

Minutes of Haresfield Parish Council Meeting

Held in the Village Hall on Tuesday December 2nd 2025

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

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

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Appoint Chair: Cllr White took the chair.

Public Participation: None

Apologies: County councillor John Patient, Cllr Ford

Declaration of Interests /Dispensations: none

County Councillors and District Councillor's Reports:

Report received from Cllr Patient via email included:

Liberal Democrats launched their council strategy for 2025–2029. The Green Group voted to support the strategy while promising to push for greater ambition on the environment and social justice.

A vote taken at November's Full Council meeting marked a major step towards the biggest change in local government for more than 50 years, as the Council voted to support the single unitary option of LGR. This decision was ratified at Cabinet, who agreed to submit the single unitary proposal to Government.

Gloucestershire County Council is set to approve the next stage of work to develop a business case and early delivery steps for a new Mass Rapid Transit system in Gloucestershire.

Gloucestershire County Council has been assessing the risk of climate change to the county, in partnership with Climate Leadership Gloucestershire. See <https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/gcc-news/news-november-2025/new-report-highlights-key-risks-to-county-from-climate-change/>

Minutes of last meeting dated October 28th 2025 were agreed and signed by the chair.

Matters arising:

Village maintenance – PC discussed the maintenance of the defibrillator. Clerk reminded councillors that the device is registered with The Circuit, which requires a check to be reported every 90 days. Clerk to check whether a service is needed and any other maintenance required in addition to the current regular check of the electrical function.

Borange and Neal Thorpe are waiting for suitable weather to light up our Village Christmas Tree for the festive season.

Highways, traffic and parking: Parking problems by school much alleviated by use of parking reminder signs. Clerk to contact Haresfield School head re a few cars still repeatedly ignoring the signs. Clerk to request information from Highways regarding the progress of the Haresfield Lane road connection and the plan for the traffic lights at the roundabout with Bristol Road.

Infrastructure meetings: Several meetings of the group have been held, with all parish & town councils reporting similar problems. Group representatives met with the MP Alex McIntyre who agreed that all Government efforts are currently on jkt 9 & 10 Alex was going to report these concerns to relevant people and authorities. However, it was accepted that central Government has limited powers as all planning falls to local authorities, and as we have witnessed in recent years, Stroud is placing large numbers of its housing allocation on the Stroud / Gloucester boundary.

Village Hall / village activities: Carols around the Tree at 6pm, led by Lisa Gibbs and Maddy King, followed by refreshments at the VH provided by Sue Thorpe on Monday 22 December. All welcome to either. Christmas Chatters is on 12 December, 12-2 in the village hall, soup and cake along with a raffle.

Defibrillator training: Date now given as Monday 12 Jan. Three residents have responded as available for this date, and PC has agreed to pay for their training. Clerk to notify these volunteers and the clerk to Harescombe.

Merryfield trustees: PC has offered to fund the soil for the areas needing regrassing. No response has been received from the Trustees and it is assumed that this will be carried out in the Spring when the weather is more suitable for planting.

The proposed trees to replace the hedge have not been able to be sourced, so this project is on hold for now. Martin Hartley leading.

Biodiversity: Clerk has reported on village projects to SDC as required. We await delivery of the new Owl boxes from the monies secured by the generous grant and consideration is being given to their placement

Rich Gibbs has visited Church regarding installing swift boxes in the church tower. This plan has been approved by the PCC and an application will be made to the EFW grant committee for the 2026 round of funding.

Road closures: TTRO 6016: Please be advised of the following closure: Road from Colethrop Lane to Pool Farm, Haresfield This road will be closed from 02/02/2026 to 15/02/2026 to allow for infrastructure installation by BT. Emergency and pedestrian access will be maintained.

Planning:

1. Councillors raised no objection to S.25/2174/FUL Hayes Farm proposal

2. Councillors welcomed this development in principle. S.25/1929/P3Q-PD-Agricultural to residential The Dairy House, The Round House, Haresfield Change of use – 3 agricultural buildings to 7 dwelling houses.

PC did not receive usual consultation documents for the planning proposal for this. Notice seen on the property boundary. Clerk has been in touch with Planning to see further details of the proposal, and is advised that there will be a further opportunity to consult with SDC on this application.

Correspondence:

Community infrastructure levy is available for use and council has a further year to spend the £3. PC proposed offering to fund the school traffic signs for parking control on the corner outside the school. It was proposed that a new Gloucestershire flag was purchased to replace the damaged one, councillors discussed the cost of this and Councillor Jeakins offered to look at options.

Finance & Clerks Report:

Budget: Clerk presented the figures which councillors considered and made a decision to freeze the Parish precept at the 2024-25 level.

Cheques: Cheque payment was agreed and authorised by councillors:

M King clerk salary July-Sept 2025 £1795.43 (400961)

Date of next meeting: 27th January 2026

A warm **Thank You** to all those who help in every way in and around our parish – often unnoticed. We sincerely appreciate all you do.

Merry Christmas to one and all from the Parish Council. We have vacancies for two councillors and welcome anyone to come to a meeting and see what councillors do and the commitment required.