

## Minutes of Haresfield Parish Council Meeting

Held in the Village Hall on Monday Sept 26<sup>th</sup> 2022

**Present:** Councillors Nicky Ford (vice chair), Ursula Jeakins, John Hunt, Alan White.

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

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**Apologies:** District councillor Mark Ryder, Councillors Charlotte Tilsley and Jane Triber

**Public Participation:** Nikki Stoneman, Dee Gibson-Wain

### **Minutes of the last meeting:**

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

**County Councillors and District Councillor's Report:** Cllr Ryder reported via email:

A successful "Prisoners building houses" scheme is being implemented in Hardwicke. As a follow-up in my role on the Strategic Planning Advisory Board for SDC, I want to explore what SDC can learn from this and how we can support these initiatives as part of our affordable housing strategy.

'Warm Banks' preparation for winter: SDC are looking at the provision of warm spaces to be made available in local communities in case a need should arise. If anyone is aware of people in the village who might be challenged in keeping warm, they should contact the PC.

**Completion of new councillor forms:** Councillor White completed the declaration of acceptance of office and disclosure of pecuniary interest forms, the latter of which is to be sent to SDC by clerk. Councillor Triber yet to complete these.

### **Public Participation: Nikki Stoneman**

Nikki Stoneman raised the issue of 'Investment zones' which may be under consideration by the County Council. These encourage investment in the local area but operate outside of the usual regulations, including environmental policies, which normally apply to planning. NS asked on what mandate GCC are having these conversations. Clerk has sent a query to Cllr Davis requesting information.

### **Matters arising:**

1. **Village maintenance:** The PC noted disappointment that following Cllr Hunt painting over the graffiti in the bus shelter, further damage has been done. Cllr Hunt has attempted to erase this and clean off the stonework. The letters C & C have been rewritten in spray paint. PC gives the reminder that effacing public property is a criminal offence and it is very disappointing to see this evidence of antisocial behaviour in the village.

Cost of installation of dog waste bin was approved. This will be located on the track leading to the railway crossing from Little Haresfield Lane as negotiated with Highways and the collection service. Cost of £56 pa to empty the bin weekly was also approved by councillors. Yellow stencilling has been placed at strategic points by SDC as requested, to remind people to clear up after their dogs.

2. **Village Hall/ Village activities:** Dee Gibson-Wain reported on behalf of the Village Hall committee. Heating that has been installed is working well, with the controls operated remotely. A decision has been taken to increase rental to £6 per hour instead of £5, to help meet heating costs, during winter months. Ongoing costs for everyday running of the village hall include utilities, paper towels, maintenance, refreshments, and any equipment replacement and repairs, all of which are increasing.

Children's Society Box Opening – reminder that new residents may not know about this scheme – notice to be placed in the Herald about where to obtain a collecting box and how the scheme works.

The exterior rendered wall of the hall has been painted and gutters repaired.

A grant application for cladding and insulation has been submitted to the UBB grant awarding committee.

There was a plan to purchase a new microwave, but one has been kindly donated.

A new cupboard has been agreed for the Brownies, if the need for this is still there next year.

The existing cooker has been checked by a qualified tradesman to ensure it is safe and in working order.

3. **Highways, traffic and parking:**

Correspondence has been sent by Cllr Jeakins to Vehicle Operating License Service regarding traffic movements by heavy commercial vehicles through the village, and this has been forwarded to DVSA for investigation of matters raised in the correspondence.

Clarification requested re names of village roads – councillors identified the need to clarify road names and clerk to contact Yakub Mulla for possible road signs for Little Haresfield Lane (aka the New Road, Haresfield Court Lane), Mount Lane and Colethrop Lane. Cllr Jeakins to explore process for formal road naming.

PC has applied to the Speedwatch fund for a speed awareness sign (vehicle activated speed sign). Due to overwhelming number of applications, we have been advised that there will be a delay in hearing the outcome of the application.

White Lines: PC was asked by local resident to request white lines outside the phone box to prevent people from parking in front of it. Necessary monitoring requirements were carried out as required by the application process. PC discussed this matter fully and, following advice from Highways England, considered that the evidence was not sufficient to warrant an application made on behalf of the village, and the payment of the large fee that would be involved.

4. **Website:** Difficulties persist regarding uploading of PC meeting minutes – Clerk is in touch with website company for technical support.
5. **Incinerator / CLG:** Clerk has attended meetings of Community Liaison Group on behalf of the parish (one representative from each of the parishes attends, which now includes Hunts Grove). The group have made their recommendations and grant application outcomes will be made available shortly, once verified by UBB.
6. **Adoption of new policy:** Complaints procedure. PC has decided to adopt a formal policy for complaints procedure, as part of suggested good practice arising following advice from the external auditor and official government PC audit in 2022. This will be shortly available on the website. Further policies will be introduced.

**Flood Warden scheme:** We are working with Gloucestershire Rural Communities Council (GRCC) to relaunch the Flood Warden scheme within the district. Charlotte Tilsley has kindly volunteered to represent Haresfield and will undertake the necessary training provided.

**Winter Planning:** Thanks to Steve Coates who has agreed to continue his role as snow warden. Clerk is working with Highways to develop a winter plan and has been in touch with SDC regarding ordering grit and ensuring the grit is suitably placed.

**Correspondence re BT box:** PC has received correspondence questioning the legality of the PC purchase of the BT phone box in 2016. Investigations are being carried out in relation to this correspondence.

**Planning:** It was noted that no residents have responded to the planning applications for Hunts Grove Triangle. If you want to have your voice heard, you need to submit responses within the next 7 days. Reminder to be placed in the Herald.

Cllr Ford reminded that there could be planning requirements regarding proposed cladding for village hall, clerk to ensure this message is passed to the VH committee for consideration.

**Finance & Clerks Report:** Auditors have confirmed that our PC meets all regulatory requirements. Clerk presented the bank reconciliation to councillors, which was agreed as a true record. PC Insurance – Clerk has investigated other insurance providers and decision taken to retain the present insurers. Cheque payments were agreed and authorised by councillors.

#### **Any other business:**

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.32pm

**Date of next meeting: Monday October 24<sup>th</sup> 2022**

