbers.
- Income for the year has been steady and expenses have been covered by income.
- VH would benefit from a new fridge freezer (and possibly a new microwave). Application to be made to the SDC Build Back Better fund.

***Energy from Waste & CLG:*** It was noted that the air monitoring equipment at Village Hall does not seem to be working. Clerk to seek advice on removal/replacement.

***Network Rail:*** h Have done some tidying following the repeated requests, but haven't removed the plastic bags which has continued to deteriorate. Clerk to continue chasing.

**Highways, traffic and parking:** Gary Wilson to be approached re drain clearing and the promised preplacement grit bin. Cllr Hunt drew attention to the poor condition of road signs in the village. Cllr Davis advised that requests for replacement or cleaning of road signs can be requested via Fix My Street, using What3words for locations. Clerk has attempted to contact our allocated PCSO to support parking issues in the village, however there has been no response and this is being pursued.

**Biodiversity:** Rich Gibbs raised money from the sale of his Haresfield calendar, which councillors thanked him for. The money raised covers the cost of an owl box, councillors voted to pay for P&P on this and discussed applying to the EFW grants to fund several more.

**Merryfield trustees:** PC agreed to share some funding with the trustees for their work relating to the upkeep of the Merryfield. The plinth for Caroline Segelov's memorial bench has been installed, clerk has the plinth and has asked if the family wish to have refreshments after the planned blessing. Trustees have informed the pc that they have ordered the signs presented at the last PC meeting, reminding users that the Merryfield is private land and visitors should use the public footpaths.

**Road closures:** TTRO 4610 **Bath Road, Haresfield** This road will be closed from 2200 10/04/2025 to 0600 11/04/2025 to allow for loop cutting work by National Highways. Emergency and pedestrian access will be maintained.

**Planning:** S.25/0221/VAR Symmetry Park Bath Road Haresfield Stonehouse Gloucestershire Proposal Variation of all planning conditions from S.21/2579/OUT - 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) PC has submitted a full response to this application, but is still seeking clarification regarding the plan for road improvements for this development.

PC had no objection to Application Number: S.25/0194/P3R Location: Pool Farm, Haresfield, Stonehouse, Gloucestershire. Application Type: PD - agricultural to flexible use Description: Change of use of agricultural building to flexible commercial use - Class E (offices).

**Correspondence:** David O'Bryen raised concerns over the continued closure of Haresfield Lane. This has now been clarified by GCC roadspace as legally closed, although no date has been indicted for the re-opening of it.

**Finance & Clerks Report:** councillors agreed that clerk appoint internal auditor, Ms D Mason, appointed in previous years.

**Transactions/payments agreed:** *Cheque payments were agreed and authorised by councillors:*

GAPTC	SUBSCRIPTION	£99.56 (400832)
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**Any other business:**

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.45pm

**Date of next meeting: Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> 2025.** This is the Annual Parish Meeting, and will include reports from any groups active in the village. Next Parish council meeting: Tuesday April 29<sup>th</sup> 2025.