

Minutes of Haresfield Parish Council Meeting

Held in the Village Hall on Monday 26th June 2023

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

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

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Chairman: Vice chair Nicky Ford took the chair

Apologies: Cllr Jane Triber

Public Participation: Steve Lockett

Steve Lockett expressed concern about the current work on Railway affecting the Beacon Inn. The situation is that the field next to the Beacon Inn is being used as an access point for repair further along the line. When equipment was being delivered, a coach tour was scheduled to arrive at the pub and the coach couldn’t get to the pub car park. The noise made by heavy plant movements in the night is disruptive for residents at the Beacon at a time when it is fully booked. It is not clear which residents are being notified of the work, and the dates given are not an accurate guide.

Councillors noted that they are also aware that there has also been disruption for school parents at pick up and drop off times. Previously there has been an agreement by railway contractors not to enter the village before school drop offs were over. However, it seems that vehicles are arriving much earlier. PC to contact Network Rail community engagement officials to report difficulties and arrange to mitigate these lorry movements in future.

Declaration of Interests /Dispensations: none

District Councillors Report:

Symmetry Park – planning inspection hearings are underway with Symmetry pushing their case that the proposal would provide employment. There is still an issue regarding the required improvement of J12, which currently has no funding stream. There are complications surrounding the long delay in SDC responding to the application and it is possible that this application process will close and another identical application will be submitted.

A38 – work is scheduled to begin on the Hunts Grove road junction in August until September 2024 and there are likely to be impacts on residents, including speed limits during the day and overnight closures. County Councillor Stephen Davis is proposing a PC meeting with Highways in advance to find solutions to issues and the most appropriate traffic diversions to use during this time.

Proposed development by Crest Nicholson (CN) on the South side of Haresfield lane is being taken forward to planning and there will be a future planning application for this. Hunts Grove residents have noted with dismay that the promised community facilities for the exiting residents have not been provided by CN, and Cllr Ryder encouraged local communities to speak out about this whenever there is an opportunity to, in response to planning applications.

Hunts Grove Triangle: With the refusal of the latest planning application, the prior agreed planning application for this area; with the allotments in the original position; is now being reconsidered with renewed additional detail. Plans are awaited from CN for the proposed community building.

Community Governance Review (CGR) is underway. There is some redistribution of population into different wards, with Great Oldbury having its own parish council, but Haresfield is not directly affected at this stage.

Planning application for the Beacon Inn: there has been no judgement on this application as yet.

County Councillor's report:

New areas of development by County Council include:

- Care Leavers strategy to improve outcomes for young people.
- Sponsor a tree scheme launched, for urban areas.
- Ageing with creativity scheme in libraries for Over 60 in libraries
- Holiday activity fund for children in summer holidays, including a meal.
- 'Find and fix' team set up to address the areas of need on roads, not just fixing one reported pothole, but also addressing those near it. PC can request specific work, through the New Highways manager, Gary Wilson, who has taken over from Yakub Mulla.
- New funding for cycle spine from Cheltenham to Gloucester and there is renewed expectation that this will be developed towards Stonehouse and Stroud.

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

Matters arising:

1. ***Village maintenance:*** Clerk had a meeting with Ian Duck; St.Modwen area manager; on site, to discuss the concerns relating to lighting and tree screening. Mr Duck pointed out that many of the trees intended to screen are still growing, however are yet to be seen above hedge height, and that the dead trees will be replaced in the autumn.

Pro Cook – Clerk also met the manager of Pro Cook. Signs on the premises should be off at 10 pm and not on before 6am. Cllr Hunt to monitor that this is being followed.

Mobile visual display for speed – Cllr Davis to follow up our grant application to find out if the bid submitted was successful. Clerk reported that there are still 'Check your speed' bin signs; sent out on submission of the bid by GCC; should anyone require any.

Tree planting – Cllr Davis reported that there is a scheme for groups of 50 trees to be requested where needed – clerk to investigate for screening of incinerator.

2. **Village Hall/village activities:** The hall fences have been painted by a new resident, and the borders tidied by Daniel Bevan as he works for the Duke of Edinburgh award.

The Cricket Club are hosting an event with the Sri Lankan community on Sunday 2 July. Cllr Jeakins to check that adequate parking and appropriate insurance are in place, and councillors noted that they support the event.

3. **Incinerator / CLG:** Cllr Davis hosts regular meetings at which the clerk is the parish representative of Haresfield PC. He reports that the Incinerator is running without issues. The County Council is planning to introduce independent particulate monitoring (though no concerns have been noted) in addition to the air quality monitoring for nitrogen oxide that already takes place. The existing monitor, attached to the village hall, is defunct.
4. **Footpaths/ bins:** Cllr Davis noted that if help is needed for repairing footpaths, it may be possible to get some funding from County Council to support this. The Public Rights of Way officer (PROW) in Stroud will be approached in the first instance regarding any priority work. Councillors discussed the footpaths that have been brought to the attention of the clerk and the PROW is to be approached to assist with these. Nikki Stoneman has indicated she will have to step down as Cotswold warden footpaths officer due to work commitments, and the PC expressed thanks to Nikki for the fantastic work she has achieved in the role. Clerk to ensure that new stiles; provided and installed by the wardens; are accessible.
5. **Highways, traffic and parking:** The new Highways manager for Haresfield, Gary Wilson who replaces Yakub Mulla, is to be approached regarding ongoing issues with signage and potholes. It was noted that 80% of works on public highways is performed by Utility companies with SDC issuing fines in excess of £400,000 last year for those that either run late or are inadequately repaired. SDC has bought a spray injection machine to assist with road repairs which has proved highly effective and as a consequence, two additional machines are on order.

Planning: No new planning applications.

Correspondence: Councillors agreed to respond in support of the SDC Consultation on the Dog Control Public Spaces Protection Order.

Change of neighbourhood warden – Tony Dix leaving SDC, Carol Novoth is new warden and website to be updated accordingly.

Mr Cowburn has again contacted BT regarding the phone box at the front of Gateman House. BT have made it clear that the BT box is owned by the parish council and have again offered to remove it at no cost to the parish council or Mr Cowburn, however this offer is only on the table for a short time. The PC agreed to respond directly to Mr Cowburn to offer to transfer the ownership of the phone box to him, should he not take up the BT offer to remove it and given that is no longer used to house the village defibrillator.

A resident has contacted our MP to ask for assistance in issues they are having with development adjacent to their boundary as well as encroaching debris. Cllr Ryder visited the site and has advised residents about possible courses of action.

Finance & Clerks Report: Following the internal audit of the 2022/2023 accounts, the publication of the Notice of Public Rights will commence on Monday 3rd July.

Transactions/payments agreed:

Cheque payments were agreed and authorised by councillors

Any other business:

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.45pm

Date of next meeting: Monday July 31st 2022.