

## HARESCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT THE VILLAGE HALL

ON 15<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER AT 8PM.

Present: Cllrs Mike Hyett, Dafydd Lawday, Kath Pritchard, Caroline Ractliffe (Chair), Paul Richards (Vice Chair) and Sheila Murray (Clerk).

There were no members of the public present.

Visitor: Mr Tony Dix – Neighbourhood Warden

Cllr Ractliffe welcomed Mr Dix and introduced him to the Parish Council team. He introduced himself and explained that his career background had been predominately within Community Services where he had undertaken various roles. The discussion was mainly based around fly tipping issues and how they are managed by SDC. He encouraged everyone to use the 'Report It' facility on the SDC website. He distributed the Grapevine magazine and assured the Councillors that he was here to help with any issues relating to the neighbourhood and its residents.

A question and answer session followed covering CCTV cameras, stolen dogs etc. and he stressed that his focus was on prevention and asked Cllrs to be watchful of unusual activity in the Village which should be reported to him. Contact details are on the website.

#### **1/11.22 Public question time**

None

#### **2/11.22 To receive apologies for absence**

Apologies were received and accepted from District Cllr Mossman.

#### **3/11.22 To approve the minutes of the previous meeting**

The minutes of the meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> September, 2022 were accepted and approved as a true record. Signed by Cllr Ractliffe on behalf of the Council.

#### **4/11.22 Matters Arising from the Minutes not covered on the Agenda**

None

#### **5/11.22 Member's declaration of interest to items on the agenda.**

None

#### **6/11.22 Report on roads, ditches and footpaths in the village**

**6.1 Fly Tipping** projects have now been completed.

**6.2 Church Lane resurfacing.** *Following the road cleaning by Highways the tarmac has been stripped away at the edges of the road. Cllr Ractliffe advised that the cost to resurface is between £36-£40k. This is an excessive amount for Harescombe PC to fund on a 50/50 shared basis with Highways. It was suggested that Council seek assisted funding from County and District Councillors from their 2023/2024 budgets.*

Highways have repaired the deeper potholes. Cllr Ractliffe will provide photographs to assist Mrs Murray in seeking further funding from District and County Council.

**6.3 Gateway A4173** - The Clerk confirmed that a Planning Enforcement Referral has been submitted under reference: EN22/0324. The matter will now undergo a triage process and SDC will advise what further action is required. - *Outstanding*

**6.4 Nr Gravel Court Farm pipe work** – Cllr Ractliffe advised that the work is now completed.

#### **7/11.22 Village Projects**

##### **7.1 Queens Jubilee – Tree Planting**

Following consultation Cllr Ractliffe advised that planting trees in hedge boundaries is not recommended. Other options are being sought.

**7.2 In Memory of the Late Queen Elizabeth** – Councillors discussed the opportunity to place a memorial item in the grounds of the Church Hall. The Clerk will request permission to do so before further arrangements are made. - Outstanding

**7.3** The proposal for Daffodil planting has been cancelled. The main concern related to cross pollination of naturalized daffodils that surround the area.

#### **8/11.22 County Councillor's Report**

Cllr Williams submitted her monthly report prior to the meeting. She was not in attendance.

#### **9/11.22 District Councillor's Report**

District Cllr Mossman has requested information to assist with funding for Church Lane resurfacing. The Clerk will advise him accordingly.

#### **10/11.22 Planning update**

There were no new planning matters to discuss.

#### **11/11.22 Finance**

**11.1** The monthly Financial Report including the Bank reconciliation was provided to Councillors prior to the meeting. Cllr Pritchard proposed to accept the Report seconded by Cllr Hyett. Vote: Unanimous.

**11.2** The purchase of Anti-virus software was approved.

**11.3** The Bacs schedule was presented and authorised for payment. The schedule and invoices were signed by the authorising signatories which included the items listed:

Payment schedule

Date	Payee	Details		Total	Powers
15/11/2022	Mrs Sheila Murray	Clerks Salary (Oct)	Bacs	£ 127.12	LGA 1972 s.112(2)
15/11/2022	HMRC	Paye (Aug/Sept)	Bacs	£ 31.80	LGA 1972 s.112(2)
15/11/2022	Parish Hall	Annual Room Hire	Bacs	£ 200.00	LGA1972 s.134(4)
15/11/2022	Mrs Sheila Murray	Exp-Anti virus software	Bacs	£ 29.99	LGA1972 s.111
			Total	£ 388.91	

#### **11.4 Donations**

Cllr Lawday proposed that the following charities receive a donation to be prepared for the next meeting. Seconded by Cllr Pritchard vote: unanimous.

Sunflower Support £250

Longfield Hospice £250

Food Bank £200

Cotswold Warden £200

Cllr Pritchard will provide details of the Sunflower Support Charity and Mrs Murray will check the 'power' to provide a donation to the Food Bank.

#### **12/11/22 Budget 2023/2024**

**12.1** Councillors propose that the Village Maintenance remain unchanged at £1000. Donations to be set at £500 with the Cotswold Warden Scheme introduced as annual cost of £200.

It was agreed to continue the programme for replacing the blue Grit bins at 3 per year. Councillors approved the purchase of 3 Grit bins for this financial year and to include an additional 3 Grit bins for the budget.

Village projects were discussed and a provision of £5000 was set as Earmarked funds. The current earmarked funds will be carried forward.

## **12.2 Precept**

Cllr Ractliffe proposed that the precept remain unchanged, seconded Cllr Pritchard.  
Vote: unanimous. The Precept will be £5080 and the clerk will check this against the electorate numbers when issued in December.

## **13/11.22 Administration**

**13.1** The Clerk advised that SDC have submitted a reviewed Code of Conduct for consultation. A copy will be updated with reference to Harescombe Parish Council and forwarded to Councillors.

**13.2** The Nalc Statutory Pay scheme for 2022 was approved. Proposed Cllr Ractliffe, seconded Cllr Lawday vote: unanimous.

**13.3** Councillors approved the arrangement for PATA payroll services to back date the pay and amend as necessary at the next payroll. The charge agreed was £5.

**13.4** The Clerk confirmed that the arrangements for The Pension Regulator re-enrolment and re-declaration has been completed and acknowledged.

## **14/11.22 Correspondence**

**14.1** Cllr Ractliffe requested that an invitation be extended to the Cotswold Warden for our next meeting in January 2023.

**14.2 Boundary changes consultation.** Councillors agreed that they are opposed to the change of Harescombe Parish being designated under North Cotswold and wish to remain in the Stroud District. The Clerk was requested to submit their views before the deadline date of 5<sup>th</sup> December, 2022.

## **15/11.22 Councillors' Submissions**

**None.**

**16/11.22** Date of the next Parish Council meeting will be held on Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> January, 2023 at 8.00pm in the Church Hall.

*(The date has been changed due to the unavailability of the Clerk on 17<sup>th</sup> January.)*

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.21 pm