

## HAM PARISH COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

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The Annual Meeting of the Parish of Ham took place on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> May 2026 in Ham Village Hall at 7pm.

**Present:** Mr. Charles Dean (Chairman), Lady Mary Walker (Vice Chair), Mr. Martin Humphreys and 3 members of public.

#### **1. Apologies:**

Mr J Marriage, Mrs P Medd, Lady Rose Clowes and Councillor Stuart Wheeler

#### **2. Election of a Chairman and Vice-Chairman**

Mr. Charles Dean was proposed as Chairman by Lady Walker and seconded by Mr. Humphreys. Lady Walker was proposed as Vice-Chairman by Mr. Dean and seconded by Mr. Humphreys.

#### **3. To confirm the minutes of the previous meeting.**

None.

#### **4. Matters Arising**

None.

#### **5. Finances**

Mr. Chris Daking summarised the finances of the Parish Council, itemising out the recent expenditure, and taking questions. He confirmed that the accounts were in a good position with £5,500 of funds available, which assuming a buffer of £2,000 would allow for expenditure £3,500.

##### **5a. To confirm the Annual Governance Statement.**

The annual governance statement was approved by the council.

##### **5b. To approve the Parish Council accounts for the year ended 31 March 2026.**

The council approved the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2026.

##### **5c. To approve the submission of a Certificate of Exemption for external audit.**

The submission of a Certificate of Exemption for external audit was approved by the council.

##### **5d. To confirm appointment of Responsible Financial Officer.**

The council agreed to re-appoint Mr. Chris Daking as the Responsible Financial Officer for a further year and offered their thanks for all his help.

The council and Mr. Daking extended their huge thanks for Mr. Hawley's continued help as external auditor. The Chairman noted that Mr. Hawley had been assisting with the audit for well over 20 years.

The Chairman noted that election costs were now born by Parish Councils directly even if uncontested, this year's election coming in at £250.

The Chairman asked the council to agree to the purchase of a 5 foot teak bench as discussed at previous meetings. All agreed.

## **6. Roads, Signs and Speed Limits**

The Chairman reported that he had investigated the hire of Speed Indicator devices and had made no progress. He also confirmed that the purchase price was approximately £2,500. It was agreed to rediscuss at the next meeting when more were present.

Mr. Daking explained that the Village Hall had an AGM recently and it was agreed that they would forego the rent that they usually charged the Parish Council, and in addition would like to contribute from the proceeds of this October's Harvest supper towards the cost of a Speed Indicator Device. The Chairman expressed his huge thanks on behalf of the Parish Council to Mr. Daking and the Village Hall committee.

## **7. Flooding**

Mr. Martin Humphreys reported that he was not aware of any issues.

## **8. Bridleways and Footpaths**

In the absence of Mr. Marriage, the Chairman reported that he had heard of no footpath issues, and this was echoed by everyone in the room.

## **9. Correspondence**

None.

## **10. Any Other Business**

The Chairman confirmed arrangements for the Parish BBQ on June 14<sup>th</sup> and confirmed that Ben at the pub had kindly agreed to source the meat, with a budget of £300. In addition a £100 budget for sundries. The council agreed with the expenditure.

The Chairman wished to thank David Bicknell for mounting the new emergency bleed kit cabinet next to the existing Defibrillator. He also wished to thank Tom Davies for continuing to look after both units.

The Chairman suggested that further topics were discussed during the Parish Assembly starting immediately after this meeting and all agreed.

The meeting closed at 7:20pm