

HAM PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A QUARTERLY PARISH MEETING

A Quarterly meeting of Ham Parish Council took place at 7.00 pm Wednesday 10th November in the Village Hall.

Present: Mr C Dean (Chairman), Lady Walker (Vice-chairman), Mr J Marriage, Mr M Humphreys, and Mr. A Taylor, and 12 members of public.

1. **Apologies:** none.

2. **Minutes:**

The Minutes of the Quarterly Meeting held on 11th August 2021 were confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

3. **Matters Arising:** none.

4. **Roads, Signs and Speed Limits**

Mr. Alistair Taylor reported that the council were not doing any more repairs this year, and that potholes along the sides of the road will not be repaired as they are classed as verge damage rather than road damage. However Mr. Taylor asked that if any damage is caused to your vehicle, please report to him as the more pressure applied the more chance there is of repairs eventually taking place.

On the subject of speeding, Mr. Taylor explained that he had spoken to other councils about the signs that indicate speed, they are £2,145, which includes installation. To include the smiley face the total cost increases to £2,645. He also explained that they are very difficult to move. The Chairman asked for opinions on whether the village should consider purchasing one or more of these speeding signs. The consensus was that the high cost, visual impact and evidence that they make only a minor difference, that it was not worthwhile.

Discussions continued on extending the 30mph further up Cutting Hill. The Chairman explained that this was discussed a few years ago and discounted due to cost and timescales, however it was agreed that it was well worth trying again to see what options were available.

The Chairman raised the idea of chicanes at the three entrances to the village and it was agreed that this was well worth investigating, and likely to be one of the only solutions to the problem of speeding through the village.

5. **Flooding**

Mr. Humphreys reported that everything was looking good and that the various culverts were all working as expected.

6. Bridleways, Footpaths and Astro Turf

Mr. Marriage reported that he had not received news of any issues on the footpaths around the village which was good news. He continued, announcing that after nearly a decade of waiting we had finally received some planings from the council which will be used to improve Field Lane when the weather improves in the Spring. All present agreed that this was fantastic news. The Chairman agreed to contact Shalbourne to see if they wished to contribute.

The Chairman raised the topic of AstroTurf. Mr. Taylor explained that there was a huge amount available free of charge and it was currently stored in Marlborough. Following a discussion it was agreed to see if we could get a sample and then investigate further.

7. Finances

The Chairman summarised the current financial position. The council has £7,921 in the current account which breaks down as £832 of outstanding expenditure, £3,500 of exceptional expenditure planned which comprises the new noticeboard, repairs to field lane and Platinum Jubilee plans. A sum of £3,000 as reserves leaving a balance of around £500.

The Chairman asked the council to vote on the level of precept, suggesting it was kept the same as the previous year, at £1,500. All councillors concurred.

8. Christmas Lights

The Chairman explained that Simon Bird was very kindly lending the use of a cherry picker to help put the new lights up on the tree on the Green on the 18th November. In addition 8 sets of lights had been purchased for £353.28 and the council agreed to this expenditure. The Chairman suggested Friday 3rd December at 6:30pm for the switch on.

9. Queen's Platinum Jubilee June 2022

The Chairman reported that he had received a letter from the Pageant Master with regards to the Queen's Platinum Jubilee beacons and suggested it was discussed at the next meeting. The beacons are to be lit at 9:15pm on the Thursday of the long weekend, followed by the lunch party on the Sunday. The Chairman confirmed that a hog roast machine had been booked.

The Chairman thanked Nicholas and Diana Baring very much for hosting the village lunch on August 28th which was a wonderful occasion and blessed with excellent weather.

10. Correspondence

The Chairman said he had received a letter from Nexus Communications, a PR firm, asking for permission to film in the village for the purposes of a national advertising campaign for meat free products. The letter had also been distributed to some households alongside the Parish magazine. The Chairman read out various emails provided by the PR firm and production company explaining their intentions, and the proposed tag line "If Ham can, anyone can ..."

The Chairman explained that the Parish Council had been offered £5,000 in return for authorising the filming, and he suggested that this amount should be split equally between the Parish Council, the Village Hall and the Church.

There was a wide-ranging discussion with many individuals worried about what exactly would be produced and the level of control the village would have, the legal advice required, and whether the resulting video would increase footfall in the village.

The Chairman explained that he felt many individuals in the village had not had a chance to comment due to the lack of notice and suggested a separate meeting would be appropriate given the strength of feeling being shown on both sides. The council agreed that an Extraordinary General Meeting was appropriate and would provide a chance to investigate further. The Chairman agreed to organise as soon as was practical.

The Chairman reported that he had received a letter concerning the Ham Hill Nature Reserve from Neil Pullen with regards to the issue of ash dieback. Wiltshire is proposing that the Ash trees are all cut down to prevent future problems and allow for re-planting. The council agreed to support this proposal.

11. Any Other Business

The Chairman explained that the bus company was not responding on the subject of the broken Notice Board and asked the council if he could proceed with replacement regardless of further communication. The council agreed.

12. Date of next meeting

The Chairman agreed to circulate dates by email.

The meeting closed at 7:45pm