

HARESCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 15 MAY 2019 AT 7.00PM AT HARESCOMBE VILLAGE HALL

Present: Cllrs Andrew Buckmaster (Chair), Caroline Ractliffe, Mike Hyett, Linda Pike and Kath Pritchard

In attendance: Steph Pike (Clerk), Cllr Dave Mossman (Stroud District Council)

1. Welcome by Chairman of the Parish Council with introductions

2. Apologies for absence

None.

3. To approve the Minutes of the 2017/2018 Annual Meeting

The minutes were unanimously approved by the Council and signed by Cllr Buckmaster.
Approved.

4. Annual Report from the Chairman of the Parish Council for the year 2018/19

Cllr Buckmaster gave his Annual Report, covering the following:

- Compliance: the Council has spent a lot of time ensuring that it is legally compliant in the last year and compliance generally seems to be a lot better now.
- Village maintenance: the roads and ditches have been cleaned and the issues caused by Gigaclear have been dealt with and tidied up.
- Housing consultation: the Council put in a detailed response to the Stroud Local Plan consultation.
- Finances: the Council continues to have healthy finances.
- Areas for improvement: better engagement with Parishioners going forwards.

5. District Councillors report – Cllr David Mossman

Cllr Mossman covered the following in his report:

- **Governance review** – completed 6 May. Results due later in May.
- **Emerging strategy** – this doesn't really affect Harescombe currently but does affect the nearby area of Whaddon. SDC is going to bring in a policy to allow small scale development in areas like Harescombe as long as there is a need for them and the proposed housing is of the right type and factors like affordability are considered. This is due around 2020-21.

Cllr Buckmaster and Cllr Pike queried whether if Harescombe did not have a neighbourhood plan and with it being an AONB, whether the policy would still allow development. Cllr Mossman advised that it would and that Cotswold District already have a similar policy. The aim is to try to build in flexibility to small communities. The planning process will remain the

same and any proposed developments would need to fit within the architectural design of village and have a community need.

Cllr Pike asked whether it would still be beneficial to have a neighbourhood plan. Cllr Mossman advised a neighbourhood plan could not be used to ban a development but would be likely to be beneficial if developments were required. Any neighbourhood plan has to be in line with SDC plan and add to it, not detract from it.

Cllr Mossman advised that it would be worth waiting until the policy is defined and then the Parish Council can assess whether a neighbourhood plan might be required in addition.

- **Waste bins** –SDC currently have an excess and residents can order any new ones if required. The Cllrs advised that this is not relevant to Harescombe as the village doesn't use them (bags instead).
- **Incinerator** – waste will start being brought from Stroud on 10 June and from Gloucester on 24 June. The contractual handover is in August.
- **Cross keys roundabout** – improvement works are to be carried out meaning there will be two lanes going south off J12, increasing capacity to get cars off the motorway and prevent queuing on hard shoulder.
- **Whaddon** – all netting has now been taken off the hedges. The development for 200+ houses is likely to still go ahead. The Cllrs expressed concerns about traffic coming through Harescombe to get to the M5.

6. Questions and comments from Parishioners

None.

Meeting closed at 8pm