

MINUTES

Meeting: Hunts Grove Parish Council Meeting
Date and time: 14th August 2023 at 6.30pm
Venue: Hunts Grove Primary Academy

Present:

Cllr Demelza Turner-Wilkes (Chair)
Cllr Mark Ryder (Vice-Chair)
Cllr Sandra Meecham
Cllr Kevin Thorne

Also In Attendance:

County Cllr Stephen Davies
Ms L Brailsford, Crest Nicholson representative (via Microsoft Teams)
Two members of public

500/23 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr Adam Hampson
District Cllr Gill Oxley

501/23 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none.

502/23 MINUTES

- a) Council **resolved** to approve the Minutes of the Meeting held on 10th July 2023.

503/23 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mrs Callister addressed the meeting regarding the adoption of phase 1 public areas and raised concerns about the lack of communication with residents on the parish council's negotiations to adopt the phase 1 areas. Councillors confirmed the parish council's desire to adopt all areas and commitment to the One Hunts Grove strategy. The ManCo discussions are ongoing; Crest's Managing Director is helpful there is no commitment in writing yet. The parish council could refuse phase 1 but taking it proves capability in terms of adopting phases 2-4. This is not the preferred situation, but the timeframe to adopt phase 1 is short, and if Stroud DC adopts phase 1 then it could be five years before the parish has another opportunity to adopt those areas.

Mr Callister considers the play park at Pine Marten Close to be dangerous, the equipment is too close together and the self-closing gate does not close. **Action: Cllr Turner-Wilkes will check the latest RoSPA report and raise issues with Crest.**

There was a request for minutes to be on the notice boards. Contact details need to be updated on the notice boards. **Action: Cllr Turner-Wilkes.**

County Cllr Stephen Davies gave a report on county council matters. The Tour of Britain cycling tour is coming through Gloucestershire in September. GCC has had a good Ofsted report on the council's response to the identification of the initial need and risk of children. The County Council has received a £250k lottery grant for educating on environmental issues.

The new A38 junction works are likely to start in January and whilst a 9-month closure has been requested, it won't be closed for the whole 9 months, sections will be closed as required. Last year's delay was due to technical matters. This latest delay is due to the lead time for the successful tender company to commence which would be December then have to shutdown over Christmas, so a decision was taken to delay the works start until January. Traffic diversions not yet determined but concerns from Haresfield Parish Council have been taken on board.

District Cllr Mark Ryder gave a report on district council matters. Symmetry Park planning application revised plans have been circulated. Stroud DC was making progress on planning enforcement, but needs to hire a new senior enforcement officer to help with the workload.

Community Liaison Group meeting held on 3rd August, the CLG would like to continue air monitoring and it is hoped that Stroud DC will commence air particle monitoring across the district.

504/23 GROUPS, EVENTS & PROJECTS

- a) Council received an update from the Hunts Grove Wombles. Next litter pick will be on 19th August. Cllr Thorne volunteered to provide temporary storage for litter pickers and the bags of litter for collection to increase the range of the litter picking to Phase 3.
- b) Council received an update on the council storage. The shed base has been installed, shed is on order for delivery mid-September (**Action: Cllrs to confirm preferred delivery route**), request that Borders & Lawns quote to build the shed and plant 1.5-2m tall clumping bamboo around the shed to soften the shed outline. **Action: Clerk.**
- c) It was noted that the planned event for 2nd September had been cancelled due to the lack of confidence that the public open space would be completed in time. Cllr Turner-Wilkes introduced the proposals for three community events and the council considered the requested budget amounts. It was noted that PREIM had offered £500 towards the grand opening, and it was agreed to request the contribution be transferred to the Festival of Light event: **Action: Clerk.** Also noted that Vistry Homes would like to be involved in the community events, possibly the Santa Run, **Action: Clerk.**

- October half term Festival of Light on 1st November with an agreed budget up to £1,200.

- Santa Run – 17th December using the large public open space. Agreed budget up to £300.
 - Santa Grotto at Hunts Grove Primary Academy – potentially 9th December 12-4pm. Full proposal to be considered at the September meeting.
- d) Council approved the Youth Strategy and Youth Scoping Exercise tender specification. **Action: Clerk.**
- e) Council considered Sportily’s community hub proposal, it was agreed to support the proposal.
Action: Clerk.

505/23 DEVELOPMENT SITE UPDATES

- a) Update from Crest Nicholson; the public open space completion is going to plan with the final wet pour taking place this week. Harrier Way closure 29th & 30th August for the resurfacing. Councillors were concerned about closing off a section of Harrier Way for 2 days which means several residents won’t be able to park vehicles outside of their houses. The contractor will be asked to manage this. The overhanging trees from the Wood have been cut back from the cycle way. Haresfield Lane to be opened for cyclists and pedestrians. County Council is concerned about Vistry damage to Haresfield Lane, Crest is responsible for the road and will take this up with Vistry.

Brambling Way drains have been surveyed and blockages removed. The pavement has been fixed outside 34 Brambling Way. It was noted that the public open space by Bellway cannot be adopted until an issue with fencing has been resolved.

The public open space path from Hunts Grove Drive needs a repair – Elmtree haven’t committed to do the work so TetraTech have been instructed to use Four Seasons Landscaping to do the work.

Overgrown open space on Brambling Way by the oaks is possibly David Wilson Homes land but Crest will make enquiries and deal with the builders’ rubbish and overgrown vegetation.

The public right of way to Naas Lane has a temporary closure sign stating closed until 7th May 2022, the sign needs updating as footpath closed until November 2024. **Action: Clerk to report to Highways.**

- b) Council considered the recommendation from the Working Group to adopt the Phase 1 public open spaces including the wood but not including the SUDS. It was agreed that HGPC supports adopting phase 1 but only if that excludes the SUDS and with the caveats (1) that HGPC receives funds from Stroud District Council that will equate to a total of 5 years of maintenance of those areas in addition to the commuted sum, and (2) that all the remedials are completed prior to handover with a 12-month warranty on the work. **Action: Clerk.**

The final decision will come back to the parish council to consider response from Stroud DC.

- c) Council received an update regarding the management company discussions and agreed to appoint Wellers-Hedley as the council's new solicitor to represent the parish council on legal matters. **Action: Clerk.**
- d) Council received an update from Cllr Ryder on the motions put forward: (1) to Stroud District Council to change planning policy on adoption of public open spaces, and (2) with Gloucestershire Association of Parish and Town Councils for NALC to lobby Government to change national policy on management company fees.
- e) Council agreed that it will update the One Hunts Grove vision. **Action: Cllrs to draft an updated vision.**
- f) Council reviewed the drawings from CFL for the Farmhouse refurbishment and made the following comments to be forwarded to CFL: Nice if ground floor devoted to community use, make the café larger, more toilets needed, a community space for up to 16 people to meet informally, and a parish office would be nice for 1-2 people as the farmhouse is centrally-located. Height limitations due to the bat roosting will impact the upper floor office spaces. **Action: Clerk.**

506/23 WORKING GROUPS

- a) Council received the notes of the Oversight Working Group held on 27th July 2023.

507/23 PLANNING

- a) Council considered the following planning applications:
 - S.23/1384/OUT Location: Land At Green Lane, Hardwicke, Gloucester. Comments: new junction will be almost opposite the new junction into Hunts Grove, increased traffic on cross keys roundabout and junction 12. Pressure on secondary school places. Neighbourhood centre needs to be more central to serve the new community and protect the viability of the Hunts Grove commercial centre. **Action: Clerk.**
 - S.23/0764/OUT Location: Land At Quadrant Distribution Centre, Quadrant Way. Comments: improve connectivity into Hunts Grove over Shorn Brook please. **Action: Clerk.**
 - S.21/2579/OUT Location: Javelin Park, Bath Road, Haresfield. No comments.

508/23 GLOUCESTERSHIRE CONSTABULARY UPDATES

Cllr Turner-Wilkes has a call booked with the local team.

509/23 FINANCE AND PROCEDURES

- a) Council received the bank reconciliation and budget analysis for the period ending 31st July 2023.
- b) Council received the 2022/23 external audit report and noted that the auditor had included a comment concerning a typo on the form, this will be corrected in the 2023/24 AGAR.
- c) Council considered depositing funds with the CCLA Public Sector Deposit Fund. **Action: Clerk** to research the fund in more detail before bringing back to Council, primarily to check that the capital invested is protected.
- d) Council **resolved** to approve the payments as below.

Invoice Date	Payee	Net	VAT	Gross
31/08/23	Staff Costs (Net Salary, Pension)	£540.53	£0	£540.53
01/08/23	CloudyIT	£51.00	£10.20	£61.20
29/07/23	GAPTC – internal audit	£245.00	£0.00	£245.00
01/08/23	PKF Littlejohn – external audit	£315.00	£63.00	£378.00
08/08/23	SafeTrade247 – storage shed	£2163.00	£432.60	£2595.60
	TOTALS	£3314.53	£505.80	£3820.33

510/23 COUNCIL NOTED THE CLERK’S REPORT

511/23 PARISH COUNCILLOR REPORTS

Cllr Thorne reported that the Naming Project working group is meeting on 17th August.

512/23 ENERGY FROM WASTE

- a) Cllr Turner-Wilkes confirmed the update from the Community Liaison Group (CLG) meeting as per Cllr Davies comments earlier in the meeting.

513/23 WEBSITE & COMMUNICATIONS

- a) Cllr Ryder gave an update on the Parish Mailing List, and updated the auto-response for new subscribers.

514/23 RECURRING ITEMS TO NOTE - None

NEXT MEETINGS

- a) Next Meeting of the Parish Council will take place on 11th September 2023 at 6.30pm.

Meeting closed at 9.10pm.