

HARESCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON LINE ON 16TH SEPTEMBER 2020 AT 8PM.

Present: Cllrs Andy Buckmaster (Chairman), Mike Hyett, Daffyd Lawday, Kath Pritchard, Caroline Ratcliffe (Vice Chair) and Sheila Murray (Clerk)

There were no members of the public present

1/9.20 Public question time

None

2/9.20 To receive apologies for absence

None. It was noted that no communication was received from the County or District Councillors. The Clerk will again make enquiries about their continued absence.

3/9.20 To approve the minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 22nd July, 2020 were accepted and approved as a true record. To be signed at an appropriate time by Cllr Buckmaster on behalf of the Council.

4/9.20 Matters Arising from the Minutes not covered on the Agenda

None

5/9.20 Member's declaration of interest to items on the agenda

Cllr Ratcliffe declared a pecuniary interest on items: 6.2 Footpath access and the Planning item S20/1605/FUL for Brook Farm.

6/9.20 Report on roads, ditches and footpaths in the village

6/9.1 Cllr Buckmaster raised concern about the condition of Daniels Brook which passes via his and Cllr Ratcliffe's property. Cllr Pritchard gave an update on previous history and condition of the brook. Cllrs agreed to arrange a meeting to view the brook first hand.

Action: Cllr Buckmaster to arrange the meeting.

6/9.2 Cllr Ratcliffe stepped away from the meeting.

Councillors discussed the footpath access from the route Brookthorpe to Harescombe across the fields. It is known that when a maize crop is grown in this field access to the public footpath becomes difficult to pass. Councillors agreed to advise the landowners that a complaint of restricted access has been received.

Cllr Ratcliffe returned to the meeting and was invited to comment. She confirmed that the maize crop will be cut within the next two weeks.

Action: The Clerk will advise the complainant accordingly.

6/9.3 The Stroud District Road Safety Group (SDRSG) have advised that the Chair is stepping down and two options were put to the Council.

A. To continue with the appointment of another Chair or

B To disband the organisation and distribute any remaining funds back to the respective Parish Councils.

Councillors debated the options and voted to support option B.

Proposed: Cllr Pritchard, seconded by Cllr Hyett vote: unanimous.

Action: The Clerk will advise SDRSG of the decision.

6/9.4 To discuss the state of the verges, and the Council not cutting them anymore.

Cllr Ratcliffe raised concern that Highways are not cutting the verges and visual splays are becoming overgrown. The Clerk explained the arrangements made with an independent verge cutting contract organised by the Severn Voice but was not aware that Highways were not cutting verges. She agreed to discuss the matter with Highways.

Action: Clerk to contact the Highways Department.

7/9.20 County Councillor's report

None received.

8/9.20 Planning SDC decisions and new applications

The Clerk confirmed that the Planning Applications and status listed below were up to date as at 16th September 2020. No further comments were given.

Reference	Location	Description	Comment
S20/1603/FUL	Harescombe Grange	Subdivide existing house into two dwellings	SUPPORT from Councillors Pending decision
S20/1495/FUL	Hayes Farm	Conversion of farm buildings to accommodation	COMMENTS from Councillors Pending Decision
S20/1605/FUL	Brook Farm	Convert to holiday cottages	SUPPORT from Councillors Pending Decision
S20/1456/FUL	Wood Cottage	Amendments to access track	SUPPORT from Councillors Pending Decision
S20/1522/FUL	Wood Cottage	Replacement dwelling/ erection of garage and store	SUPPORT from Councillors Pending Decision

9/9.20 Finance

9/9.1 The financial reports were provided to Councillors prior to the meeting and included:

- A Bank Reconciliation
- Summary expenditure year to date
- Performance v budget.

Cllr Buckmaster proposed approval of the documents, seconded by Cllr Pritchard.

Vote: unanimous

9/9.2 Cllr Ratcliffe proposed that the following payments be made and the cheques signed at a convenient time. Seconded, Cllr Pritchard. Vote: unanimous.

Invoices for payment

Date	Cheque No	Payee	Description	Amount	Power
16/09/20	438	Mrs Murray	Salary August	£145.37	LGA 1972 s.112(2)
16/09/20	439	HMRC	PAYE August	£ 23.80	LGA 1972 s.111

10/9. Administration

10/9.1 The Clerk confirmed that the AGAR exemption certificate has been authorised by the external auditors.

10/9.2 The Website Accessibility Statement was sent to Councillors prior to the meeting. The Clerk confirmed that the Website framework for accessibility has been updated and she is currently updating all the content to be ready for the 23rd September 2020. Cllr Buckmaster proposed approval of the Website Accessibility Statement, seconded by Cllr Lawday. Vote: unanimous.

10/9.3) The Privacy Policy and consent forms were sent to Councillors prior to the meeting. Cllr Buckmaster proposed to adopt the policy, seconded Cllr Pritchard. Vote: unanimous. Consent forms to be returned to the Clerk when completed and signed.

10/9.4) The Risk Management Policy was not available as the Clerk has requested further information on the location of assets. Cllr Hyett will provide the information to enable the Policy to be presented at the next meeting.

11/9.20 Correspondence

11/9.1 Councillors debated the proposal of Stroudwater Station, Bristol Road, Stonehouse that has been sent from Stonehouse Town Council.

The Council agreed to support the proposal and to lobby the County Council Transport Plan to provide public transport via the local villages to and from the local stations. Action: The Clerk will contact Stonehouse Town Council and the County Council with their comments.

11/9.2 The Clerk confirmed that the Data Protection Certificate has been renewed and is valid until 25th August 2021.

12/9.20 Councillors' Submissions.

The Clerk advised that the actions from the Internal Audit Report were nearly completed. She will submit the Grant Awarding Policy at the next meeting but minded Councillors that they do not have the power to process donations to the Church and advised Councillors that they should take legal advice if they wish to do so.

Action: The Clerk will send information relating to this matter to Cllr Pritchard.

13/9.20 Date of the next meeting

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be on 18th November, 2020 at 8pm.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.10pm