

Minutes of Haresfield Parish Council Meeting

Held in the Village Hall on Tuesday October 28th 2025

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

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

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Appoint Chair: Councillor Ford took the chair

Public Participation: Mark Hayward

Apologies: County councillor John Patient

Declaration of Interests /Dispensations: none

County Councillors and District Councillor’s Reports:

Cllr Patient reported via email:

County council Children’s Services judged ‘Good’ overall following Ofsted inspection.

Government responds to Green Group motion regarding the nationalisation of Thames Water. Emma Hardy, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs has responded to the Green Group motion from July’s Full Council meeting regarding the case for nationalising Thames Water and the wider UK water industry. The response can be read here [ministerial-response-to-motion-959.pdf](#)

Connect to Work launches in Gloucestershire: Gloucestershire County Council announces the launch of the ‘Connect to Work’ scheme which officially started operating in July 2025. Funded by the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP), Connect to Work is one of a series of measures which aims to support people back into work.

Council creates over 1,500 new childcare places in Gloucestershire: GCC has helped to create over 1,500 new childcare places since April 2024, including 526 Early Years places and 1,128 Wraparound childcare places.

Have your say on Gloucestershire’s digital future: GCC is inviting residents, businesses and community groups to help shape a new vision for the county’s digital future. Public engagement will run until Monday 20 October and residents can provide their opinions online. See [Have your say on Gloucestershire’s digital future | Gloucestershire County Council](#)

Local Government Reorganisation Update: Proposals for the LGR are continuing to be considered by each of the seven councils. A public consultation on the options:

- A single unitary council for the whole county
- Two unitary councils split east (Cheltenham, Tewkesbury and Cotswold) and west (Gloucester, Forest of Dean and Stroud)
- A ‘Greater Gloucester’ unitary council plus a unitary council for the remainder of the county.

This is expected to be run by government early in 2026 before a decision is likely to be made by mid-2026. For more information, please visit the dedicated local government reorganisation site: <https://futuregloucestershire.org.uk/>

GCC Cabinet has approved the following:

- An investment of £1.1 million to create a new Grassroots Neighbourhood Fund that will allow each county councillor to invest £20,000 into local grassroots projects.
- The appointment of an external improvement partner to support Gloucestershire County Council's (GCC's) Adult Social Care service to deliver the objectives of GCC's "Prevent, Reduce, Delay" transformation workstream.
- Highways works in relation to the Forest Road Lydney Geotechnical Stabilisation Scheme and a highways framework agreement relating to the provision of construction works in respect of highways, structures, drainage and geotechnical schemes.
- The supply, installation and maintenance of 229 new and replacement advertising enabled bus shelters and 15 free-standing units (FSUs).

The SEND Local Area Partnership, which includes Gloucestershire County Council, Gloucestershire NHS providers, and Gloucestershire Hospital Trust invites all parents and carers of children and young people aged 0–25 with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) to take part in its Annual Parent Carer Survey. The [Parent Carer Survey](#) is open from Monday 6 October and will close on Friday 5 December 2025. Families can take part online by visiting: www.glosfamiliesdirectory.org.uk

Minutes of the last meeting: The minutes of the previous meeting dated September 2025 were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chair.

Matters arising:

Village maintenance: PC is very grateful to Steve Coates for cutting the hedges along the Merryfield. Thanks also to everyone who came out and helped sweep up after the cutting.

Village Hall: Thank you to the 9 people who expressed interest in the defibrillator training. We now await the announcement of a proposed date from Harescombe PC, it is likely to be in January.

Highways, traffic and parking: Clerk has reported lines that need repainting, and is following up the replacement of damaged grit bins which have been promised. Cllr Hunt reported ongoing abuse of the yellow zigzag parking indication: school parents routinely ignore this and park in a way which makes access dangerous and difficult on the corner.

Biodiversity: Rich Gibbs is leading planning on the placement of four new owl boxes, for both barn and tawny owls. Rich has been working on a future idea for putting a ledge on the church tower for birds of prey to nest on.

Merryfield trustees: More topsoil is required to cover the matting and create a base for grass to grow -PC offered to pay for the purchase of this. Martin Hartley is working with

clerk and trustees to source the trees for renewed hedge planting along the back of the Merryfield.

Road closures: Overnight Closure - Naas Lane, Gloucester 16/01/25, This road will be closed at the rail bridge from 10pm 16/01/26 until 6am 17/01/26 to allow for vegetation removal by Network Rail.

Website: Some issues with uploading documents are yet to be resolved, however other issues are now amended and compliant.

Planning: S.25/1871/LBC 4 The Old Coach House, Haresfield Court. Application Type: Listed Building Application Description: Replacement of conservatory roof.

S.25/1961/FUL Pool Farm Haresfield Stonehouse Gloucestershire GL10 3EJ. Proposal: External alterations to facilitate a flexible commercial use.

PC had no objection to these applications.

Lease of hall land: Mark Heywood discussed the lease with councillors, and is prepared to offer a new lease of the hall land from April next year for a further term of five years. A discussion took place regarding ideas for development in the village and development of a 'Community Consultation', these being the current alternative to, and having superseded Neighbourhood Plans.

Correspondence: Philip Tudor has requested a replacement for the Gloucestershire flag which has been popular with residents, but no longer fit for purpose. Clerk to source a better quality flag that will last longer.

Finance & Clerks Report: Budget being prepared for 2025/26, to be presented at the November meeting.

Transactions/payments agreed:

Cheque payments were agreed and authorised by councillors:

TEEC Ltd.	website annual fee	£194.39 (400958)
U Jeakins	Herald printing	£20.27 (400959)
Ms M King	clerk salary Jul- Sep	£1,795.43 (cheque no.400960)

Any other business:

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.50.pm

Date of next meeting: NOTE AMENDMENT of date of the next meeting to Tuesday December 2nd 2025. This will be the last meeting of 2025.

