

Minutes of July 2020 Haresfield Parish Council Meeting

Held via Zoom on Monday 20 July 2020 at 7.30

Present: Charlotte Tilsley, Sue Thorpe, Nikki Stoneman, County Councillor Stephen Davies

Clerk Madeleine J King email: haresfieldpc@gmail.com

.....

Apologies: Cllr Jenny Knight

Minutes of the last meeting: The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed as a true record.

County Councillor's Report: Stephen Davies reported that Covid has been incredibly disruptive for the Stroud District Council. But services are now planned to resume. £1.4 million has been spent around the district so far. School allocations have all been made and communicated to parents. There is talk of a new secondary school being built for the district, the reason behind this is because of shrinking catchments meaning fewer children are getting their preferred choice.

There have been very few cases of Covid-19 in the area which is concerning because this may lead to a potential outbreak in the future. SDC have created a Management plan to address this potential situation, which has been used as a benchmark nationally

Cllr Davies also reported that Mark Heywood has requested that the proposed Hunts Grove allotments (which will not be available to Haresfield residents) should be moved to the Haresfield side of the railway bridge (not the Hunts Grove side as was originally agreed.) This would necessitate the flow of traffic over the motorway bridge remaining two-way, although it has been agreed with Gloucestershire Highways and at a parish council meeting, that the road will be one-way only.

With the increase in traffic, a number of complaints have been made about the M&S/McDonalds A38 roundabout and that it is likely that there will be traffic lights installed at some point.

District Councillors report: Councillor Mossman is unwell and we send him our best wishes at this difficult time.

Network rail: A letter has been received about proposed work on the line later in July which could cause some disruption and/or noise at night.

Flooding: Sue and Neal Thorpe are in the process of preparing a grant application to assist with the ongoing flooding issues on and down Beacon Lane. The following is their report:

Report on Severn Trent Grant Application Re Langet Covert

Meeting with Neal Thorpe, Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust (GWT) Richard Spyvee, Steve Coates Farmer and Darren Prosser Contractor.

Meeting took place on Wednesday 15th July to discuss works to improve drainage and waterflow down Beacon Lane in high rainfall which causes flooding.

Pipework previously installed into Steve's field was looked at, as past work to install a pipe off Beacon Lane into Langet Covert via his field had never been completed. This would be part of the project. Highways would also need to be approached to review the camber off the lane to ensure water flowed into the pipe.

GWT confirmed that if funding became available, they would install up to 10 leaky dams within Langet Covert to slow water flow thereby reducing the flow down Beacon Lane. Steve agreed to this work taking place on his land.

GWT also carried out a survey for further leaky dams which they would pay for, in Steve's field below the covert to absorb further water and avoid flooding of his field at the bottom of the lane.

Access to the covert was looked at and Darren was asked to supply a quote for the above work and to provide a series of woodland steps into the site off Beacon Lane where there is existing current. This would need to be discussed with the school as they use the site.

Next agreed steps:

A quotation for all work to be delivered by Darren

Sue and Neal Thorpe to complete and submit application to Severn Trent for a Grant to cover some of this cost.

Depending on the outcome of the Grant, PC to agree to proceed.

Highways to be approached re Camber (GWT to make contact with highways to discuss altering camber)

School to be approached re steps.

Highways: We still await a definitive answer from Dan Tiffney regarding the village gateway sign which is located in the wrong place. Clerk has continued to chase this for correction.

An issue has been identified with the camber of Beacon Lane which exacerbates the flooding problem. This will be addressed with Highways.

Investigations are underway regarding Haresfield joining the verge cutting scheme operated throughout many local parishes and financed through Highways

St. Modwen: We have previously reported that many of the newly planted trees adjacent to the new warehouses on Mount Lane (planted for screening) have died. We have reported this to Cllr Stephen Davis who is in touch with the contractors about contractual replacement.

Langet Covert: The red FIRE bucket has been removed and substituted with a plastic one. In the event of a fire, a metal bucket is far safer and we ask whoever took it to please return it.

Hunts Grove/roads: Hunts Grove Parish Council was to have been instituted in May, and elections held, but because of Covid, no elections were held. Hunts Grove PC is due to have its first meeting on 30 July with District Councillors stepping to run the first meeting. It is expected that those people interested in joining the Council will be co-opted. Anyone from Haresfield can of course attend the Hunts Grove Parish Council meetings. For more information, contact Stephen Davies: Stephen.Davies2@gloucestershire.gov.uk

Village hall: Separate meetings are now held periodically and organised by Nikki Stoneman, at which village events and similar matters are discussed. Next meeting will be **Monday 26th October**.

Village hall Committee: Financial report – Neal Thorpe Village Hall Treasurer

Neal submitted the following report to the PC at their July meeting via Zoom.

Accounts have now been brought up to date with the Charity Commission.

The village hall currently has a balance of £11,627.

To ensure the future transparent handling of all monies, Neal would like to introduce the following process to be used by all members of the Parish Council or anyone working on behalf of the village hall.

- All work carried out by a contractor needs to be quoted for and the figure agreed by the PC formally at their next available meeting.
- All expenditure needs to be accompanied by a VAT receipt or an invoice and this needs to be passed to the Treasurer who will then pay by cheque.
- A float can be issued for any event as required if arranged in advance.
- Cash raised at any events needs to be receipted to the individual running the event so that this receipt can be balanced against the corresponding entry on the bank statement. A receipt book could be left with M. King and once a receipt is issued the cash passed onto me to be paid in and recorded in the accounts.

Gigaclear: Ursula Jeakins and Sue Thorpe have independently recently contacted Gigaclear via their customer services/complaints department regarding the repositioning of the green connection box by the Millennium Monument. Both await a reply.

Flag-flying: With the recent refurbishment of the flagpole, a resident has suggested that the flag might be flown for some additional occasions of national significance. This is being further researched.

Website: We are working a new website for the Parish Council, which will meet the requirements of the National Transparency Regulations which fully come into place in September.

Finance & Clerks Report: The work on the website is now key to ensuring the parish council fulfils its obligations. The year-end accounts are to be audited by Gill Willoughby prior to submission to our external auditors PK Littlejohn. We have again signed up to the Great British September Clean which runs from 11th-27th 2020, and plan to run a clean-up in early September.

Any other business:

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.35pm

Date of next meeting: Monday September 21st, 7.30 via web

