

HARESCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 1ST APRIL 2020 VIA THE ONLINE "ZOOM" COLLABORATION TOOL 8.00PM

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

In attendance: none

AGENDA

1. Public Question Time – limited to 15 minutes

- a. **Parking lots of cars/trucks on the road side outside of Woodstock, and putting down hardcore on land not belonging to the property.**

Discussion- there was a discussion around the legalities of parking vehicles along on the road and outside of the property boundaries, and also hard coring a section of verge that belongs to highways, which are unknown to us. It was agreed that Highways are unlikely to be too bothered about a small section of road being hard cored, especially given everything going on at the moment. It was also noted that other members of the village park on the road without issue, and that putting down the hard core had actually improved the situation rather than having a very muddy verge.

The main concern was around passing cows knocking wing mirrors off the parked vehicles, and the owners then claiming against farmers, something that has happened in the past. It would seem unfair on the farmers to have an increased risk of claim for damage to vehicles, especially if the vehicles shouldn't really be there in the first place.

Action- get in touch with highways about the legalities of the situation, and the increased risk to farmers, and see if they have any advice or views- A Buckmaster

- b. **The potential that the landslide might have been caused by tree felling and tipping of soil on top of the bank by the landowner- should the landowner be responsible for making good the road?**

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Discussion- there was a discussion about how much work had been done in the area, and the likelihood that it was actually the cause of the landslide, or if it was just the months of heavy rain. It was agreed that it would probably be hard to prove either way, but the thinking was that the tree felling and work in the area was unlikely to have been the root cause. If anyone was likely to have an opinion, it would be highways and the GeoTech contractors. Given their budget restrictions, it was felt that they would be the first to suggest if they felt the landslide should be corrected by the land owner.

Action – contact highways to get an update on the clearing the landslide, and see what they say- A Buckmaster

2. To Receive Apologies for Absence

Councillor Daydd Lawday- unable to attend.

3. To Approve Minutes of the Meeting held on 15th January 2020

Discussion- minutes had been circulated, but not fully corrected and signed off.

Action- AB to update minutes in accordance with comments, circulate via email, and sign off after approval.

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

None.

5. Member's declaration to items on the agenda

Caroline Ratcliffe- 10.d- letter to landowners, being a land owner's wife.

Caroline Ratcliffe - 13.a- Village hall invoice, being responsible for village hall.

6. County Councillor's report

None- note, given Covid-19, the PC agreed that we should request an update report via email, so that we are in the loop, rather than push for virtual attendance.

7. District Councillor's report

None- note, given Covid-19, the PC agreed that we should request an update report via email, so that we are in the loop, rather than push for virtual attendance.

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8. Covid-19

Discussion- this item was added to the agenda to ensure that we didn't miss the opportunity to identify any actions we should be taking as PC, especially given we have budget which could be of use given this difficult time. It was agreed that, as a small parish, people are generally aware of who is at risk, and people are keeping tabs and looking out for friends and neighbours.

Action- Put Gloucs helpline number on WhatsApp group for info- A Buckmaster

9. Clerks and moving forwards with Harescombe PC options

Discussion- Communication with GAPTC were that we either need to merge, or continue as is- there was no route to stripping the PC down to a lesser commitment/role. It was agreed that if we were to think about merging, we would need to ensure that the village was properly informed to allow proper debate, as this wasn't something that should be undertaken lightly.

Action- talk to Martin Slinger (Edge) about his experience and practicalities of merging parishes- A Buckmaster

Action- sound out Haresfield PC about their thoughts about merging- A Buckmaster

Action- Eastington- have a new clerk- are they interested in more work?- A Buckmaster

Action- replacement clerk- put an advert up on GATPC website for a replacement clerk- A Buckmaster.

Action- Interim clerk- A Buckmaster to email to interim clerk to see if we can get coverage in the meantime.

10. Roads, ditches and potholes in the village including:

a. Grit bins

Discussion- the 2x new grit bins are in place

b. Road cleaning-

Discussion- 3 x quotes have been received as follows:

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Smiths- £38/hr, with no tipping charge if somewhere locally can be found, £175 otherwise.

BF Sweepers- £37/hr, with no tipping charge if somewhere locally can be found, £100 otherwise.

RJ Lander- £37.50/hr, with no tipping charge if somewhere locally can be found, £100 otherwise.

A site visit with BF sweepers revealed- the roads are not too steep for sweepers, but the mud is fairly compacted on, and would need several cleans to get the mud off; an all day sweep (10 hrs, with 2 hrs travel time) would enable multiple sweeps and offloads to be done; finding a local farmer who had somewhere that could take the mud would significantly reduce the cost.

Tim Mayo has confirmed that he is happy to find somewhere to take the mud.

It was agreed that if a local farmer would be able to scrape the first few inches of mud off the road on Pound of candles with a bucket, this would make the best value for money for the road sweeper.

All agreed that we should pay for an all day clean with BF Sweepers, being the most local and cheapest.

Action- Can Tim Mayo get a bucket up PoC to see if he can clear some of the central 3 inches ahead of getting a clean done? A Buckmaster

Action- Get the clean done, as/when COVID-19 allows- A Buckmaster

c. 20 is plenty signs update

Discussion- Brian got in touch with Ian Dunbar- 20 is plenty signs- these are no longer offered by the police, but can help to remind people to reduce speed.

Action- approach Brian to ask Ian Dunbar for any 20 is plenty signs- K Pritchard.

d. Letter to land owners on ditch responsibilities review

Discussion- The letter and email are very helpful and significantly adds to our understanding of landowners responsibilities, and Council is agreed that we need to try to ensure that Landowners are taking more responsibility for their ditches. We need to avoid the PC funding ditch digging in place of the land owners. It was noted that we need to let our landowners know that we are taking this stance,

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as it would be different to current expectations, and we would want to avoid the situation where there is an expectation that the PC will fund ditch digging after the event, as we have done previously.

Action- keep the letter for now, and use when a particular ditch needs attention.

Action- Communicate to landowners in an informal manner that we will be expecting landowners to keep their ditches in good state, and that we won't be contributing towards ditch digging in future- A Buckmaster

11. Formally appoint GAPTC for internal audit

Decision- All agreed.

12. Planning Applications and discuss copy planning letters to Stroud DC

- a. **planning app - Stroud DC Planning consultation for S.20/0274/FUL- retrospective comments**

Decision- No objections.

13. Finance- invoices for approval:

- a. **Village hall hire (Hard copy)- All agreed**
- b. **Insurance renewal (£152.62 (if sign up for 3 years) due before 12 May)- All agreed**
- c. **GAPTC renewal (£63.08 due before 15 May)- All agreed**
- d. **Website (£60 – now overdue - due 2 March)- RETROSPECTIVE APPROVAL- All agreed**
- e. **PATA payroll (£18- due 26th March)- RETROSPECTIVE APPROVAL- All agreed**
- f. **HMRC payment (£60- due 19th March)- RETROSPECTIVE APPROVAL- All agreed**

Action- Work out how to pay- A Buckmaster

14. Councillors information exchange & correspondence

None.

15. Agenda items for the May meeting

None raised.

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Meeting closed: 9:30pm

Next meeting date: 20th May

Members are reminded that the Council has a general duty to consider the following matters in exercising any of its functions: Equal Opportunities (age, race, gender, sexual orientation, marital status and any disability), Crime and Disorder, Health and Safety and Human Rights

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23/7/20