

HAM PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF QUARTERLY MEETING

The Quarterly meeting of Ham Parish Council took place on **Friday 4th November 2016 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 four members of the public.

The meeting stood to remember Councillor S Eldridge, who sadly died on October 27th. The Chairman said that Mrs Eldridge had been an indefatigable pillar of the Parish Council for many years, first as Parish Clerk and latterly as Vice Chair. She had overseen many aspects of the Council's work including the Queen's Jubilee celebrations and would be greatly missed. Mr N. Baring, the previous Chairman, echoed his remarks and said that Mrs Eldridge had had an encyclopaedic knowledge of the workings of the Council and produced results whether it was the bigger occasion or the more humdrum events.

1. Apologies

None

2. Minutes of Quarterly Meeting held 12th August 2016

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

3. Matters Arising

Parish Notice Boards – It was noted that Mr R Miller had arranged for the notice boards to be re painted which has now been completed.

4. Policing & Neighbourhood Watch

PC Teresa Herbert has moved on to become Community Coordinator and therefore Jonathan Mills and Mark Braithwaite are now the new community officers for this area but were unable to attend the meeting. The support Ham receives will be much the same as previously and the Police are still reliant on community support to report crimes and be generally vigilant.

Report: There has been an increase in burglaries from non-dwelling properties (farm type buildings) in surrounding areas, Police patrols have been increased until EO December.

There have been no further reports since September in relation to hare coursing in Ham.

A farm in Buttermere had 1-2000L of red diesel stolen.

The dog incident at No2 Severalls has had a plea of guilty and compensation has been awarded to the injured party.

5. Bridleways & Footpaths

Field Lane – repair of boggy patches. The Chairman reported that he had received a quote of around £1,000 to clean out the six worst boggy patches and fill with crushed concrete. However, Mr M Marriage had asked for the work to be deferred until the Spring/Summer to avoid too much disturbance of the wet ground. The Chairman invited members of the Council and also the attending non-members to confirm whether they would be in agreement to go ahead in due course at that cost (subject to further quotes). It was agreed by all to go ahead on that basis in Spring 2017. It was suggested that the state of the path would be improved if the overhead foliage were cut back.

Ham Hill – Mr D Bicknell reported that the signpost at the bottom of the steps on the Buttermere road leading to the Ham Hill footpath was leaning at an angle and required repair. It was agreed that this should be reported to the Wiltshire Council footpath wardens.

6. Flooding

We have a new Parish Steward, Mr Karl McAlpine. He has been assigned to visit Ham one day per month to clear drains and restrict vegetation from causing further issues.

7. Roads & Signs

Potholes – The Chairman reported that there are some bad potholes in the village, particularly on the county boundary on Spray Road. He had reported these by email to Wiltshire Council, but the more people that email the council the stronger case we will have.

8. Finances

The Chairman reported that the Council's finances were in good shape with over £4,000 in reserve. He proposed that £1,500 should be requested for the 2017 precept. All agreed.

Cheques have been signed for grass cutting (£182.40), notice boards re painted (£152.00), village hall hire (£200.00).

9. The Crown & Anchor Public House

The Chairman reported that Parishioner Dominic Slade was still in negotiations with the owners, and was optimistic that he would have something tangible to report by the end of the month.

10. Superfast broadband

We are still at the 'connect stage' and from an unconfirmed report it appears that BT might have to dig up the road which could be causing some delays.

11. Christmas Tree

It was agreed by all that the village should have a Christmas Tree, put up in the 1st weekend of December (Sunday 4th). However, the Crown and Anchor being closed caused a significant issue with providing electricity for the tree lights. Mr C Dean agreed to investigate an alternative supply and to make the necessary arrangements for the purchase and erection of the tree.

12. Correspondence

Pewsey Community Partnership – Last year it was agreed Ham would not contribute financially to PCAP (Pewsey Area Community Partnership) as we do not benefit from their initiatives. The request has been made again this year and it was agreed by all that we would again decline to offer a contribution.

13. Any other business

As there was only one further quarterly meeting before the Parish Council elections in May 2017, the Chairman suggested that there was no need to co-opt another councillor to replace Mrs S Eldridge or to appoint a new Vice Chair at this stage. This was agreed.

14. Date of next meeting

A provisional date of February 2017 was set for the next meeting. Actual date yet to be confirmed.

THE MEETING CLOSED AT 7.45PM
Ham Parish Council
Nov 2016