

Minutes of Haresfield Parish Council Meeting

Held in the Village Hall on Tuesday 27th February 2024

Present: Councillors Nicky Ford, Ursula Jeakins, Alan White, John Hunt

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

.....

Appoint Chair: Vice chair Nicky Ford took the chair

Public Participation: Nigel Card, Neal Thorpe.

Apologies: District councillor Mark Ryder

Declaration of Interests /Dispensations: none

County Councillors and District Councillor's Report: None received

Minutes of the last meeting:

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

Matters arising:

Village maintenance: PC commended everyone who took part in the 'Love your village' litter pick in Valentine's week. It was noted that the Council also did some litter clearance in the layby. Thanks to Sue Thorpe for moving the black bags to the roadside ensuring that they were then collected by the dustmen. Thanks also to Fiona and Jenny for cleaning the village signs. Special thanks to Cllr Hunt for repairing the bench on the Merryfield and weatherproofing it too.

Cllr Hunt also reported a drain that is not working – clerk to notify drain cleaning service. It was noted that fly tipping has been on the increase recently, particularly up Beacon Lane, and thanks to Ivor for addressing this.

Highways, traffic and parking: Clerk met with Gary Wilson, Highways Manager, regarding the possible locations for the solar variable speed signs (VAS) that we have a grant application into GCC for. Gary has approved the possible locations; all of which need to be within the 30mph limits; and our application is still in process. Cllr Hunt also drew attention to pot holes on Haresfield Lane which need urgent attention.

Village hall/activities: update from Neal Thorpe on behalf of the Village Hall Committee

- Village Hall finances are sound – last year we broke even on costs. Although we lost revenue when the Brownies left, other rentals have begun and rental funding is on the increase. More people are using the hall, which reflects an appreciation of all that has been done to improve the space.

- A grant from UBB was received for the UBB grant for the new double-glazed doors and these are considered a great success, making the heating more efficient and creating a friendly approach for people coming to the hall.
- An application is proposed to Greener Gloucester to replace the lighting This would reduce the carbon footprint (replace with led lights) and the energy cost. (Also, replacement fluorescent lights are no longer available after this month) It is planned to change the sockets to double sockets.
- The committee has been raising funds for new PC noticeboard. £500 has been raised to date.
- VH Committee would be keen to engage help, if possible, from the Community Payback team from Leyhill Prison to do some clearing in VH gardens and potentially repaint the front of the hall. Clerk to make enquiries.
- The UBB grant was accidentally paid to PC instead of to the Village Hall committee. PC agreed to refund the payment. Neal Thorpe to notify clerk of the exact amount and clerk will move money to the correct account.

Councillors proposed donating £1,000 towards the purchase of a new village noticeboard. Neal Thorpe accepted the offer on behalf of the village hall committee.

Incinerator / CLG: In advance of the grant window, which runs between Easter and August, an application has been made to the fund by the Lower Green resident group.

Biodiversity: Following the request in the last meeting, Rich Gibbs has come forward to help the Parish Council with the biodiversity agenda, for which councillors expressed grateful thanks. Clerk met with Rich who made a number of suggestions which will be used in developing the required LNAP. Clerk to identify grant opportunities to fund some of the suggestions. These include a suggestion to replace the grass on the Millennium stone corner with yellow rattle; introducing nest boxes for bats, owls and birds; Log piles/Bug hotels placed in suitable locations around the parish; identifying tree planting opportunities and inviting the school to be part of the project.

D Day celebrations: Clerk has spoken with Mark Heywood who has expressed support for the event and the support of Ian Exton who will position the brazier and provide fuel. Clerk to liaise with the National Trust regarding positioning the brazier in an acceptable place.

Footpaths/ bins: Martin Hartley has modified the stile next to The College to include a moveable slat to allow dogs to pass through. Councillors expressed their appreciation.

Langets Covert: Nigel Card expressed the following concerns:

- There is a large area of degradation of the Covert around the school classroom, extensive trampling of the ground and areas of mud in places where there would otherwise be bluebells emerging.
- Large numbers of children using the site leading to this damage may not be compatible with due respect for the local environment, and a recognition that this woodland is also for the enjoyment of the whole village.

- Some recreational devices have been installed including ropes or strapping which raise health and safety issues and it is not clear that these are in compliance with the terms of the lease from the Woodland Trust.
- There is a high noise level which is intrusive for local wildlife and in particular in the nesting season, which has started early this year.

The terms of the lease are to be checked and clerk to contact the school with a view to mitigating the impact of the woodland classroom, which councillors agree is a useful resource for the school.

Housing Needs Survey: GRCC has approached the PC with a view to sharing the report from the recent survey sent to every household. They proposed attending a meeting to discuss next steps and a walk-around the parish with councillors. Prior to committing to this, councillors requested the clerk to ask for the report and the percentage figure of completion.

Planning:

Application Number: S.23/2428/OUT Location: Land At Whaddon, Gloucester, Gloucestershire, Application Type: Outline Planning Application Description: Outline application for up to 2,550 new dwellings (Class C3) with supporting infrastructure creation of 3 new access points from the A4173 and 1 new access point from Naas Lane. All matters reserved apart from access. PC is satisfied that no further action is currently needed from Haresfield PC in relation to this application. PC support the ongoing objections from other local PCs.

Application Number: S.21/2579/OUT Tritax Symmetry Javelin Park Bath Road Haresfield, Stonehouse, 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). This application could go to committee in April.

Formal responses are in from both National Highways and GCC Highways. PC has been approached to participate and contribute to a private traffic survey relating to J12, but is not convinced this is worthwhile since we have been advised by Cllr Ryder that the planning authority rarely takes a different position from Highways when weighing up their recommendation for approval or objection. We are seeking clarification from County Councillor regarding the County's position in relation to the proposed mitigation plan (with a short length of extra lane leading to the junction). PC does not consider this mitigation is adequate and does not support permission for the Tritax development to go ahead.

Hunts Grove Farmhouse Triangle. Hunts Grove extension proposal – PC has been approached by Copperfield, the company submitting the application and informed that new plans are to be submitted re the triangle. Copperfield is requesting a meeting with councillors during the planning process to allow councillors to see the plans in more detail, together with an opportunity to ask questions of the agents.

Correspondence: Some residents have contacted PC expressing concern regarding the tree that was cut down on the Merryfield. Clerk to contact Merryfield Trustees regarding any proposals for replacement of the tree.

Finance & Clerks Report:

Elections – Taking place on May 2nd for Police and Crime Commissioner and Local Government as well as parish councillors. The elections will be the first all-out elections across the district with Voter ID. Clerk has completed arrangements for ballot screens to be delivered.

All four existing parish councillors agreed to stand for re-election. Two spaces remain on the Parish Council and we are keen to see them filled. Notice to be entered in Herald to encourage candidates to come forward.

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

Any other business: There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.40pm

Date of next meeting: Annual Parish Meeting Tuesday March 25th 2024