

HAM PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF QUARTERLY MEETING

The Quarterly meeting of Ham Parish Council took place on **Friday 13th FEBRUARY 2015** at **6.30pm** in **Ham Village Hall**

In attendance: Mr R Buchanan-Dunlop (Chair), Mrs S Eldridge (vice Chair), Mr R Miller, Mr C Dean, Mr D Bicknell, Lady Walker, Mrs J Barnwell (Clerk) and six members of public.

1. Apologies

None

2. Minutes of Meeting held 18th Nov 2014

The minutes were approved by the Council and duly signed by the chairman.

3. Matters Arising

None

4. Policing & Neighbourhood Watch

Police Community Support Officer (PCSO) Jonathan Mills introduced himself, having taken over from PCSO Melissa Camilleri. He reported that only one crime had been committed in the Parish over recent months, namely the theft of a chainsaw from a non-dwelling. He reinforced the need for parishioners to keep heating oil tanks secured, wherever possible. He also reiterated advice given at previous meetings by PC Teresa Herbert, that parishioners should be wary of cold callers and door-to-door salespersons, who often do not have official accreditation. Other crimes, which repeatedly occur in the area, are thefts from vehicles parked at beauty spots. He emphasised that Ham was in a very low crime area and that instances of crime were decreasing. (According to statistics for the Pewsey East area, there had been a drop in reported crime by between 26% and 42% in the past 12 months.)

Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator Steve Byatt confirmed that he had no incidents of crime to report over the winter months. He said he regularly receives crime alerts and updates via email from the police authority, detailing scams to beware of, and it was suggested that Hamnet or the Parish magazine would be good vehicles to use to inform parishioners.

5. Roads & Signs

Councillor Eldridge reported that Wiltshire Highways Department had confirmed that road re-surfacing on Buttermere Road from the green towards Manor Farm was scheduled for March. The Clerk made a note to contact Community Highways Co-ordinator Mr S Matthews to ensure parishioners were given adequate advance notice of the road closure.

The Chairman added that potholes were a problem all over the Parish's roads, and expressed frustration that it was a never-ending scenario. Councillor Bicknell said that there was a very large pothole on the Inkpen Road as you leave the village and before the Inkpen boundary, which would need urgent attention. Councillor Eldridge urged parishioners to individually report potholes and road faults via the Wiltshire Council 'My Wiltshire' smart phone app, by calling CLARENCE helpline 0800 232323 or by emailing clarence@wiltshire.gov.uk.

6. Bridleways & Footpaths

The Chairman reported that he had lodged a complaint about the poor state of the footpath/bridleway Field Lane with the relevant department at Wiltshire Council

7. Village Pub as an Asset of Community Value (ACV)

The Crown & Anchor has now been registered as an ACV, which was requested by a number of Parishioners and endorsed by the Parish Council. To enlighten those at the meeting, the Chairman explained that it was an entry into the Land Registry, which effectively prohibits the owner disposing of the asset without first giving formal notification to Wiltshire Council, who would then invoke an initial six week moratorium and then, if necessary, a fuller six month moratorium, in order to give a community interest group the opportunity to put a bid together. The ACV entry lasts for five years and will be due for renewal on February 5th 2020.

8. Superfast broadband

Following the publication in the Parish Magazine of the Chairman's article on the prospect or otherwise of Superfast Broadband reaching Ham, the Chairman updated those present by explaining that the Parish Council should know by June if the Parish is to be included in *Phase 2* of the Roll Out Programme by Wiltshire Council. If Ham were not included, he said it would be difficult to work out the next stage. He

explained that Wiltshire Council has a budget of half a million pounds, to help those communities who miss out on inclusion in *Phase 2* and who wish to embark on community-funded schemes. However, having corresponded with MP Claire Perry, he had learnt that the government is looking at how to deal with the 5% of homes and businesses, which do miss out, although it was unclear how this would be implemented particularly in view of the forthcoming election. Ms Claire Perry had written on the Parish's behalf to the Secretary of State for Culture Sajid Javid to seek clarification. Once the decision on Phase 2 was known, the Chairman planned to seek a meeting with the Deputy Leader of Wiltshire Council John Thomson to discuss the options open to Ham.

A number of questions were taken from the floor concerning parishioners who resided in the parish but whose telephone and broadband connections were served by a different infrastructure hub. Councillor Miller explained that his broadband speed had recently dramatically improved, after he complained to his provider BT. The Chairman concluded that parishioners should rest assured that the Parish Council was doing its very best to put forward a strong case for the improvement of the broadband speed to the village.

9. Village Christmas Tree

The Chairman thanked those individuals involved in the sourcing, putting up and taking down of the village Christmas tree, in particular Mr Bill Bird, who has generously donated a beautiful tree for many years. He also thanked Mr Edmund Rouse for organising the purchase of attractive new LED tree lights on behalf of the Parish Council.

10. Annual Parish Walk

A date was set for April 25th 2015 at 11am, starting from outside the pub.

11. Village defibrillator

Councillor Bicknell reported that the battery in the village defibrillator had been replaced at a cost of £170, which was agreed. It was noted that the defibrillator, which was installed over three years ago and is hosted by the Crown and Anchor, who supply electricity to keep the appliance heated, ordinarily requires a replacement battery approximately every three years. Mr Schofield had also replaced a set of electrodes (£30 per set), which require replacing should the defibrillator be put into use or, alternatively, every two years.

The Chairman expressed thanks to Mr Schofield for all his assistance on this matter. Councillor Bicknell also explained that Mr Schofield had offered to run a defibrillator instruction class for those villagers who would be interested. It was agreed that this should be promoted in the Parish Magazine and via Hamnet.

12. Finance

The Clerk confirmed that the Parish Precept Requirement Form for 2015/16 had been completed for an amount of £2,500 and returned to Wiltshire Council financial planning department in time for the deadline in January. She also told the Council that she had filled out a VAT Claim form for three years' worth of VAT, totalling just under £500, and she confirmed that a cheque had been raised to cover the £194.40 cost of the Christmas tree lights.

13. Correspondence

None

14. Any other business

None

15. Date of next meeting

A date was set for May 15th 2015 to hold the AGM & Annual Parish Assembly. After-note: The date has since been amended to 22nd May.

The meeting ended at 7.25pm

Ham Parish Council
FEB 2015