

HAM PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF QUARTERLY MEETING

The Quarterly meeting of Ham Parish Council took place on **Friday 10th February 2017 at 7pm in Ham Village Hall**

In attendance: *Mr R Buchanan-Dunlop (Chair), Mr R Miller, Mr C Dean, Mr D Bicknell, Lady Walker, Mrs D Byatt (Clerk) and seven members of the public including Mr S Wheeler, District Councillor.*

1. Apologies

PC Johnathan Mills Mr N Baring, Mr A Melsom

2. Minutes of Quarterly Meeting held 4th November 2016

The minutes were approved as a true record by the Council and duly signed by the chairman.

3. Matters Arising

None

4. Policing & Neighbourhood Watch

It was noted from the Community Policing Report that in response to public request the Policing Team would be focussing on traffic matters, particularly speed enforcement using UNIPAR devices. There had also been two local cases of chainsaws being stolen. The Chairman reported that the Police and Crime Commissioner is proposing to raise the police precept by 1.9%, money raised will pay for community policing.

5. Bridleways & Footpaths

Councillor D Bicknell reported that he was following up on his previous attempt to get the signpost at the foot of the Ham Hill footpath repaired. He also agreed to arrange for the stile at the north end of the Marriage pig field, which had become extremely slippery, to be covered with chicken wire. It was noted generally that footpaths had become very slippery in the wet weather and walkers should take care.

6. Flooding

The Parish Steward assigned to Ham had been seen clearing the drains. However, it was felt that the new system could be improved if the Parish Steward kept in contact with the Parish Council and reported on the action he had taken. With the help of Mr S Wheeler, Wiltshire Council had been asked to improve this aspect.

7. Roads & Signs

Nothing to report

8. Finances

It was agreed to remain a member of CPRE and a cheque for £36 was authorised.

A further cheque for £76.80 was raised to pay for the cable protector for the Christmas lights on the tree on the green. The Chairman reported that the Parish Council remained inside its budget for the year.

9. The Crown & Anchor Public House

On behalf of the village the Chairman formally thanked the two new owners of the pub, Mr D Slade and Mr R Forbes, for purchasing it. Mr Forbes who was present at the meeting said that there was a way to go prior to it being opened. A measured survey had now been carried out and he and Mr Slade were now in discussion with several architects and designers. They had been encouraged by the responses they had received so far from them, and he remained optimistic that a viable solution could be achieved.

The Chairman remarked that Pewsey Community Area Partnership were in the process of organising a Heritage trail to promote local business, and offered to engage with them to see whether Ham could be included in the trail to attract walkers and cyclists to use the pub.

10. Superfast Broadband

The Chairman said that it was now over a year since Ham was told that Superfast Broadband would be installed, and at the end of June 2016 the village was on the 'connect' phase. However, since then progress had stalled. He had been in touch with Wiltshire Council and had been told that the reason was that Mr P Clarke had refused to grant a wayleave for the fibre cable to run across his land. In addition several blockages had been discovered in the ducting. As a result Wiltshire Council and BT were exploring alternative ways forward, but it was a very complex operation and no timescale could

be given. Fortunately he had heard from Wiltshire Council on the day of the meeting that Openreach had found a viable solution, but no details were known at this stage. He would update the village on Hamnet as soon as more information was available. Mr N Jones from the floor said that it was nonsensical on cost grounds that Ham Spray could not be included in the fibre solution because it was served by a different cabinet in Inkpen from the rest of the village; the Ham Spray residents were in touch with Mrs Claire Perry MP who was supportive of their case. Mr S Wheeler said that Mr J Thomson, Deputy Leader of Wiltshire Council and responsible for the Superfast Broadband roll-out, would be present at the next Pewsey Area Board meeting on 6 March, and this would be an opportunity to discuss Ham's concerns.

11. Christmas Tree

Chairman thanked Councillors C Dean and D Bicknell for putting the lights onto the tree in the green and for then taking them down again. Everyone was in agreement to repeat the operation next Christmas, except that the alignment of the cable across the road needed to be straightened up as a cyclist had complained that it was unsafe. It was also suggested that a more permanent electric point could be installed, and this was followed by a discussion around whether lasers could be used instead.

12. Parish Magazine

The Chairman explained that the Parish Magazine now had a new editor and team running the magazine. Last year the magazine went into significant debt and a grant was given by Shalbourne Parish Council. As a result, the way the magazine was funded was being reviewed. Previously Ham had paid its share from church funds because originally the magazine had been conceived as a church magazine. Now, because it was very much a community magazine Ham PCC considered that it would be appropriate for the Parish Council to pay half of Ham's share. This seemed reasonable. Last year Ham's share had been £360, which on that basis meant the Parish Council would be paying in the order of £180. This could be met immediately because of the cushion provided by reserves, but in due course would mean an increase in the annual precept. However, first it was necessary to establish an annual budget for the magazine, and then to review the division of the budget between Shalbourne, Buttermere and Ham based on the number of households in each village. He was asked how Tidcombe and Facombe featured in the cost of the magazine and said that he

would investigate. The Council agreed in principle to meet half of Ham's share of the cost of the magazine.

13. Correspondence

It was noted that **CPRE** had asked whether Ham wished to enter the best kept village competition. Due to the pub still not being open it was agreed by all not to enter this year.

14. Any other business

a. The Chairman reported that Ham Parish Council had been invited to a consultation meeting on 9 March by Strutt & Parker to discuss a proposed planning application for the replacement of Ballyach House and barn in Buttermere. As the planning application did not appear to affect Ham directly, he saw no need for Ham Parish Council to be represented at the meeting other than to provide Buttermere with moral support if that was required, and he had contacted Buttermere about this but had yet to receive a definitive reply. In the discussion that followed it appeared that Buttermere was keen for a new southern entrance road which would also cater for the equestrian centre to be opened, to avoid Ballyach traffic going through the village of Buttermere. However, it was agreed by all that Ham Parish did not need to attend the meeting.

b. Mr N Jones from the floor reported that a generator was due to be installed opposite Breech Cottages as mains electricity would be temporarily cut off the following week, and that he was concerned about the level of noise coming from the generator. It appeared that the remainder of the village was not affected as no other warnings had been received. In the discussion that followed it was suggested that modern generators were reasonably quiet, and that electricity companies had a free hand in such matters.

15. Date of next meeting

A provisional date of Friday 12th May 2017 was set for the next meeting.

THE MEETING CLOSED AT 7.55PM
Ham Parish Council
Feb 2017

Note – send the assigned officer a copy of the minutes for each planning application.