

# MINUTES of Haresfield Parish Council Meeting

Held in the Village Hall on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2024

**Present:** Councillors Nicky Ford, Ursula Jeakins, John Hunt, Alan White, County councillor Stephen Davis

Clerk: Madeleine King e-mail: [haresfieldpc@gmail.com](mailto:haresfieldpc@gmail.com)

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**Appoint Chair:** Vice chair Nicky Ford took the chair

**Public Participation:** none

**Apologies:** District councillor Mark Ryder

**Declaration of Interests /Dispensations:** none

**County Councillors and District Councillor's Report:** Cllr Davis reported

- Record number of care leavers have gone on to University – a very good achievement for the county.
- Allocation of funding for potholes has increased –although whole road resurfacing is needed for better longevity, urgent potholes are receiving attention.
- Trading standards have prosecuted a shopkeeper for selling e-cigarettes to children
- A38: Glos Highways has signed off the bridge design over A38, for the second exit into Hunts Grove. Due to delays and missed deadlines, the construction work has only just gone out to tender again, so it won't be started until later this year.
- Local Plan – there is an extraordinary meeting on 25 January. Many questions from councillors are expected in relation to development proposals which are not likely to be viable because of lack of capacity of M5 junction 12.

**Minutes of the last meeting:**

The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chair.

**Matters arising:**

**Village maintenance:** Network Rail – The clerk has reported to NR the mess and flooding by the railway near the Beacon Inn. Network Rail has stated that this situation is not safety-critical so is not a high priority – they may send a team out before the summer.

Flood warden role – we have requested further information about this, Charlotte Tilsley having volunteered for the role, but none has been forthcoming. Clerk is following up.

**Highways, traffic and parking:** Community Speedwatch Fund update. The clerk has been notified of requirements to be submitted in relation to our application for a Vehicle Activated Sign (VAS). Highways officer to be consulted regarding best sites for location of the

sign to ensure sight lines. If we are allocated a sign, it will have to be mounted at height of 3m and moved occasionally to other agreed sites. Three posts will be necessary to enable this to happen.

Drains on Beacon Lane: Cllr Hunt reported a blockage – clerk to notify Highways officer.

**Village Hall/ village activities:** New UPVC doors installed in VH on Tuesday 23 January. These will help eliminate loss of heat and are an excellent improvement. Many thanks to the Village Hall committee for arranging these. The cost of the doors was covered by a grant from the UBB community fund.

**Incinerator / CLG:** – a meeting was held on 17<sup>th</sup> Jan and main points from this are: The plant was stopped in May and no issues were found. Next annual stop is in September. The Environment Agency has tightened the standards they have to meet – and indications are that these standards are currently being met.

Light pollution: complaints have been submitted about bright lights on the conveyor belt and some shielding work is being undertaken. Lighting from this should soon be less intrusive.

**Biodiversity:** As of Jan 1<sup>st</sup>, there are new statutory duties for PCs in relation to biodiversity, The legislation is part of the Environment Act 2021. We need to consider what we want to do, agree policies and objectives, and act to deliver and achieve these! One option is to develop a Local Nature Action Plan (LNAP). PC to consult a possible resident who may be interested to lead on this. Clerk to attend further information session; organised by SDC; who are developing a District wide action plan, based on mapping key areas and habitats to create connectivity and diversity across the District.

**Footpaths/ bins:** Dog poo bin replacement is still awaiting installation.

Footpath on Merryfield – Highways have acknowledged responsibility for this repair. Clerk to remind highways officer that no action has yet been taken.

**Merryfield trustees:** Jenny Knight has suggested that a resident may be able to undertake some restoration of the 1977 Jubilee bench, situated at the poo bin end of the Merryfield. It needs some new slats and the bolts replacing, and some attention to the lettering. Anyone able to do this is asked to get in touch with the Merryfield Trustees – Jenny Knight, Paul Barton or Ben Pillinger. The PC is offering to cover the cost of materials.

**Road closures:** Several residents have inquired about the opening of Haresfield Lane and the legal standing of the closure. Cllr Ryder has responded to this with two points. One, the developer does have a responsibility to open one-way access to Hunts Grove from Haresfield. This means that Haresfield Lane should be open and allowing traffic to reach Harrier Way in Hunts Grove, allowing access out through Waterwells Business Park. Two, the old Haresfield Lane will never re-open fully to the Bath Road / Crosskeys roundabout. One way access will be possible, but only after the new A38 junction is completed. Clerk to escalate this to Gloucester Council and Highways because Highways is not something the district council has any responsibility for. Cllr Davis offered to assist the PC with this.

**Planning:**

1. Councillors objected to application: Land At Whaddon, Gloucester, Gloucestershire, Application Type: Outline Planning Application Description: Outline application for up to 2,550 new dwellings (ClassC3) with supporting infrastructure creation of 3no. new access points from the A4173 and 1no. new access point from Naas Lane. All matters reserved apart from access
2. Councillors objected to application: Tritax Symmetry S.21/2579/OUT. This is an addition to the re-submitted planning application. Tritax are now proposing to mitigate the highway impact from the development by the provision of a stand-alone improvement scheme to the existing network. This includes widening the approach to the junction on the B4008 and by demonstrating that the traffic generated from the development would be outside of the peak rush hour times. Councillors noted that this could possibly contribute to alleviating the current problems, it doesn't allow for the future increase of traffic due to employees at the proposed park development.
3. Hunts Grove extension proposal: this is in line with the outline plan already agreed, council discussed the potential provision of local amenities.

**Correspondence:** Letter from Pageant Master regarding D-day celebrations - the lighting of a beacon at 9.15 on 6/6/24 is being requested of all parish and town councils to celebrate the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of this historic event. Mark Heywood to be approached regarding this.

Landowner Statement Signs under s15A(1) Commons Act 2006: the clerk is in correspondence with GRCC regarding enquiries received.

**Finance & Clerks Report:** CIL monies were discussed; currently standing at £3335.89; due to be spent by Oct 2026. Councillors discussed how this is to be spent and also considered making a donation towards a new parish/village hall notice board. Clerk to consult Village Hall Committee re possible projects.

NALC has awarded clerks a 3% pay rise which councillors approved.

Elections for PC to be held on 2 May – residents are encouraged to consider coming forward to be part of the PC. Information on how to make a nomination will be sent out in advance.

**Transactions/payments agreed:** *Cheque payments were agreed and authorised by councillors.*

**Any other business:** Cllr White drew attention to rising litter around village. 'Love your Village!' Litter picking day proposed in the week of Valentines Day - 16 and 17 Feb.

The meeting closed at 8.45pm

**Date of next meeting: Tuesday Feb 27<sup>th</sup> 2024**