

HARESCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 16 JANUARY 2019 IN HARESCOMBE VILLAGE HALL AT 8.00PM

Present:

Cllrs Andrew Buckmaster (Chairman), Mike Hyett, Linda Pike, Kath Pritchard and Caroline Ractliffe

In attendance:

Steph Pike (Clerk)

1. Public Question Time – limited to 15 minutes

None

2. To Receive Apologies for Absence

Cllr Keith Rippington.

Cllr Tom Skinner did not show but failed to give apologies for absence.

3. To Approve Minutes of the Meeting held on 28 November 2018

The minutes were unanimously approved by the Cllrs and signed by the Chairman.

4. Matters Arising from the Minutes not covered on the Agenda

The Clerk circulated a number of options for new notice boards and the Cllrs discussed which would be the best for the village. The Cllrs unanimously decided that the notice board should be A1, black aluminium with a header saying "Harescombe Parish".

Action: Clerk to confirm price with Cllrs and obtain approval prior to purchasing.

5. Member's declaration to items on the agenda

Cllr Pike declared an interest as a relation to the Clerk and so did not wish to partake in the approval of the Clerk's pay.

6. District Councillor's report

Cllr Skinner not in attendance.

7. Planning Applications to be discussed by the Cllrs (to include any other applications submitted prior to the date of the meeting that are not listed below)

S.18/2111/FUL – Hilles House – the Cllrs had no comments.

8. Report on roads, ditches and footpaths in the village

a. Road cleaning timetable and scheduling;

The Clerk advised that she had attempted further contact with Lucy Clements but that Lucy had now left Stroud District Council.

It was noted that Dave Baldwin had cleaned the ditches since the last meeting. Cllr Hyett advised that the hedges were about to be trimmed and so the road cleaning should happen after this.

Action: Clerk to call Lucy's replacement at Stroud District Council to ask when roads will be cleaned/request an active ticket for the roads to be cleaned ASAP. If the roads have not been cleaned by early February, the Clerk will organise a private road clean. The route required to be cleaned is: round the block, to the church and up to Brook farm, from the milk stand in.

b. Highways funding application;

The Clerk advised that:

- Cllr Keith Rippington had been taken ill and would not be attending meetings for the foreseeable future.
- Contact had been made with the Cotswold Wardens and they were looking into the repairs to the footpath at the top of Gruntas Lane.

Cllr Pike advised about nearly broken stile down by Daniel's Brook that is in need of some maintenance/repairs.

Action: Clerk to email Cotswold Wardens again to ask whether they can investigate the stile issue.

The Cllrs also discussed the Pound of Candles ditch issue and agreed they would need to monitor for accidents (i.e. vehicles slipping into the ditch) prior to any further action being taken.

Cllr Buckmaster circulated a draft letter to Marian Ractliffe, which was approved by the remaining Cllrs.

Action: Cllr Buckmaster to send letter.

Cllr Buckmaster mentioned the road safety group and Harescombe Parish Council's response that the speed limit is currently 60mph but the Cllrs believe it should be reduced to 20mph. The Clerk confirmed she had passed on the message.

Horse signs

Cllr Hyett advised that other local parishes had been receiving emails from Cllr Rippington and Daniel Tiffney on this subject so not sure why communication is not the same for Harescombe PC.

Cllr Pike has been in touch with Dee Prout who confirmed that Stroud District Council is now providing the signage. Dee has asked for Harescombe Parish Council to purchase a banner for a Pass Wide and Slow event. The cost of the banner is £35. The Cllrs unanimously approved this expenditure.

Action: Cllr Pike to ask Dee to give forewarning of anything else she may require to be paid for by Harescombe Parish Council.

c. Progress on problems arising from Giga Clear cable laying.

No further correspondence received or any action taken as far as the Cllrs are aware.

Action: Clerk to chase Highways for an update.

AOB on roads – Cllr Pike said that some of the grit bins were filling with water because the lids seem to be left open/blow open. This may become an issue when the grit is needed for the roads. The lids need to be clipped/self shutting to prevent this.

Action: Cllr Hyett to drill holes in the grit bins to allow water to drain.

9. Stroud Local Plan – to collate answers for submission on the consultation

The collective draft response agreed by Cllrs Pritchard, Ractliffe and Pike had been collated and circulated prior to the meeting. In particular, these Cllrs had agreed that they wanted to raise the following points for Harescombe and these had been incorporated in the response:

- Harescombe not even mentioned in tiers.
- Potential for minor development of smaller houses to retain younger people and help older people downsizing and for a sustainable community i.e. not just restricted to affordable housing in the restricted sense of its meaning.
- No suitable settlement boundary currently exists for Harescombe - consultation with PC recommended to agree changes.
- Why does the AONB prevent infill/use of brownfield sites?
- Isolating rural communities by ignoring infrastructure etc needs - leads to vicious circle.
- No comments in the consultation paper made on the impact on infrastructure for areas surrounding new/extended settlements- further study required

Another point was raised in relation to the Whaddon development at Grange Road. Whaddon is in Stroud District Council but appears to have given to Gloucester City Council and huge new developments elsewhere in Stroud as a result.

It was agreed by all the Cllrs that the draft response could now be submitted as a final version.

Action: Clerk to submit response by 18 January deadline.

The Cllrs briefly discussed SDC Statement of Community Involvement consultation and agreed they had no comments to make.

10. Finance

a. Presentation of finance report year to date and approval of bank reconciliation

Cllr Pike signed the latest reconciliation and the latest cashbook was presented to the Cllrs.

b. Discuss draft budget

The Cllrs approved the draft budget.

Action: Clerk to finalise and include new noticeboard.

c. Discuss and agree precept request

Cllr Pike explained how the tax base works. In summary the council tax bill could be lowered very slightly as there are more people contributing and precept would remain the same, however, if no change to the council tax, the precept can be raised slightly.

The Cllrs agreed to raise precept in line with the budget and therefore the Harescombe share of the council tax bill should remain the same.

Action: Clerk to submit the precept request before the end of January.

d. To authorise payments and sign cheques for Council affairs

- i. **Clerk salary and expenses from 27 November 2018 – 14 January 2019 –**
approved to 15 January.

AOB finance: a cheque was signed for Dave Baldwin (ditch cleaning), previously approved in point 9(d) of the minutes from November's meeting.

11. Councillors information exchange & correspondence

Cllr Buckmaster advised he would put some information about the Community Funding Group and the about the Parish Council website in the Parish Council magazine.

Cllr Pike requested a page on the website in relation to the village trusts (trustees appointed by the PC) to raise awareness and encourage children to apply for funding. This was agreed.

Action: Cllr Pike to write the narrative for the new website page and Clerk will upload.

12. Buckingham Palace Garden party nomination

The Clerk advised that Brian Stanley (former Chair) had been nominated and it was confirmed he had been entered into the draw.

Action: Clerk to update the Cllrs if informed that Brian has been successful.

13. Set dates for 2019 meetings

The Cllrs agreed the dates for this year's meetings. The meetings will take place on the 3rd Wednesday every other month, dates as follows:

- 20 March 2019
- 15 May 2019 (Annual Parish Council meeting and Annual Parish meeting)
- 17 July 2019
- 18 September 2019
- 20 November 2019

14. Agenda items for the March 2019 meeting

- Include invoice for village hall within the finance section.
- Retrospective approval of cheque to Dee Prout for the banner.

Meeting closed: 21:30

Next meeting: 20 March 2019