

Minutes of Haresfield Parish Council Meeting

Held in the Village Hall on Tuesday September 30th 2025

Present: Councillors Nicky Ford, Ursula Jeakins, John Hunt, County councillor John Patient.

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

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Appoint Chair: Councillor Ford took the chair

Public Participation: none

Apologies: none

Declaration of Interests /Dispensations: none

County Councillors and District Councillor's Reports:

Cllr Patient reported: County Council is working on a strategy to install 20mph signs in places where they are requested by local communities. They have not yet decided how these requests are going to be implemented or what funding will be used.

Gloucester Library will be relocating from its current premises on Brunswick Road to a brand new, state-of-the-art facility at the University of Gloucestershire - City Campus.

As part of the reorganisation of the District Council system in the county, a number of new Neighbourhoods will be introduced. It is expected that Stroud district will be broken into 3 or 4 Neighbourhoods.

For the latest updates for Gloucestershire's Local Government Reorganisation, please use the websites: <https://futuregloucestershire.org.uk/>

<https://gloucestershirecc.sharepoint.com/sites/StaffNet/SitePages/Devolution-information.aspx?locale=en-gb&inPlaceNav=portals>

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| Cllr Patient can be contacted any time on: John.patient@gloucestershire.gov.uk Tel: 07891 321904 |
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Report from Community Officer Mat Brisland:

Community Officers are a re-brand of the former Neighbourhood wardens. Mat is one of the three officers for our area. The aim of this team is to be more pro-active in supporting local communities, as well as responding to needs that arise. They can attend local events to give information and get feedback from residents regarding possible local issues. They work with other community support bodies such as Careline and Emergency Planning. Fly tipping is a widespread concern throughout the County and the CO team are involved in effort to track down offenders. Individual residents can contact COs themselves in relation to local matters.

Residents are advised to use the QR code (to be published in the Haresfield Herald) to access the routes for reporting or support. Ideally, people should use What3words when giving locations.

Mat advised the PC that there is additional support for flooding planning and will send information to the Clerk.

Cllr Hunt queried the constant parking on zigzags by school parents which causes traffic problems on the corner, causing safety issues for all road users. Mat to help Clerk link further with Highways regarding monitoring of this situation.

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

Matters arising:

Village maintenance: Clerk was required to complete a new flooding survey, this one from GRCC. PC is grateful to Charlotte Tilsley for continuing as volunteer flood warden and completing the survey.

Village Hall: New fridge freezer now in place. A grant has been obtained to replace the remaining outside door which is not yet double glazed. This will bring more light into the room. Pilates and Geology group continue as regular village hall lets. Community Payback team have been keeping up work on the maintenance of the garden area. The village mosaic has now been installed outside by Neal and Borange, and looks excellent! (Report from Dee Gibson Wain.) Next events are the Coffee Morning and Children's Society Box Opening on Sat 4th October, and the Harvest Chatters on October 31st.

Energy from Waste & CLG: At the recent CLG meeting the Environment Agency reported that a new particulate monitor will be placed in Green Lane Hardwicke. The monitor on Village Hall is not working and can be removed. Clerk to approach UBB for removal.

Highways, traffic and parking: Clerk has ordered winter grit for village grit bins. Gary Wilson, Highways has agreed to replace the two grit bins at the top of Beacon Lane that were damaged by a Highways vehicle.

Cllr Hunt queried the meaning of new white markings on Haresfield Lane – clerk to request clarification from Highways. Markings on the corner of Mount Lane also need redoing.

Parking by the white line outside the Merryfield gate by the school is causing some problems. Residents MUST NOT park overlapping the white line, or there is not enough room for cars to pull in into this space to allow for traffic to pass in the other direction, at busy times near the school. Clerk to request repainting of the white line.

Clerk to request any information available about the anticipated completion date for the new Hunts Grove junction currently under construction.

Road resurfacing: some resurfacing has been allocated for Haresfield Lane, but a recent notification informs the PC that this will not now include the part of the road going through the village. This part of the highway is clearly affected by subsidence due to heavy vehicle use. Clerk to go back and re-make the case for extra work needed.

Biodiversity: Four new owl boxes have been ordered. Rich Gibbs is in conversation with local farmers to confirm sites for the location of these new Barn Owl and Tawny Owl boxes. A further idea to erect a platform for bird nesting on the church tower is being investigated, with the tower captain and churchwarden responding positively to the suggestion.

Footpaths/ bins: Issues have been reported with the frequent number of times that the dog bin no.3579 is not being emptied as per the schedule.

Merryfield trustees: Trustees are planning to reseed the grass in worn areas near access points to the Merryfield, and replace some of the matting.

Road closures: PC has been informed of a blanket closure in the new year, with notification expected early 2026. We have no precise information about dates, times or locations!

Correspondence: Mr Dodsworth has requested attention to the hedges which overlap the footpath. Hedge cutting along the Merryfield usually takes place over the half term holiday at the end of October.

Residents are requested to check their privately-owned hedges, now that bird nesting is over, and keep them cut back so there is free access along the footpaths. This is particularly important for mobility vehicles.

Notification has been received of the next Councillor Advocacy Scheme meeting: Cllr Hunt and Clerk aim to attend. This is an opportunity to take concerns to the Glos Constabulary, which PC is keen to do, since we have been unable to secure the presence of a PCSO (Police Community Support Officer) despite frequent requests for this, particularly in relation to parking issues.

Finance & Clerks Report: Clerk recommended continuing cover with the current insurance provider, the policy underwritten by Zurich through Community First at an annual cost of £486.84. The other quote obtained from Clear councils, for the same cover was in excess of £800. Councillors agreed unanimously to continue with the current provider. Clerk to liaise with the village Hall committee re cover for bouncy castles at the village hall, which incurs an additional premium.

A new policy on the Applications for Grant Funding has been adopted by the PC in line with advice from the auditors, and will be uploaded to the village website.

The bank reconciliation was presented for the period April-July and agreed.

A national 3.2% pay rise has been awarded to Parish Council Clerks and will be implemented by Haresfield PC.

As Neighbourhood Plans are no longer recognized, the Clerk will attend a forthcoming meeting on Community-Led Planning Options.

Transactions/payments agreed:

Cheque payments were agreed and authorised by councillors:

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| Ms M King | Salary April-June | £2,036.43 (cheque no.400953) |
| PATA | payroll April-March | £96.00 (cheque no.400954) |
| HMRC | PAYE July-Sept | £597.78 (cheque no.400955) |
| D. Mason | Audit fee | £120.00 (cheque no.400956) |
| Community first | Insurance | £486.84 (cheque no.400957) |

Any other business:

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.00 pm

Date of next meeting: Tuesday 28th October 2025