

HARESCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT THE VILLAGE HALL

ON 31st JANUARY 2023 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 Paul Day – Cotswold Volunteer Warden Scheme

Cllr Ractliffe welcomed Mr Day to give us an update on his work. Mr Day advised that he is new to the role and is in a probationary period. He confirmed his main interest is in supporting the maintenance of footpaths and rights of way access for landowners and walkers.

Cllr Ractliffe pointed out two issues relating to restricted access one at the rear of Mill House and a second, is a stone style step down which is blocked. Mr Day recommended the location details and this information be forwarded via email to enable him to arrange inspection of the two locations.

1/01.23 Public question time

None

2/01.23 To receive apologies for absence

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Mossman.

3/01.23 To approve the minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 15th November, 2022 were accepted and approved as a true record. Signed by Cllr Ractliffe on behalf of the Council.

4/01.23 Matters Arising from the Minutes not covered on the Agenda

None

5/01.23 Member's declaration of interest to items on the agenda.

Cllrs Pritchard and Ractliffe declared an interest in PPC Church Hall matters.

6/01.23 Report on roads, ditches and footpaths in the village

Highways

Cllr Ractliffe confirmed she has met with Highways' representatives to discuss the following outstanding issues:

6.1 Resurfacing of Church Lane – Highways confirmed that this work is not included in the budget for 2023/2024. Cllr Williams will investigate further in an attempt to find a solution for 2023/24. (*First initiated March 2021 Minute: 6.03.21*)

6.2 Blocked drains are causing flooding from Brooke Farm down Gruntas Lane – this was inspected. Cllr Williams will follow up with Highways about clearing the known blockages.

6.3 Highways refused Grit bins to be located at the bottom of Gruntas Lane as their policy is to provide salt bags to corner properties for use as and when needed. Cllrs raised concern about icing at this location as it is a very dangerous bend exacerbated by the poor location of a BT Pole. Cllrs agreed that this was an unsatisfactory solution.

6.4 Hayes Farm – Gigaclear removed a grating at the top of Blue Bell Lane and this has still not been resolved. Cllr Williams will follow up. (*First initiated July 2021 Minute: 6.07.21*)

6.5 Cllrs confirmed that the Snow Plough operator was Mr. Jeremy Prout, Styles Farm, Harescombe. There is no officially appointed Snow Warden.

6.6 The Clerk was requested to research how a BT Pole could be moved.

7/01.23 Village Projects

7.1 Queens Jubilee – Tree Planting

Following consultation Cllr Ractliffe advised that planting trees in hedge boundaries is not recommended. No alternative options have been forthcoming so it was agreed to cancel this project.

7.2 In Memory of the Late Queen Elizabeth – Cllr Pritchard confirmed that the PCC would give their permission for a memorial to be placed in the grounds of the Church Hall. Councillors discussed the opportunity to place a Cotswold stone planter and bench. Quotations will be obtained.

8/01.23 County Councillor’s Report

Cllr Williams submitted her monthly report prior to the meeting.

She was also seeking information regarding local bus services as she is aware that some regular services have been cancelled by Stagecoach. She added that she will be sitting on a new scrutiny committee set up to assess bus service requirements. She advised that a Pilot scheme for ‘book a bus’ is operating in the Forest of Dean and appears to be popular with the rural community.

Cllr Williams advised that she has approached the Environmental Cabinet member regarding the scheme for Tree Planting in 2022 as around 68,000 trees were planted but there appears to be concern about how many have survived and if the initiative was a success.

9/01.23 District Councillor’s Report

No report

10/01.23 Planning update

There were no new planning matters to discuss.

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. – The Clerk has chased SDC for the triage decision and Cllr Williams will also make enquiries.

11/01.23 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 Ractliffe Vote: Unanimous.

11.1.1 Cllr Ractliffe said there was an interest in Defibrillator Training and will consult the Community. The Clerk was requested to make enquiries about how to organise this event.

11.3 Cllr Hyett proposed and confirmed the purchase and receipt of the Grit Bins. Approved by Cllr Ractliffe.

11.2 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
31/01/2023	Mrs Sheila Murray	Clerks Salary Nov-£196.44	Bacs	£ 468.16	LGA 1972 s.112(2)
31/01/2023	Mrs Sheila Murray	Clerks Salary Dec-£135.96			
31/01/2023	Mrs Sheila Murray	Clerks Salary Jan-£135.76			
31/01/2023	HMRC	Paye Nov/Dec/Jan	Bacs	£ 117.00	LGA 1972 s.112(2)
31/01/2023	Pata	Payroll Services	Bacs	£ 28.85	LGA1972 s.111
31/01/2023	Cots Warden Scheme	Donation	Bacs	£ 200.00	LGA1972 s.137
31/01/2023	Sunflower Suicide Support Trust	Donation	Bacs	£ 250.00	LGA1972 s.137
31/01/2023	Longfield Hospice	Donation	Bacs	£ 250.00	LGA1972 s.137
				£ 1,314.01	

04/01/2023 ESE Direct Grit Bins (3) Bacs £ 443.92 LGA1972 s.137
paid retrospectively

12/01/23 Budget 2023/2024

The Clerk confirmed that application for the Precept has been made to SDC for £5080 for 2023/2024.

Budget items discussed.

Hall Hire – Cllr Hyett proposed that the Hall Hire be increased annually in line with the Consumer Price Index (CPI) this was 10.1% (September 2022). Seconded, Cllr Lawday. Vote: 3 in favour, 2 abstained with declared Interest.

Ditch Clearing – Councillors agreed to arrange Ditch Clearing from Threshold Farm to the grass Triangle before the financial year end and to retain this financial allocation for the new Budget year.

Memorial Items - Cotswold Trough and Bench – Cllrs agreed that the allocation of funds should be retained as an Earmarked Reserve if they are unable to purchase the items before the financial year end.

Cllr Richards proposed approval of the budget 2023/2024, seconded Cllr Hyett. Vote: unanimous.

13/01.23 Administration

13.1 Cllr Lawday proposed adoption of the Code of Conduct as reviewed by SDC, seconded Cllr Pritchard. Vote unanimous.

13.2 Cllr Pritchard proposed approval of the Charter of Town and Parish Councils by SDC, seconded by Cllr Ractliffe. Vote unanimous but Cllrs requested the Clerk check the details regarding the website and email requirements to ensure we are compliant.

13.3 Cllr Ractliffe will carry out the Clerk's appraisal and a date was set for February 23rd at 10am via zoom.

14/01.23 Correspondence

The Clerk advised that Xmas cards were received from the MP and SARA.

15/01.23 Councillors' Submissions

Cllr Hyett advised that he would not be standing as a Councillor for the Annual General Meeting. The Clerk will instigate Co-option procedures as necessary.

16/11.22 Date of the next Parish Council meeting will be held on Tuesday 21st March, 2023 at 8.00pm in the Church Hall.

The Clerk confirmed she will be absent for the Annual Parish Meeting and the Annual General Meeting but will provide all the necessary procedures and documents. Cllr Lawday agreed to take notes for preparation of the Minutes of these meetings.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.05 pm