

Notes of Haresfield Parish Council Meeting

Held in the Village Hall on Tuesday June 17th 2025

Present: Councillors Ursula Jeakins and John Hunt

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

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It was noted that as the council was not quorate, no decisions could be made at this meeting.

Appoint Chair: Councillor Ursula Jeakins took the chair

Public Participation: none

Apologies: Councillors Alan White and Nicky Ford, District Councillor Mark Ryder. PC is unclear about who will be coming to our meetings to represent the Council – clerk is seeking clarity.

Declaration of Interests /Dispensations: none

County Councillors and District Councillor's Reports:

Cllr Patient reported:

- The Secretary of State for Transport has [granted development consent](#) for our M5 Junction 10 Improvements Scheme. This is a major milestone that paves the way for delivering significant transport and economic benefits across the county. The approved scheme will see the construction of a new all-movements junction at junction 10, which will provide access in all directions on and off the motorway. It also includes a new link road connecting the A4019 to the B4634 in west Cheltenham and widening of the A4019 Tewkesbury Road, as well as the provision of new active travel facilities and flood mitigation measures.
- Residents are being invited to have their say on Gloucestershire's strategy to tackle domestic abuse 2025/28 (survey open until 16th June) <https://haveyoursaygloucestershire.uk.engagementhq.com/we-want-your-views-on-domestic-abuse>
- GCC's Climate Action Fund has reopened, until 6pm 9th June, for applications from £2k to £4,999 <https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/planning-and-environment/greener-gloucestershire-dashboard/greener-gloucestershire-community-fund/who-can-apply/>
- Gloucestershire County Council is working with NHS Gloucestershire and the county's housing partners to introduce an Accessible Housing Register (AHR) to help people with disabilities find social housing which meets their needs. Each home on the register is assigned a category from A (most accessible) to G (not yet assessed), indicating the level of accessibility. These categories will be displayed alongside property adverts on Home Seeker Plus, Gloucestershire's housing allocation service. The council has worked with several health and housing organisations to introduce the register which will be launched by Gloucester City Homes in the coming months, followed by Stroud District Council, Cheltenham Borough Homes, Two Rivers and The Guinness Partnership.

- A part of the Fire Kills campaign, Gloucestershire Fire and Rescue Service is asking people to consider their home's escape routes and to make sure their family, guests and loved ones know how to get out, stay out, and call 999 in the event of a fire. If you are concerned about a risk of fire in your home or know someone who you feel is at risk from a fire in their home, please call the advice line 0800 180 4140 or email SkillzoneCFSTeam@glosfire.gov.uk. Alternatively, you can use the [online home fire safety check](#).

District Councillor Mark Ryder reported:

1. Full Council – 22nd May

- Chair, Vice-Chair, Leader and Deputy Leader of the Council were appointed. o Cllr Kate Kay, Cllr Matthew Sargeant, Cllr Chloe Turner & Cllr Catherine Braun respectively.
- New Chair of Environment committee appointed, Cllr Martin Pearcy.
- Appointments to SDC committees, chairs and vice-chairs and other council appointments
- Appointment of a new Monitoring Officer

2. Local Government Devolution. Jim MacMahon has released a feedback summary regarding the initial submissions made by District and County councils regarding LGR. Some aspects of this impact upon future positioning of Town and Parish councils. Here is a link to the update:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/local-government-reorganisation-summary-of-feedback-on-interim-plans/local-government-reorganisation-summary-of-feedback-on-interim-plans>

Locally, work on local government reorganisation has now restarted in earnest following the county elections and towards the November 28th deadline by which final proposals will be submitted. Officers from all levels are working together on a variety of workstreams to begin to set out the detail for both the proposed single and two-unitary models. Government have still not indicated whether they will provide any detailed guidance as to the role of parish & town councils in unitarisation, but it is clear that you will be key partners for any unitary council(s) in the county.

3. Development Control Committee – 20th May • Hunts Grove Phase 4, Hunts Grove Drive, Hardwicke, Gloucester, S.20/0103/REM

o Reserved matters application for a community building, grass playing pitches, an artificial pitch, tennis courts, a local equipped area of play (leap), car parking and associated infrastructure.

o Changes to the 2024 scheme. Issues around S106 cost cap which takes precedence, design of building and pitches, Sports England unhappy and Highways had drainage concerns, ecology too; bat roosts and newts. Now more community hub than sports hub.

o Officers confident a good compromise has been reached but councillors are very unhappy.

o Parish council unhappy about reduced scale and cost cap and want management transferred to them

o Crest, the developer, accept it's their responsibility for the delay, but have worked with parish council to deliver

o Lots of discussion on failure to deliver on a S106 and consequences thereof

- Permitted - despite all the Councillor reservations etc.

Minutes of the last meeting: Could not be approved as the meeting was not quorate

Matters arising:

Village maintenance: Merryfields – it appears that the bolts on the new bench are not fully inserted. Clerk to message Merryfield Trustees.

Cllr Hunt noted that the small gate behind cricket pavilion is not closing properly as the post has rotted. Clerk to consult Merryfield Trustees to enquire who is responsible for mending this. A concern was raised that it could enable cows to come onto the Merryfield.

Village Hall: The redundant doorway has been blocked, improving the village hall draft proofing, and now requires final finishing.

Energy from Waste & CLG: Applications now open for the 2025 grant application round – none received from Haresfield to date, groups and clubs are encouraged to submit applications. Next EfW Community Liaison Group Meeting is 19th June.

Highways, traffic and parking: Highways have completed repainting of the white lines at the Beacon Lane junction and the yellow zigzag both adjacent to and opposite the school. School use of no parking sign is very effective in deterring most parents from parking inappropriately.

Cllr Hunt suggested that PC looks into the possibility of rumble strips on entry roads to village – clerk to enquire with Gary Wilson of Highways.

Biodiversity: Clerk has been successful in a bid to SDC for bird boxes and is working with Rich Gibbs to determine which boxes are most appropriate for the locations available in the village.

Road closures: The following two roads will be closed (as per the attached plans) from 2000 – 0600 each day 12/08/2025 to 14/08/2025 to allow for trial hole work by Tritax: 1. A430 Bath Road, B4008 Bath Road, distance of 450m. 2. B4008 Bath Road, distance of 175m. Plan supplied, to be annexed to the Herald.

Correspondence: Fiona Berridge informed the PC that the Cricket Club has sublet the use of the Merryfield to another club on days when it is not playing. This has led to the pitch covers not being put to the proper place when they are not in use. There is also a suggestion that pre-match practice is taking place inappropriately using the nets on the road side of the Merryfield, instead of being confined to the practice nets at the back of the field. PC does not have the current contact number for the Cricket Club – clerk to contact Paul Barton for this information, and to address the concerns raised.

Fiona Berridge requested that metal rubbish bins be considered for strategic locations on roads around the village as a deterrent to people throwing rubbish out of car windows. PC was not convinced that this additional street furniture in a village environment was justified at this time, nor that it would deter random acts of littering from cars, however is going to keep an eye on littering and revisit this suggestion.

Finance & Clerks Report: Financial declaration: To certify that during the financial year 2024/25, the higher of the authority's gross income for the year or gross annual expenditure for the year did not exceed £25,000.

AGAR Documents:

Approval of the Annual Governance Statement

- a. Consider the Annual Governance Statement. Councillors reviewed the Annual Governance Statement.
- b. Approval of the Annual Governance Statement by resolution: Councillors unanimously approved the Annual Governance Statement.
- c. Sign and date the Annual Governance Statement by the Clerk/RFO and Chair.

Proposed by Cllr Jeakins, seconded, Cllr Hunt

Approval of the Accounting Statements for the year ending 31 March 2024

- a. Consider the Accounting Statement; Councillors reviewed the Accounting Statement
- b. Approval of the Accounting Statements by resolution; and Councillors unanimously approved the Accounting Statement.
- c. Sign and date the Accounting Statements by the Clerk/RFO and Chair

Proposed by Cllr Jeakins, seconded, Cllr Hunt

Transactions/payments agreed:

Cheque payment was agreed and authorised by councillors:

U Jeakins Printing £18.00 (cheque no. 400951)

Any other business:

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.10pm

Date of next meeting: Tuesday July 29th 2025