

MINUTES

Meeting: Hunts Grove Parish Council
Date and time: 17th January 2022 at 6:15pm
Venue: Holiday Inn Express, Waterwells Business Park

Present:

Cllr Mark Ryder (Chair)
Cllr Demelza Turner-Wilkes
Cllr Adam Hampson
Cllr Sandra Meecham via Zoom (non-voting)
Cllr Martyn Holmes

Also In Attendance:

County Cllr Stephen Davies via Zoom until 7.15pm
District Cllr Gill Oxley via Zoom
Lucie Brailsford, Crest Nicholson via Zoom until 8pm
Julie Shirley, Parish Clerk
Leigh Binns, member of public

148/22 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None.

149/22 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none.

150/22 MINUTES

Council **resolved** to approve the Minutes of the Meeting held on 13th December 2021. A summary of the actions was circulated with the meeting pack which Councillors found useful. Councillors reviewed the matters outstanding.

151/22 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

No matters raised.

152/22 DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCIL COUNCILLOR REPORTS

County Cllr Stephen Davies gave a report which included an update on secondary schools. County Council has set its 2022-23 budget at £519million, 1.99% increase in the County portion of council tax.

Cllr Ryder asked for an update on the Crosskeys roundabout road signage directing traffic along a closed road for Haresfield / Harescombe; **Action: Cllr Davies will follow-up with Highways.**

Cllr Turner-Wilkes raised the matter of speed signs and 20mph is plenty; automated speed signs are in the region of £3k to purchase each unit. Cllr Davies suggested checking with Highways regarding price of speed signs as purchasing via Highways may be more cost effective. **Action: Cllr Davies will enquire if County Councillor funding can contribute** but may not be possible as Hunts Grove is not yet adopted.

Cllr Holmes raised the matter of unreasonable parking outside the school; whilst it is understood that the road markings will be completed when the road is resurfaced but the existing road markings have worn away. Crest responded that the road is expected to be resurfaced in the first quarter of 2022; **Action: Lucie will confirm.**

Cllr Hampson asked about the current situation regarding the A38 road junction. Crest have provided all the information and are awaiting update from Highways. **Action: Cllr Davies will follow-up with Highways.**

District Cllr Mark Ryder reported that the developer is not going to appeal the planning refusal for 160 homes at the Quadrant land, however the developer has an employment proposal to discuss with Parish Council for the site. Cllr Ryder has been co-ordinating with the other parish councils regarding Symmetry Park. Hardwicke Parish Council has committed £1000 towards the transport assessment and Hunts Grove committed £700, Standish Parish Council is taking the lead. Parish Councils should all submit their planning comments now pending the results of the transport assessment. Hunts Grove Parish Council has already submitted comments. The District Council has appointed an independent consultant to carry out a landscape assessment for Symmetry Park. Cllr Ryder is going to call in the application to Development Control Committee to determine.

Cllr Ryder has worked with Stroud District Council officers to look at precept requests across the District to understand how Hunts Grove fits in with other parishes. The Hunts Grove precept for 2021-22 remains lower than Haresfield and Hardwicke parishes. Across Stroud District, the minimum precept is £15.07 and the maximum is £207.22 (2021-22, Band D property). More relevant to Hunts Grove residents is the comparison with Haresfield PC and Hardwicke PC as Hunts Grove used to be split between those parishes. Haresfield precept was £60.46 and Hardwicke precept was £35.63. Hunts Grove precept for 2021-22 remains lower than Haresfield parish.

Cllr Ryder was invited to Hardwicke Parish Council to talk about the management company for the new Redrow development. Hardwicke Parish Council is in a good position to opt to manage of the public spaces at the development, but is facing issues with the management company at Hardwicke Grange.

153/22 GLOUCESTERSHIRE CONSTABULARY UPDATES

Cllr Holmes forwarded an update from PCSO Rollins; the police are unable to attend meetings at present. Cllr Holmes updated Council on an incident with off-road bikes. There has also been recurring issues with anti-social behaviour and door kicking at properties on phase 1.

Action: Clerk to write to PCC to request PCSO attendance at council meetings, for just 30 minutes once a month as it would aid community liaison.

154/22 DEVELOPMENT SITE UPDATES

- a) Council received an update from Crest Nicholson:
- Confirm back stop date for handover of open spaces – awaiting response
 - Check that appropriate drain piping has been laid under new paths – confirmed to have been laid
 - Tree on Harrier Way junction – tree will be removed as part of the junction re-alignment
 - Opening Hunts Grove Drive – awaiting response
 - Community Building floor plans – still to be forwarded. Stroud District Council Planning Officers met with developer on 15th January.
 - Public Open Space timeline – this has been emailed to Cllr Hampson
 - Site contacts – to be forwarded
 - Shorn Brook residue still to be tested
 - SuDS report to be shared with Stroud District Council
 - Street light plan still to be shared
 - Bins – meeting to be arranged. Possibly 28th February.

It was noted that the lack of traffic marshall saw an increase in HGC deliveries following the incorrect route.

Cllr Turner-Wilkes will provide speed sign information to Crest after discussing the matter with Highways.

It was confirmed that the street lights on Lime Tree Avenue and Marconi Drive are the responsibility of Gloucestershire County Council.

- b) There was no update regarding the Shorn Brook contamination; Crest has not yet appointed an organisation to test the residue.
- c) Council discussed the blocked public right of way at Hunts Grove Boundary; Public Rights of Way at County Council have not received paperwork for the continued closure and there has been no update from the developer. The Parish Council confirmed it would like the pathway opened up asap. **Action: Lucie to follow-up with Crest.**
- d) Cllr Holmes gave an update from PREIM; Landscapers should be in attendance next week to start the snagging works that are due to be rectified fully by March so that the regular maintenance can continue. Council has concerns that some areas will be handed over without full rectification and rectifying will fall to PREIM and ultimately funded by residents. **Action: Cllr Holmes will email two steering group members and copy relevant councillors.**

- e) Council received an update from Cllr Ryder and Cllr Meecham on the recent visit to Tadpole Garden Village; PREIM has installed life rings at the request of the management company at Tadpole. The bus stops had litter bins, the village also had automated speed signs, presumably installed by Crest. PREIM use contractors at Tadpole rather than a team on site.
- f) Colethrop Farm Ltd (CFL) updates; Cllr Ryder and Cllr Turner-Wilkes had an informal meeting with CFL. The Council's petition was discussed and CFL are supportive of the Council taking on the maintenance of the public spaces. CFL shared their original design for the community building. CFL raised concerns about the lack of farm access to the land south of Haresfield. Leasehold/freehold situation is still under discussion: CFL want a long term role by retaining the freeholds of the open spaces, the Parish Council would like to keep the discussion open because if the Parish Council is maintaining the land it wants to hold the freehold.
- g) Council received an update from Cllr Ryder regarding the Phase 1 Adoption Status; The District & Parish Council still await the requested independent report into whether the SuDS have been built according to plans. There is some controversy regarding the commuted sums; the Reserve fund is £1.9m with 6-7 years of phase 1 already committed which will be removed from the Reserve amount. The claim that Crest have spent money on Hunts Grove wood will be challenged, as councillors have seen no developer or contractor activity there for at least 5 years. Phase 1 adoption is likely to proceed this year so it was correct that the Parish Council budgeted for maintenance. There is a Section 106 meeting on Wednesday 19th January with Stroud District Council.
- h) Council received the notes of the meeting organised by Siobhan Baillie MP reference the management company. Another meeting to be organised to progress discussions with Crest Nicholson, awaiting date.

It was agreed to bring forward the Highways agenda item.

155/22 HIGHWAYS UPDATE

- a) Response and actions from letter to Crest re construction traffic; still no response from Crest to the parish council letter. Phase 1 signs "no entry for construction traffic" have been turned around, which has caused HGVs to attempt to turn around in Oak View. **Action: Lucie will raise with Tetrattech.**
- b) Harrier Way Junction update; Crest is working on proposed design to submit to Gloucestershire County Council (GCC), then negotiation on who pays for it.
- c) A38 junction works & construction traffic routing; Crest is awaiting technical approval from GCC Highways.
- d) Council received an update on "hedgehog highway" campaign; Cllr Turner-Wilkes has been in touch with the volunteer and will arrange a meeting then launch the highways with the blog post prior to March. Residents will be encouraged to email hedgehog sighting locations to the Clerk.

156/22 VILLAGE MAINTENANCE

- a) Council reviewed the updated Village Survey Report; the maintenance items need to be integrated with the updates from Crest. Cllr Turner-Wilkes and Cllr Meecham volunteered to assist Cllr Ryder, **Action: Cllrs Ryder, Turner-Wilkes, Meecham to update the report in February.**
- b) Health & Safety Issues: **Action: Cllr Holmes to follow-up with HSE regarding the concrete cistern.** The play item at Lime Tree has been made safe and new part is expected end of February. The chain around the basketball hoop on Phase 1 is damaged but no issues reported.
- c) Council discussed the installation of life saving rings around the SUDS; no response from Stroud District Council for advice; **Action: Cllr Ryder will follow-up.**
- d) There were no actions and matters arising.

157/22 PLANNING

- a) Council considered the following planning applications:
 - i. S.21/2570/HHOLD – 34 Knotgrass Way – single and 2 storey extensions. No Objections. **Action: Clerk to submit response.**
 - ii. S.21/2881/REM – Land at Quedgeley Trading Estate - Reserved Matters (appearance, layout, landscaping and scale) for the erection of 5 no. industrial units for light industrial (E(g)(iii)) general industrial (B2) & storage & distribution use (B8) with ancillary office & associated infrastructure pursuant to outline planning application (ref. S.16/1724/OUT & S.19/2744/VAR). No Objections. **Action: Clerk to submit response.**
- b) There was no planning applications received after agenda issued for council to consider. Cllr Hampson noted that a 15-20 metre section of hedgerow had been removed from opposite Pool Farm; **Action: Cllr Ryder will make enquiries concerning the hedgerow and update council.**

158/22 POLICY WORKING GROUP

- a) Cllr Ryder gave an update on the communications topics discussed at the December working group meeting and outlined updates to the website. Cllr Holmes suggested using functionality that highlights new items on the website; **Action: Cllr Ryder will raise with the website provider. Action: All Councillors to add a profile photo to the biographies on the website.**
- b) Council approved the draft New Year Update letter to be sent to every household.
- c) Council resolved a maximum budget of £500 to print and deliver the letters, double-side A4, trifold, 250-300gsm. **Action: Cllr Ryder / Clerk to liaise on final version to be printed; Clerk to make arrangements for printing and delivery.**

159/22 FINANCE REPORT

- a) The Clerk presented the finance report for the period ending 31st December 2021, and payments for approval.

Resolved; to approve the payments as below. Cllrs Turner-Wilkes and Cllr Hampson to authorise the online payments.

Invoice Date	Payee	Net	VAT	Gross
17/12/21	Mark Ryder – mileage to Tadpole	£34.20	£0	£34.20
31/01/22	Salaries & Expenses – Clerk	£422.70	£0	£422.70
	TOTALS	£456.90	£0.00	£456.90

- b) Council discussed arrangements for holding future meetings at the school. Cllr Hampson to check his OHP, if it doesn't work we can hire the smart screen at the school. Wifi will be needed but mobile data can be used as a backup. It was agreed that the next meeting to be held at the school on 14th February. **Action: Clerk / Cllr Hampson.**
- c) Council **resolved** to appoint GAPTC to carry out the independent audit 2021-22 at a cost of £195. **Action: Clerk.**
- d) Council **resolved** to seek legal advice regarding future management of Hunts Grove up to a maximum cost of £750 initially. **Action: Clerk.**
- e) Council **resolved** to seek an urgent repair the play park noticeboard at Lime Tree Park. **Action: Clerk.**

The rest of the agenda was deferred to the next meeting as the meeting had reached its maximum of 3 hours.

Meeting closed at 9.15pm.