

# Harescombe Parish Council

## Harescombe Parish Council Meeting

Monday 13<sup>th</sup> January 2025 at Harescombe Village Hall.

### Minutes

Meeting commenced at 7.30pm.

Present - Cllrs. T. Leeper, P. Richards, C. Ractliffe, District Cllr. D. Turner-Wilkes. Clerk Mr. S. Hale

- 24.111 No members of the public were in attendance.
- 24.112 Council resolved to receive apologies from Cllr. Perkins and County Cllr. S. Williams.
- 24.113 No member's declaration of interest to items on the agenda.
- 24.114 Council resolved to approve the minutes for 11<sup>th</sup> November 2024.
- 24.115 Report was received from District Councillor Turner-Wilkes. This will be published on the website. The report focuses in particular on Government devolution proposals. SDC are progressing with a new local plan. Cllr Ractliffe observed that Harescombe do not appear to have been considered for planning locations as part of the local plan. There are only large houses and no affordable housing for young locals. Cllr. Turner-Wilkes will make enquiries of SDC and report back to Cllr. Ractliffe and the clerk.
- 24.116 Report received from County Councillor, circulated and published on the website.

### Finance.

- 24.117 Council noted that Mrs I. Litton has agreed to act as the council's competent and independent internal auditor.
- 24.118 Council noted the annual CIL report for 2023/2024 has been submitted to SDC and has been published on the parish council website. The parish council has submitted a nil return of CIL expenditure.
- 24.119 Council resolved to authorise a payment of £235.00 for hall hire for meetings.
- 24.120 Following approval of a budget at the last meeting, for a replacement the Harescombe sign following unreported damage, the sign has been repaired by a parishioner. Council resolved not to replace the sign, and to take no further action at this time.
- 24.121 Directional fingerpost to the church – Council is happy with the design of the sign. The clerk, with delegated authority, will proceed with ordering and arrange installation by Highways.
- 24.122 Council resolved to ask for a “.gov.uk” domain name, offered as part of our webhosting package. Delegated to the clerk but preferably, harescombepc.gov.uk
- 24.123 Council noted and ratified the following receipts and payments

Date	Receipts	Amount
11/11/2024	Gross interest on savings	£9.97
09/12/2024	Gross interest on savings	£8.47

Date	Payments	Net	Vat	Gross
05/12/2024	GAPTC Annual Subscription	£62.36	£0.00	£62.36
	Reimburse clerk 25% of SLCC Membership	£45.75	£0.00	£45.75
23/12/2024	Normtec - 3-way fingerpost signs at Edge	£754.60	£0.00	£754.60
	PATA Payroll Q3	£31.85	£0.00	£31.85
	Clerk Q3 salary			

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- 24.124 Council noted the result of the internal controls and bank reconciliation. Council received all internal controls documentation ahead of the meeting and no questions were raised.

## Bank Reconciliation

OPENING BALANCE: 01/04/2024	£17,968.98
INCOME TO DATE	£5,479.51
LESS TOTAL EXPENDITURE TO DATE	£5,741.48
FUND BALANCE: 05/01/2025	£17,707.01
REPRESENTED BY: 05/01/2025	
LLOYDS TREASURERS ACCOUNT BALANCE	£6,661.24
LLOYDS SAVINGS ACCOUNT BALANCE	£11,045.77
BALANCE	£17,707.01

- 24.125 Council considered and resolved to make the following s.137 charity donations for 2024/2025 financial year. £700 had been budgeted however, council resolved to transfer any year end surplus to the infrastructure budget towards financing a passing place.

- Air Ambulance £150.00
- Cotswold Wardens £50.00

- 24.126 Council to considered and resolved to approve a budget of £5,720 for 2025/26.  
24.127 Having considered and resolved to approve a budget, council resolved that the precept demand for 2025/26 was to be £5,720.

- 24.128 Council considered and resolved to amalgamate the Maintenance and Infrastructure (M&I) earmarked reserves into a single earmarked reserve called Maintenance and Infrastructure. General reserve set at £4000 and any year end surplus to go into the M&I reserve.

## Planning Matters – All were considered by the council

- 24.129 Reference S.23/2414/LBC  
Application validated 6<sup>th</sup> December 2023  
Horsepools House, Sevenleaze Lane, Edge, Stroud. GL6 6NJ  
Window alterations & replacement.  
Status Awaiting decision

- 24.130 Reference S.23/2428/OUT  
A full objection to this application has been submitted by the parish council.  
Land At Whaddon Gloucester Gloucestershire  
Outline application for up to 2,550 new dwellings, etc ...  
Status Awaiting decision

## Policies and Procedures

- 24.131 The ongoing casual vacancy was noted by councillors.

## Highways



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- 24.132 **Vehicle Passing Places** – The clerk received no communications regarding Pound-of-Candles Lane passing place. Cllr. Ractliffe received 7 messages of support for improvements, although the cost was a concern to some respondents. Council resolved that the clerk should contact GCC Highways Manager and County Councillor Williams to consider progressing this matter. Furthermore, both should be asked to consider what maximum support could be offered towards costs. Clerk to research the legality of financing the work if the layby would be within Haresfield Parish boundary.
- 24.133 **Village road surfaces** – Forty-four more road surface deficiencies have been identified on Gruntas Lane and Pound of Candles Lane. The clerk will need to report each deficiency individually through FixMyStreet. County Councillor was been contacted to see what she can do to push for resurfacing. Highways will check to see where, if at all, these 2 roads sit on the list for resurfacing.
- Cllr Ractliffe expressed concern about a drain in Church Lane and asked if Highways could note this for when resurfacing works take place. Cllr. Ractliffe to pass the location to the clerk.
- 24.134 **Fingerposts at Edge Church** – update. Signs have been received and are at the clerk's home address for safekeeping. They will be installed by Highways once their Community Projects Team is reformed in April.
- 24.135 **Overgrown verges from the triangle to the Harescombe sign** – Council resolved that as the hedges and verges are under the ownership and control of local farmers, the council will not pursue this matter. NFA
- 24.136 **Haresfield Lane, newly cut drainage ditches** – Council noted that Haresfield Parish Council have confirmed that the main drainage ditches in areas along Haresfield Lane were recently recut by Highways to alleviate highway flooding issues. Additionally, local farmers maintain their roadside hedges and ditches where they feel they have become unsafe.
- 24.137 **Gruntas Lane / Blue-Bell Lane Grit Bin** – Highways have agreed to a request from the clerk for a bin at this location. However, no blue new blue bins are available until next financial year. Council resolved to accept Highways offer of a bin at this location to be installed for next winter.
- 24.138 **Edge Resurfacing** – Council noted that Highways have committed to recutting existing drainage 'grips' once the resurfacing has been completed.
- 24.139 **Matters arising (no decisions can be made on such matters).**
- Councillors to keep an eye on a local location regarding potential planning issues. Cllr T-W to discuss with County Councillor.
  - Council considered physical protection of the layby next to the Haresfield sign and decided not to proceed at this time.
  - Possible relocation of the Harescombe Village sign to be considered at the next meeting.
- 24.140 **Date of the next meeting** - 7.30pm Monday 10<sup>th</sup> March 2025.
- Meeting concluded at 9.00 pm

