

# HAM PARISH COUNCIL

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## MINUTES OF MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of Ham Parish Council took place in Ham Village Hall at 6.30pm on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> May 2014.

**Present** Mr R Buchanan-Dunlop, Mrs S Eldridge, Mr R Miller, Mr C Dean, Mr D Bicknell, Lady Walker, Mrs J Barnwell (Clerk)  
Plus eight members of the public

### 1. Election of Chairman and Vice Chair

Mr Buchanan-Dunlop was proposed as the Chairman by Councillor Eldridge and was seconded by Councillor Dean. Mr Buchanan-Dunlop was duly elected. Mrs Eldridge was proposed as Vice Chair by the Chairman and was seconded by Councillor Miller. Mrs Eldridge was duly elected.

### 2. Apologies

None

### 3. Minutes of Parish Council quarterly meeting, held March 4<sup>th</sup> 2014

The minutes were approved by the Council and signed by the Chairman.

### 4. Matters arising

The Chairman asked Councillor Dean if a commemorative plaque for the new village green bench would be forthcoming. Councillor Dean explained that the plaque had not yet been ordered but he would action it.

### 5. Finances

The Chairman reported that the Annual Accounts, subject to inspection by the internal auditor Mr N Hawley, showed a balance at the end of the financial year of £3,346.48 and he noted that this year the Council would hold in their accounts more than was normally required in order to cover the costs of extending the 30mph signage. He reminded those present that this year the Precept had been doubled. The accounts, which had been circulated prior to the meeting, were approved. The Clerk informed the meeting that they would go to Mr Hawley for inspection and that the deadline for receipt of the audit with the External Auditor was June 30<sup>th</sup> 2014.

### 6. Flooding

The Chairman said that, as everyone knew, there had been significant flooding around the green this year; concentrated mainly in two key spots. He said that Ham had suffered, as had most other villages in Wiltshire. He told the meeting that Wiltshire Council's Highways contractors Balfour Beatty had recently responded after several attempts to alert them to the need for the drains to be cleared. He also thanked Mr M Marriage for his help. However, flooding had occurred again, despite the use of the gully dredger. The Clerk said she had already informed her contact, Mr S Matthews and was awaiting a response. The Chairman reminded the meeting that villagers needed to be vigilant and should report localised flooding. He also suggested that perhaps another working party should be formed in the near future, to dig out the gully in front of Porch Cottages. He said that owner Porch cottage owner Mrs C Loseley-Williams would need to be informed and hopefully she and her husband would be able to help as they had done two years previously.

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## 7. Roads & Signs

Councillor Eldridge brought the meeting up to date with the progress of planned changes and improvements to Roads and Signs; new white-lines at the junctions and up-to-date signage (as discussed in full at the last Quarterly Meeting) were due to be implemented in June – she had been informed that Wiltshire Council were running behind schedule on this. She emphasised that the only additional signage would be 30mph signs repeater signs, which were missing. All those signs due for renewal will conform to current highways standards, meaning they will be reflective. Also, she said that as the Precept had now been received, the implementation of the planned extension of the 30mph zone would hopefully start imminently.

## 8. Bridleways & Footpaths

Councillor Bicknell explained that he had carried out various clearing and groundwork repairs to the village footpaths, as minuted in previous meetings this year. He asked those attending to let him know of any problems they encountered with the paths/bridleways and said he would do his best to resolve them.

The poor state of Field Lane was drawn to his attention; being a bridle path, the Chairman said that the Council should get in touch with Wiltshire Council. Mr Marriage owns the land, either side. The meeting agreed that this matter did need urgent attention. The Clerk agreed to find out whom the point of contact was at Wiltshire Council. It was also reported that a footpath sign was still missing opposite Hill House. Mr Bicknell noted this and said that he thought there should be more signage of footpaths, especially at corners and crossways where the progress of a footpath might be misinterpreted. He would speak to former Councillor R Forbes about how to get hold of extra footpath signs.

The meeting was told that the salt bin opposite the entrance to the Nature Reserve needed replacing. The Clerk said she would contact Wiltshire Council to try to order a new one.

## 9. Correspondence None

## 10. Any other business None

## 11. Date of next meeting

The date of the next quarterly meeting was provisionally set for **TUESDAY August 12<sup>th</sup>** at **7pm** in the **Village Hall**.

The meeting ended at 6.55pm

Ham Parish Council  
JUNE 2014