

HAM PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF QUARTERLY MEETING

A Quarterly Meeting of Ham Parish Council took place on **TUESDAY AUGUST 4TH 2015** at **7pm** in **Ham Village Hall**

PRESENT: Mr R Buchanan-Dunlop (Chairman), Mrs S Eldridge (Vice Chair), Mr C Dean, Mr R Miller, and Mrs J Barnwell (Clerk)

1. Apologies

Mr D Bicknell and Lady Walker

2. Declaration of Interest

None

3. Minutes of meeting held MAY 22nd 2015

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

4. Matters Arising

None

5. Finances

i) Annual audit

The Clerk said that the Council's Annual Audit had been signed off by Internal Auditor Mr N Hawley and that she had posted it to External Auditors Grant Thornton in time for the July deadline. She had not received the approved Audit back yet, but expected it imminently. She said she had received a phone call from the auditors saying that all looked in order, but that they had put a query alongside the stated value of the Parish Council's fixed assets ie. the village bench, litter bin, noticeboards, which she would look into once the audit was returned.

ii) Payments

An invoice from AMT Services for the village green cuts for £319.20 for seven cuts from April 8 2015 - July 15 2015 was approved and a cheque signed. The annual Parish Council insurance policy renewal with Zurich Municipal for £189.90 was approved and a cheque signed.

6. Flooding

Councillor Eldridge, the Parish Flood Warden, thanked the Clerk for passing on correspondence from Wiltshire Council, which asked if the Parish required advance supplies of sand and sandbags etc to be stored in the village in case of a flooding emergency. It was agreed that this would not be necessary, but Councillor Eldridge confirmed that she had registered herself as the point of

contact with Wiltshire Council. Councillor Eldridge said that in any event, should serious flooding occur, there was an emergency number to call. The Chairman added that Wiltshire Council's Highways contractors had recently dug runways off the Buttermere Road to deal with excess surface water.

7. Roads & Signs

i) Highways Co-ordinator

The Clerk said that she had emailed Councillors with the details of Mr D Arnup – Mr S Matthew's replacement at the Highways Dept.

ii) Road resurfacing

The Chairman told the meeting that it was a relief that the stretch of road from Hayfield up to the pub had finally been resurfaced. He said he knew that he spoke for all Parishioners when he said that the stretch of Ham Road from Hayfield to the bend outside Littlefield Cottage was now desperately needed and was in a very poor, almost perilous state and that it was ridiculous that this had not been resurfaced at the same time as the Ham Road resurfacing. Councillor Eldridge added that she had corresponded with Highways and made it clear that before or during that resurfacing, improved drainage needed to be implemented under the road outside Littlefield Cottage. She explained that resident Mr Robin Miller had kindly drawn up a proposal to show how the drain should be modified and that she would be sending a copy to Mr Arnup.

iii) Potholes

The Chairman said that he and Councillor Eldridge would soon be doing their annual inspection of the state of the Parish roads.

iv) Church sign

On the subject of the broken signpost to the Church, the Chairman confirmed that this came under the auspices of Ham Parochial Church Committee (PCC) not the Parish Council. But it was agreed that the Parish Council would be in a position to make a contribution towards the cost of replacing it.

8. Bridleways & Footpaths

The Chairman updated the meeting on the progress he had made with the state of Field Lane bridleway. He said he had managed to speak to the warden responsible at Wiltshire Council and while he had been assured that the bridleway was scheduled for repair, he had been told that this would not happen until the Council resurfaced a local road, which would theoretically provide them with scalplings to spread along the lane.

9. Correspondence

The Chairman raised the topic of his most recent correspondence with both Councillor J Thomson (Deputy Leader Wiltshire Council) and MP Claire Perry on the subject of Superfast Broadband. He said that despite misleading information on the Wiltshire Council website no decision had yet been taken on whether Ham would be picked up under Phase 2 of the Wiltshire rollout programme. There ensued a discussion about the slow and unacceptable broadband speeds in the village and suggestions from Councillors and members of the public as to how this might be tackled. The Chairman put on record that the Parish Council was making every effort to get the service improved, but that it might just be a case of being patient.

10. Any other business

i) Hog Roast

The Chairman made the suggestion that next year, on Sunday June 12th, the Parish might want to commemorate Her Majesty the Queen's 90th Birthday, by holding the biennial hog roast on that day. The Council agreed unanimously that this would be an excellent idea. Councillor Eldridge said she would approach Mr J Popperwell to hopefully book his services for the hog roast.

ii) Crown & Anchor

The Chairman thanked Councillor Miller for the attractive floral hanging baskets, which he had supplied and tended outside the pub this summer. On the subject of Khan and Agnieska Miah having announced, some months ago, that they were leaving the pub, Councillor Dean told the meeting that they were still in residence and that happily the pub was continuing to run as normal.

iii) Transparency Code for Smaller Authorities

The Chairman brought those at the meeting up to speed with the requirements of the Transparency Code for Smaller Authorities. He explained that he and Councillor Eldridge and Mrs Barnwell had held a meeting in June in order to put those requirements in place. He thanked Councillor Dean for adding the information to the village website so promptly, so that the Council was now compliant with the Code.

iv) Ham Village Website

Councillor Eldridge said that she would like to add some extra pages to the website. She told the meeting that she had recently had emails from former residents of the village who had supplied her with interesting facts about bygone days. She also said that she would like to update photographs to refresh the website. Councillor Dean agreed that he would action this.

11. Date of Next Meeting

The 13th November was suggested for the next Quarterly meeting. Mrs Barnwell said she would circulate the date nearer the time in order to ascertain it suited all the Councillors and would confirm this date in due course.

The meeting ended at 7.40pm