

Minutes of Haresfield Parish Council Meeting

Held in the Village Hall on Tuesday April 28th 2026

Present: Councillors Alan White, Nicky Ford, Tina Holbrook. County councillor John Patient, District councillors

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

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Appoint Chair: Councillor Ford took the chair

Public Participation: 12

Apologies: Cllrs Charlotte Tilsley, John Hunt

Declaration of Interests /Dispensations: none

County Councillors and District Councillor's Reports:

Cllr Robert Brown was in attendance as Deputy Group Leader and Chairman of the Conservative Group on Stroud District Council, and indeed Ward councillor of the neighbouring Severn Ward. He apologised for the lack of support from the party recently and assured councillors that he was available for any support and will be attending PC meetings in the absence of Cllr Ryder.

He reported: The Local Plan, as we are aware is out of date. Motion to begin construction of a new Local Plan has commenced, which will be taken up by the new unitary authorities. SDC Finances: SDC must find £5m in savings before it is replaced by the new unitary authorities.

He was thanked for his attendance.

Cllr Patient reported: Community climate change fund: new line. Apply through Cllr Patient. Advised that a national film has been created — what are the longer-term effects of climate change? This film is available to view, dates and venues to be sent through. Has advised on creating low-future-climate-change website, but progress low on all fronts.

District Councillor Mark Ryder reported via email:

1. Garden Waste Garden waste collections are now open to all households in the district for the first time. This has involved using smaller vehicles to access the more difficult to reach areas and narrow lanes.

2. Reduced Speed Limit on B4008 from M5 past the Tritax Park Development You will no doubt be aware of the plans to introduce a 40mph speed limit adjacent to the Tritax Park development on the B4008. The consultation period ends on April 13th. I have supported this reduction in speed limit.

3. DCC Committees A decision has been made to increase the frequency of DCC meetings to every four weeks. This increases meetings from approximately 8 per year to 12 per year. The reason for the change is to make it easier to consider applications within the determination deadlines.

4. Draft Local Plan • Inspectors have responded to SDC's request for further guidance on the decision to close this draft local plan inspection with refusal. They want to hold a limited further consultation with just SDC, GCC and SGC (South Gloucestershire Council) to hear additional information from National Highways on the matter of capacity assessments.

GRCC: Barbara Pond was in attendance to report on data obtained at the last PC meeting:

- Outcome of three questions asked at the last meeting at which 37 people attended
- Next step: reach out to other demographics, images, and postcodes

Barbara expanded, responding to questions from the floor:

- A community has to start somewhere — headline issues first
- Then a deeper dive into the detail behind those headline issues
- Idea: use the combined knowledge of the village to understand what affects the parish plan
- Communities with a co-created local plan may have a degree of control or influence that would not exist without one

Next steps:

- Identify volunteers to assist with creation of a local plan. It was noted that two volunteers had already come forward.
- GRCC to meet with those volunteers to form a working group

Importance:

- Vital that people get involved now to create a strategy to deal with planning applications and the new “neighbourhoods” which are planned, and will have a population base of between 20 and 50 thousand

Parish Council position:

- PC is willing to support creation of a parish plan if there is support from the parish
- General feeling from the floor: a parish plan would be useful
- More people would need to get involved to make it sustainable and workable

Minutes of the last meeting: The minutes of the previous meetings dated March 31st 2026 were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chair.

Matters arising:

Village maintenance: Thanks to Steve Coates who has cleared up the rubbish unearthed during the ditch clearance at the bottom end of Beacon Lane. Clerk has been donated some wildflower seeds which will be sprinkled over the tidied area.

Village Hall: It was noted that the Village Hall committee are intending to submit a grant to the EFW committee.

Energy from Waste & CLG: Clerk responded to questions from the floor regarding the independence of the air quality monitoring. Clerk responded with the information that the EFW meetings were attended by The Environment agency who provide the data to the EFW facility. This information is included via a link to latest reports but can be accessed at any time via the EFW website: <https://gloucestershireefw.co.uk/>

Highways, traffic and parking: Ongoing issues with parking, especially at the school at drop off and pick up times. The head, Mrs Bacon is retiring, clerk to make contact with the new head to discuss approaches to this problem.

Biodiversity: Following the success of the Owl Box grant and project, Clerk attended a celebration event at SDC during which details of the new grant round were advertised. Suggestions are invited for ideas – please contact the clerk if you have any ideas for a project.

Cllr Holbrook is looking into the possibility of composting, potentially a village event and/or a training session for anyone to attend.

Merryfield trustees: No trustee in attendance. Councillors keen to support the resurfacing of the entrances to the field, particularly adjacent to the small gate. Clerk to contact trustees to invite their proposal and costings to carry out this work before the autumn.

Road closures: The majority of road closures are notified to the PC with little time for advertising so they are now sent out via the village WhatsApp to ensure timely delivery.

Website: Councillor Holbrook is looking into the possibility of extending the use of the Website to advertise local services and businesses. Clerk to raise a ticket to the website provider to enquire about reconfiguring aspects of the site.

Planning: Councillors raised no objection to Application Number: S.26/0314/FUL Location: Unit 12, Indurent Park, Haresfield. Description: Installation of 7 external windows and 1 external door, erection of 1 external plant. Councillors raised no objection to Application Number: S.26/0628/HHOLD Description: Erection of outbuilding at 1, Diamond Villas.

Correspondence: Mark Heywood clarified some points arising from a previous meeting regarding the Merryfield and the Cricket Club as follows: “The March 2026 Lease of the Village Hall site are on exactly the same terms as the predecessor Lease of March 2021 save that in the March 2026 Lease a Clause 7 has been introduced recording the service of a Notice by the Landlord and a Declaration by the Tenant in accordance with the requirements of Section 38A(3)(b) of the Landlord and Tenant Act 1954. The required Notice and Declaration were also attached to the March 2021 Lease. Mark Heywood is not the Landlord of the site. The Landlord (and Freeholder) since March 2021 has been Colethrop Farm Ltd. Mr Heywood is a Director of the company for the time being.”

“The Lease has been renewed for a further 5 Years. The Board of Colethrop Farm Ltd encourages the community to find a long-term solution to the ownership and location of a Village Hall in Haresfield, possibly not on the restricted site it currently occupies. The company is willing to co-

operate with the Haresfield community to find a long-term solution so that the facility is not lost to the village. Colethrop Farm Ltd as the Landlord of the village hall site looks forward to future discussions and proposals. In the meantime, Colethrop Farm Ltd is content with the present arrangements.”

“The Cricket Club Buildings straddle the boundary of the Merryfield with the adjoining Orchard. The Merryfield is let to Trustees on a long lease at a peppercorn rent. The Landlord is Colethrop Farm Ltd. The Landlord grants consent to the Trustees of the Merryfield to accommodate or not, as they see fit, those Cricket Club buildings or parts of buildings located on the Merryfield. As to the Cricket Club buildings located in whole or in part in the adjoining Orchard, Colethrop Farm Ltd as the Landlord and the Cricket Club as the Lessee are parties to a formal lease of relevant parts of the Orchard including land used temporarily for car parking on match days. Stephen Coates is usually granted a grazing licence over the Orchard subject to its uses by the Cricket Club.”

“To note that Haresfield Parish Council is not a party to these arrangements.”

Alec Jeakins has reported issues to Highways with Colethrop Lane, and has notified the PC that the gully will be jetted in the coming weeks. Fiona Berridge has reported issues regarding potholes and has had a positive outcome.

Devolution Training: Cllr Holbrook attended on behalf of the parish council, it was good networking. One key point: when organising or attending, a local network would be useful in having a voice. Cllr Ford to attend future training.

Finance & Clerks Report: Refresh of Information and DPI’s required by SDC is underway with some councillors having submitted the new DPI forms, remainder to be completed at the next meeting. Clerk is working on the procedures and policies required to make the PC compliant with the new assertion 10 requirements, which is a new Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) requirement for parish and town councils, focusing on digital and data compliance. Additional draft policies will be sent to councillors for consideration at the annual PC meeting in May.

There are no elections scheduled for 2026, Stroud’s was last in 2024 and it’s a 4 year cycle. Waiting for the Government to confirm plans to replace Gloucestershire's existing county, borough and district councils. A decision is expected in summer 2026, with elections to the shadow authority(s) likely to take place in May 2027.

Transactions/payments agreed:

Cheque payments were agreed and authorised by councillors:

GALC	annual subscription	£109.36 (400968)
King	Stationery	£65.57 (400969)
Colethrop Farms	Hall Land rent	£200 (400970)

GALC	councillor training course	£109.36 (400971)
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There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.18pm

Date of next meeting:

The next meeting will be the Annual Parish Council meeting on Tuesday May 26th, 7.30

