

Harescombe Parish Council

Parish Council Meeting – 19th February 2024

Minutes

Time commenced – 1930

Attendees – David Rowson (DR), Stephen Davies (SD), Kath Pritchard (KP), Caroline Ractliffe (CR), Paul Richards (PR), Tom Leeper (TL – completed minutes in clerk's absence)

01/02.24 Public question time – limited to 15 minutes.

DR– asked for details of the proposed Whaddon development.

CR – gave an overview including the traffic related problems. The website was shown to DR . There will be bus and bike access from the proposed development to Naas Lane. There are concerns re traffic at St Barnabas roundabout.

KP– Jct 12 is already very busy. The road from Harescombe to Haresfield is already very busy. Harescombe speed limit is 60 mph and may become a rat run.

SD – local plan is being worked on by Stroud. It went to inspection last summer when it was stated that it will not work because of the states of M5 Jcts 12 and 14. Stroud District Council (SDC) have been granted an extension of 10 months to produce local plan – i.e. until Oct 2024. Gloucester City Council (GCC) are paying for a report relating to the possible development of Jct 12 at a cost of £200k; this feasibility plan make take up to 5 years. Whaddon, Hunts Grove, Whitminster may be viable development sites if Jct 12 is developed. SDC are planning to do a feasibility study re Jct 14 even though it falls outside of SDC's are of responsibility. Taylor Wimpey (TW) have made a planning application – it will likely run into trouble because Gloucester Highways and GCC have sd that the St Barnabas jct could not cope with the volume of traffic. SDC will likely refuse the Whaddon planning application and TW will likely appeal. It will go to inspection – the process will take 6 months. Whitminster, Moreton Valence and Standish are potential development sites so far as SDC is concerned. While GCC have never articulated number of houses they need, SDC are intending to include Whaddon in the local plan to help GCC. SDC have a duty to help GCC. Chloe Turner is head of environment committee within SDC. There is no joint strategy with GCC. While South Glos's local plan is to expand size of existing villages (dispersal), SDC have decided against this, and instead look to establish new sites for housing. There will be elections on May 2. Currently a Green led alliance is in control at SDC. Post election, there is likely to be Labour led alliance; there will be new councillors. It is unlikely that this will mean that Whaddon will be omitted from the local plan, on the basis that a Labour led alliance initially has been in favour of including the development of Whaddon into the local plan. Traffic concerns for Harescombe arising out of Whaddon development proposals include Harescombe being used as a cut through, and the problems in accessing Gloucester via the St Barnabas Jct. Jct 12 argument should be included in list of objections. No additional Dr or Dentist is provided for in the TW proposal. If Whitminster is developed (Hitchins proposing 2000 houses) that might lessen chances of Whaddon development. As a parish Council, important that there is strong response. Individuals should not cut and paste objections – use your own words. Full Budget at SDC on Thursday evening; SDC and GCC are solvent. The budget is largely the same as last year. 3 after 3 in carparks will be moved to 3 after 2. An extra planning officer to be appointed with responsibility for biodiversity;

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planning fees to be increased to cover this. Current no more money is proposed for planning enforcement.

KP – Stroud is considering to fund £200k to assess Jct 14 which is outside of their jurisdiction.

SD – Dave Mossman attended the Council meeting re local plan, as did Mark Ryder. SD will chase Mark Ryder for notes of Ebley meeting.

PR – TW say they are fulfilling a local need which does not appear to be true. What they have said re impact on traffic does not appear to be true.

DR leaves

02/02.24 To receive apologies for absence.

Cllr. Perkins, Parish Clerk S. Hale,

Sue Williams

03/02.24 Member's declaration of interest to items on the agenda.

PR - Perrycroft parking application may benefit the area in which PR lives, but application withdrawn

KP – I have an interest in relation to Church matters

04/02.24 Approve the minutes for 20th November 2023.

Approved: KP proposed, CR seconded

05/02.24 Report from District Councillor Stephen Davies

See above

06/02.24 Report from County Councillor Sue Williams

Absent

07/02.24 Finance.

07/02.24.01 Internal controls and bank reconciliation

Bank Reconciliation
Cashbook



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Balance b/f 1 April 2023 £16,198.31

Receipts £5,246.15

Payments £3,475.48

Balance on 15/11/2023 £17,968.98

Lloyds Bank

Balance at 15/11/2023 £17,968.98

CLERK'S NOTE –

During the internal controls process, Paul noted that a CIL payment was owed to us. FYI, this is currently held by SDC and can be drawn at any time should we wish to do so. It will automatically be paid if CIL owed reaches £500.00

Councillor Richards has signed the internal controls checklist and the bank reconciliation. It was noted that we have a CIL payment owing to us from SDC in region of £20

KP proposed, CR seconded

07/02.24.02 Note & ratify the following payments

11/12/2023	Village Hall	Annual hire for PC meetings	£220.00
19/12/2023	PATA	Payroll services	£24.00
02/01/2024	Clerk salary	Salary for Q3	£762.17
08/01/2024	HMRC	PAYE	£182.00

Ratified and agreed: KP proposed, CR seconded

07/02.24.03 Consider whether to continue with Town & Parish Council Website provider and pay the invoice of £70.00, or alternatively, change to HugoFox @ £9.99 + VAT per month or with 15% discount for an annual payment.

CLERK'S RECOMMENDATION –

Resolve to switch to HugoFox Bronze package at an annual discounted fee of £122.28 inc VAT. This will give the parish council a news broadcast by emails facility for things like road closures, public consultation, encouraging people to become councillors, etc, as part of a parishioner email registration facility through the website. More professional than a Whats-app broadcast which can be taken over by disinformation.

Authorise additional cost of 8 hours overtime for the clerk to build the new website



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Decision deferred until Simon back. Whatsapp is working well at present. Concerns re financial implications of change and more than one primary source of information.

07/02.24.04 Consider Section 137 charity donations for the benefit of the parish (Voluntary Wardens, Air Ambulance, etc).

**CLERK'S NOTE – for your consideration,
In 2022 – 2023 you donated as follows;**

**Cotswold Voluntary Wardens - £200
Sunflower Suicide Support - £250
Longfield Hospice - £250**

In 2021 – 2022 you donated as follows;

**Cotswolds Voluntary Wardens - £250
Air Ambulance - £200
Longfield Hospice - £250**

Unanimous Decision

- Cotswold Wardens £250
- South West Air Ambulance £250
- Sunflower Suicide Support £200

KP proposed, CR seconded

07/02.24.05 Consider options for Queen Elizabeth II and commit to any spending as agreed.

CLERK'S RECOMMENDATION –

Kath has researched and circulated 3 options, and has been in liaison with the PCC for siting the armillary, Resolve to make a decision as to which to purchase and the cost and I will arrange purchase and delivery (to whom?).

Unanimous Decision to Budget for £1000.

KP proposed, CR seconded

07/02.24.06 Half-day rate for Painswick Handymen is £30.00. Council to consider a list of small jobs for completion and clerk to arrange.

CLERK'S RECOMMENDATION –

Agree a jobs list and delegate to me up to £500 (plenty more than enough) to get the jobs completed by either Painswick Parish Council Handymen or the local tradesman (either Kath or Caroline mentioned) at my discretion.



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KP – Nick Wilcox is £20 ph if using hand tools. He does have public liability insurance. But we should find out about Painswick handyman.

CR – handyman needs to declog grill. Simon to provide further info re Painswick Handyman.

Agreed list of possible Jobs for Handyman:

- Clearing drains and declogging grills between Mayos farm and grass triangle.
- Walking around village and identify drains and exposing covers so that they can be jetted

07/02.24.07 Consider bank signatories ahead of the impending election.

CLERK'S RECOMMENDATION –

We will need at least initially 2 and preferably 3 signatories for payment authorisation from councillors intending to stay on for re-election.

KP will be standing down in May. CR might stay on beyond May if no other applicants, but not as Chair.

Simon is asked to clarify consequences of a Councillor missing 3 Harescombe Parish Council meetings.

07/02.24.08 Note that GAPTC have agreed to act as Internal Auditors

noted

07/02.24.09 Note precept demand for £5,250 has been submitted and acknowledged by SDC.

07/02.24.10 Review and readopt Financial Regulations

Readopted on assumption that Simon has not materially changed contents: KP proposed, CR seconded.

08/02.24 Planning Matters as at 3rd February 2024

08/02.24.01 **Reference S.23/1468/HHOLD**

Horsepools House, Sevenleaze Lane, Edge, Stroud. GL6 6NJ

Removal of garage and erection of single storey extension with glazed canopy.

Status – Permitted

noted

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08/02.24.02 **Reference S.23/1805/HHOLD**

The Orchard, Styles Lane, Harescombe, Gloucester. GL4 0XF

Two storey rear extension to house a disabled lift.

Status – Permitted

noted

08/02.24.03 **Reference S.23/2414/LBC**

Application Validated Wed 06 Dec 2023

Horsepools House Sevenleaze Lane Edge Stroud Gloucestershire GL6 6NJ

Window alterations & replacement.

Status - Awaiting decision

noted

08/02.24.04 **Reference S.23/2364/HHOLD**

Application Validated Thu 07 Dec 2023

Perrycroft Brook Lane Brookthorpe Gloucester Gloucestershire GL4 0DS

Erection of a 1.5 storey garage.

Status – Withdrawn by applicant

noted

08/02.24.05 **Reference S.24/0024/TEL**

Communication Station & Premises Edge Stroud Gloucestershire

Installation of new radio equipment housing, cable gantry and ancillary development.

Consultation expiry 29th January 2024.

Status - Awaiting decision

noted

08/02.24.06 **Reference S.23/2428/OUT**

Land At Whaddon Gloucester Gloucestershire

Outline application for up to 2,550 new dwellings (Class C3) with supporting infrastructure including, a local centre (Class E), community core (Class E and Class F.2), 150 space transport modal interchange, primary and secondary school education provision (Class F.1), open space, areas of green infrastructure, watercourse enhancement measures to



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the Daniels Brook, drainage infrastructure, parking and supporting infrastructure and utilities, and creation of 3no. new access points from the A4173 and 1no. new access point from Naas Lane. All matters reserved apart from access

Standard Consultation Expiry Date - Fri 09 Feb 2024

Overall Consultation Expiry Date - Wed 21 Feb 2024

Status - Awaiting decision

In addition to both matters referred to by SD above and matters referred to by KP, CR and PR in their individual objections, Simon is asked to include the following in the Harescombe Parish Council objection -

Highway safety and Traffic Generation

- The following relates to Harescombe
 - Jct 12 does not have capacity at the moment for present traffic
 - Current queues from Haresfield lane onto the B4008 which goes up to Junction 12 (by Dobbies) - proposal will make this worse
 - Haresfield – proposal will likely cause queues in rushhour
 - In Haresfield, school is on the coner, where there is limited parking; at the moment it is dangerous; parking makes the road a single lane:there are small children– proposal will make this worse
 - As the A4173 will be busy, significant chance of Harescombe being used for shortcuts.
 - Going into Gloucester; St Barnabas Roundabout will not be able to cope with the additional traffic.
 - Traffic increased to unmanageable levels affecting all local roads

Noise and Disturbance

- Traffic causing smells and fumes and noise and disturbance to unacceptable levels

Layout and density

- The proposed development is close to an ANOB

Road Access

- See KP's submission
- Naas Lane is unsuitable for additional traffic

Local strategic, regional planning policieis

- SDC policy is incomplete
- Not in local plan
- SDC appears to be giving land to Glos which has not asked for it

Deficiencies in community social facilities...

- Doctor and Dentists – insufficient service provided currently; existing provision of these services are inadequate, and would be overwhelmed by the proposed additional population.

Public Drainage

- Area has flooded in the past; efficacy of TW's proposals uncertain.

Incompatible uses

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- Loss of crucial farm land;
- Brownfield land should be used

09/02.24 Highways

09/02.24.01 Update on Grunters Lane flooding – Cllr. Ractliffe.

- CR – met with Paul Helbrow who says grips put in between Mayos farm and green triangle. Not working very effectively. CR has written to Paul Helbrow saying that grips on Edge common **not** done. Water goes into Stockend lane and then into Gruntas. Paul Helbrow has not provided a substantive response.
- CR noted that there had been some tarmacking in Gruntas.
- CR noted that the bank close to Springacre which slipped 2-3 years ago, is starting to slip again. Highways had said that pile driving would be done – this needs to be followed up by Simon please.
- Pound of Candles lane – there are many potholes which need to be addressed – Simon please action.

09/02.24.02 Update regarding clearing footpath vegetation on Horsepools Hill – Cllr.

Ractliffe was going to speak with Paul Helbrow during Gruntas Lane Site visit

- Some of this work has been done. No further action at this stage

09/02.24.02 Update on 3-way finger post / gradient sign by Edge Church.

CLERK'S UPDATE –

Highways will not put a separate gradient sign for Gruntas Lane

CPRE Glos are, as a result of me informing them of other county branches working with their respective Highways Authorities, making contact with Cllr Sue Williams to scope this type of issue. I still await an email from Cllr Williams as to whether she has a budget from which she can assist. GCC Highways will only remove rather than replace the sign as these are considered redundant and not replaceable within current budgets. You could choose to fund replacement but my first quote for just the post & sign, not including any removal of old or installation of new, was £1,815.00 + VAT

- Noted; Simon please put on Agenda for next time and follow up with Cllr Williams.

09/02.24.03 Update on telegraph pole.

CLERK'S UPDATE

Clerk only received specific details 2 weeks ago from Cllr Ractliffe as to what the specific issues were perceived to be with this telegraph pole. Now I have the details I will try to progress,

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- Noted. To be added to agenda for next meeting

09/02.24.04 Cllr Williams has authorised Church Lane to be resurfaced.

- Noted

10/02.24 Elections – 2nd May

Council to agree to,

- actively raise awareness of the upcoming elections.
- encourage parishioners to stand for election.
- promote the work and role of the council.
- encourage residents to vote.
- Noted

11/02.24 Other matters

11/02.24.01 Randwick Conservation Area consultation.

- KP – Randwick have paid for a report, which has helped in relation to some planning matters. The restrictions on planning developments in Harescombe mean that such an exercise/report is unlikely to materially assist in Harescombe.

CLERK'S RECOMMENDATION

Consider any response you may wish to make as a council to the consultation I circulated

12/02.24 Matters arising (no decisions can be made on such matters).

- Flytipping discussed, including the flytipping causing Tractor Tyre punctures on Adrian Ractliffe's land. In past, signs have been put up, cameras have been put up. Simon to be asked to share any knowledge and information from other Councils methods of dealing with the problem
- All incidents to be reported on SDC website section relating to Flytipping

13/02.24 Date of next meeting. 7.30pm Monday 8th April 2024.

CLERK'S NOTE – I put Tuesday in error on the original agenda. Monday 8th is the correct date.