

HARESCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 27 NOVEMBER 2019 IN HARESCOMBE VILLAGE HALL AT 8.00PM

Present: Cllrs Andrew Buckmaster (Chair), Mike Hyett, Kath Pritchard and Caroline Ractliffe

In attendance: Steph Pike (Clerk), Dafydd Lawday, Brian Stanley

1. Public question time – limited to 15 minutes – to include vote on co-option

Parishioner, Brian Stanley reported that drainage was blocked by hedge cuttings by the Milkstand and that other drains in the village are filled with leaves. He noted that the drains opposite Tim Mayo's gate also get blocked.

The Cllrs and Mr Stanley discussed the issue and concluded that pipe cleaning needs to be delayed until later in the year after the hedges have been cut and that it may be necessary to coordinate with the farmers to ensure it is timed correctly.

Mr Stanley also reported that the water running down Gruntas Lane is missing the drain.

Various other road and drain issues were discussed resulting and the following actions were agreed:

Actions:

- Clerk to ask Highways to clear the drains by the Milkstand and by Harescombe sign near Adrian Ractliffe's field as pipe blocked.
- Cllr Hyett agreed to remove fly tipping in the ditch reported by Cllr Ractliffe.
- Cllr Buckmaster to speak to Adrian Ractliffe to check whether Mr Ractliffe could remove the fly tipping by his field and also in relation to a pipe being blocked by a tree which is in a field rented by Mr Ractliffe from Marion Ractliffe.
- Cllr Buckmaster to continue speaking to Marion Ractliffe about on-going drainage issue on Gruntas Lane.

Co-option for vacancy of Cllr

The Cllrs co-opted Dafydd Lawday to serve as a Cllr for Harescombe Parish Council. The Cllrs debated and voted on the co-option of the vacancy. The Cllrs voted unanimously for Mr Lawday to be elected as a new Cllr.

Mr Lawday made a declaration of Acceptance of Office.

2. To receive apologies for absence

None.

3. To approve minutes of the meeting held on 18 September 2019

The minutes of the meeting were unanimously approved by the Cllrs and signed by the Chair.

AWB

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

None.

5. Member's declaration to items on the agenda

None.

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

Mr Stanley reported back on the Stroud District Road Safety Group (SDRSG) meeting and advised that it will be very difficult/impossible to get the speed limit changed in Harescombe.

Mr Stanley summarised the SDRSG meeting as follows:

- Speed reduction is a big priority in some areas - e.g. built up areas with a school.
- SDRSG has drawn up list of 42 sites of concern in relation to existing speed limits.
- For a speed limit to be reduced, the area needs to be a proven accident area.
- There needs to be a high rate of speeding offences before Highways/police will review and allow applications for a speed change.
- Process to apply for speed change costs approx. £15k. Only 4/42 of the sites of concern fit criteria to make an application for a speed reduction.
- It is very difficult to get a speed reduction from 60 to 20mph. A reduction is more likely to be from 40-30mph (or equivalent). Even more difficult when no one is likely to be speeding above 60mph in Harescombe and therefore not breaking the speed limit.
- Other road safety aspects that are being monitored by police are drivers on phones, cleanliness, ditches and flooding. Mr Stanley confirmed the police have been to Harescombe twice recently.
- Harescombe could get a small speed monitoring system but it would cost around £300 and would need to be managed.
- The next SDRSG meeting takes place on 19 February 2020. Mr Stanley offered to attend but not sure whether it would be beneficial.

Given the information obtained from the meeting, Mr Stanley concluded that "20 is plenty" signage around the village would probably be the best course of action to try and encourage driver to reduce their speed.

Cllr Lawday recommended that all road incidents be logged with the police in order to ensure that an evidence record is built which would assist with any applications for speed reduction in the future.

Mr Stanley also reported muddy roads. He advised that Highways used to send a reminder to farmers about this. Cllr Buckmaster suggested it would be good if the farmers could use a front bucket to clean the roads approximately once a month.

Actions:

- Cllr Pritchard to liaise with Mr Stanley about obtaining "20 is plenty" signs.
- Clerk to request road clean from SDC before Christmas.

7. County Councillor's report

None. Cllr Ripington was not present at the meeting.

Action: Clerk to Email Chief Executive at Gloucestershire County Council to enquire why Cllr Ripington is not attending meeting.

8. Discuss quotes for grit bins and approval for purchase

ANB

The Cllrs reviewed and discussed the quotes and agreed to order two grit bins from ESE Direct (one for Gruntas Lane and one for Pound of Candles).

Action: Clerk to order two green grit bins 200l with hasp and staple from ESE Direct.

9. Discuss suitable locations for trees to replace diseased ash trees

The Cllrs discussed the email received from the Cotswold Wardens and unanimously decided not to take any further action.

10. 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)

None.

11. Finance

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

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

b. To authorise payments and sign cheques for Council affairs

- i. Clerk salary and expenses from September 2019 – November 2019 – approved
- ii. Key safe (expenses already incurred by Cllr Pritchard) - £19.98 – approved.
- iii. Shelley Signs – new keys for notice board - £12 – approved

12. Councillors information exchange & correspondence

None.


13. Agenda items and agree new date for the January 2020 meeting

The date for the next meeting is 15 January 2020.

Agenda items:

- Draft budget
- Discuss local plan consultation response
- Retrospective approval of PATA invoice - £18

Meeting closed: 21:30


ABU...
15/01/20