

## HARESCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL

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

ON 1<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER 2021 AT 8PM.

Present: Cllrs Dafydd Lawday, Kath Pritchard, Caroline Ractliffe (Vice Chair), and Sheila Murray (Clerk). Cllr Ractliffe was voted to act as Chairperson for this meeting.

**Visitor: Neighbourhood Warden** – Frasier Hammond gave an overview of his duties in the Community. This included Fly Tipping issues which he is aware of and regularly clears as much as possible during his duties. He advised that discussions with SDC Legal department confirmed that the proposed signage for Fly Tipping should not reference any penalty notices as the Parish Council does not have the power to display such information. Cllrs discussed the access and turning difficulties experienced by heavy goods vehicles but there is warning signage in place and it was agreed there was little that could be done except to increase the signage which was not favoured.

Cllr Ractliffe thanked Mr Hammond for attending the meeting.

There were no members of the public present.

#### **1/12.21 Public question time**

None

#### **2/12.21 To receive apologies for absence**

Apologies were received from District Councillor Mossman and Cllrs Buckmaster and Hyett which were accepted.

#### **3/12.21 To approve the minutes of the previous meeting**

The minutes of the meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> September, 2021 were amended as follows:

Item : 6/09.21 6.2 replace Blue Bell Lane with Gruntas Lane.

The minutes were then accepted and approved as a true record. Signed by Cllr Ractliffe on behalf of the Council.

#### **4/12.21 Matters Arising from the Minutes not covered on the Agenda**

None

#### **5/12.21 Member's declaration of interest to items on the agenda**

Cllr Pritchard declared an interest in PCC matters agenda item 9.

#### **6/12.21 To appoint the position of Chair**

We received notification that Cllr Buckmaster has stood down from Parish Council with immediate effect due to illness. Councillors extended their good wishes for a speedy and full recovery. Cllr Ractliffe was nominated and accepted to stand in as Chair for the remainder of this term of office. Cllrs unanimously supported this nomination.

#### **7/12.21 To discuss a Casual Vacancy**

Councillors requested the Clerk to begin the process for the appointment of a Casual Vacancy. Information will be provided on the Noticeboard, website and Village Group communication via Whatsapp. Any parishioners interested in the Casual Vacancy should contact the Clerk – Mrs Sheila Murray on 01452 741824 or email

[harescombepc@gmail.com](mailto:harescombepc@gmail.com)

#### **8/12/21 Report on roads, ditches and footpaths in the village**

**8.1** Cllr Ractliffe gave an update on activity by Highways.

**8.11 Gruntas Lane** - She confirmed that they have inspected the old Hedging at the top of Gruntas Lane and reported that no further action will be taken at this time.

**8.12 Bluebell Lane-Pound of Candles.** Gigaclear have removed a grating which requires replacement before Highways carry out further works. Cllr Ractliffe will follow up with Highways as no action has been forthcoming.

**8.2 Passing Place-Pound of Candles.**

Cllr Ractliffe advised that discussions with Highways confirmed that the works will be carried out this financial year.

**8.3 Fly Tipping**

Councillors agreed they could now go ahead with signage as they had been waiting to hear about any legal implications regarding penalty notices. This was now clear and Cllr Ractliffe will obtain the artwork and proceed. Councillors will be requested to view prior to any purchase.

**8.4 To approve purchase of Grit Bins**

The Clerk was requested to contact Cllr Hyett to confirm size and number of Grit bins to purchase. It was also noted that a programme to replace the old blue bins should be put in place. Cllr Ractliffe proposed that the quantity should not exceed a value of £1000 vote: Unanimous.

**8.5 Road Cleaning**

The Clerk was requested to contact SDC to arrange a Road Cleaning prior to the Village event on 17<sup>th</sup> December, 2021.

**8.6 Name Plate Brook Lane**

The Clerk confirmed that an order was required for the manufacture of the signage for the newly named Brook Lane. Cllr Ractliffe proposed that one freestanding sign should be purchased. Vote: unanimous.

**9/12.21 Village Projects**

**9.11** Installation of a Defibrillator. Cllr Ractliffe invited Cllr Pritchard to give an update on the decisions given by the PCC for the next two items on the Agenda.

Cllr Pritchard confirmed that the PCC were in agreement to place the Defibrillator unit in the grounds of the Church Hall. They would advise details of an electrician for the installation and recommended the unit be placed to the left or right of the entrance. Councillors debated the location and agreed the unit be placed to the left of the entrance as you face the Church Hall.

**9.12** Cllr Ractliffe advised that the Defibrillator unit has been delivered and is in her possession. She stated that Cllr Hyett was willing to install the unit at a cost of circa £100. She proposed that Cllr Hyett carry out the installation, vote unanimous.

**9.2** Cllr Pritchard reported that the PCC could not provide a viable case to install WiFi and therefore rejected the request by the Parish Council.

Cllr Buckmaster has provided an alternative wiring solution which Cllr Ractliffe will experiment with.

**10/12.21 District Councillor's report**

District Councillor Mossman was unable to attend the meeting and sent the following report:

- The SDC Local Plan has been sent to the Inspectorate for examination and no further news is anticipated until late 2022. He stated the most significant item in the plan that would affect Harescombe is the proposed 3000 houses to be built at Whaddon. He believes the final decision will be based on the traffic conditions around St. Barnabas roundabout and Junction 12 of the M5.
- He expressed concerns about the rise and variant changes of Covid19 and urged everyone to take all the necessary precautions to help stop the spread.

**11/12.21 Planning update**

There were no new applications.

The Clerk gave an update on existing applications:

14/10/21 S21/2427/VAR Site formerly known as Wood Cottage, Sevenleaze Lane, Edge.  
Variation order – PERMITTED

21/10/21 S21/2504/HHOLD Gardeners Cottage, Stroud Road, Brookthorpe  
Erection of two storey side and single storey rear extensions – AWAITING DECISION  
The Clerk confirmed this application had also been forwarded to Brookthorpe PC.

### 12/12.21 Finance

**12.1** The financial reports were provided to Councillors prior to the meeting and included:

-A Bank Reconciliation and the Financial Performance Report.

Councillors unanimously approved the documents.

**12.2** The Bacs schedule was presented and approved for payment.

Payment schedule

|            |                       |                    |      |           |                   |
|------------|-----------------------|--------------------|------|-----------|-------------------|
| 01/12/2021 | Sheila Murray         | Salary Oct/Nov     | BACS | £ 199.94  | LGA 1972 s.112(2) |
| 01/12/2021 | HMRC                  | PAYE Oct/Nov       | BACS | £ 38.40   | LGA 1972 s.112(2) |
| 01/12/2021 | Passion First Aid Ltd | Defibrillator unit | BACS | £1,800.00 | PHA1936 s.234     |

### 13/12/21 Budget 2022/2023

**13.1 Funding for the Church Council.** Councillors discussed the issue raised at the last meeting and the earlier decision to cease funding was upheld.

The Clerk recommended that she would approach GAPTC with Cllr Ractliffe to discuss how funds could be attributed to Community events. Cllr Ractliffe confirmed that the local authority are promoting the idea of a Community Hub and it was agreed that a representative be invited to the next meeting to expand on the options available.

#### 13.2 Budget proposals

The budget was tabled and Councillors discussed the forecast and details for the new budget year. Councillors proposed a donation of up to £400 to be provided to local charities and the Clerk to confirm what type of Charities are within the power of the Parish Council. Vote: unanimous.

The Clerk will finalise the Budget for approval at the January meeting.

#### 13.3 The Precept

Councillors discussed the precept. Cllr Ractliffe proposed that the precept remain the same at £5080 but to check the amount charged per head of the Electoral role as this should remain unchanged. The Clerk will confirm.

### 14/12/21 Administration

**14.1 Policy Documents:** A copy of the draft amended Standing Orders were submitted to Councillors prior to the meeting. The Clerk outlined changes of the review and Cllr Ractliffe proposed the Standing Orders be adopted. Vote unanimous.

### 15/12/21 Correspondence - None

### 16/09/21 Councillors' Submissions - None

**17/09/21** Date of next meeting 19<sup>th</sup> January 2022 at 8pm in the Church Hall.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.10 pm