

HAM PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

The Annual Parish Meeting of Ham Parish Council took place on at **7pm on Monday 22nd May 2017** in **Ham Village Hall**.

In attendance: Mr R Buchanan-Dunlop, Mr C Dean, Mr N Jones, Mr J Marriage and Lady Walker, and nine members of the public

1. **Declaration of Acceptance of Office**
Councillors made their declarations for acceptance of office.

2. **Election of Chairman and Vice-Chairman**
Mr R Buchanan-Dunlop was elected Chairman and Mr C Dean was elected Vice Chairman for the year.

The Chairman thanked both Mr D Bicknell & Mr R Miller for their service on the Parish Council over the past four years, and noted that Mr Miller, who was unable to be present, had been a member of the council for many years

3. **Minutes of the Previous Meeting**
The minutes of the Quarterly Meeting held on 10th February 2017 were agreed and signed.

4. **Matters Arising**
 - a. **The Crown and Anchor**, The Chairman noted that a consultation on future plans for the pub had been held on 19th May but said it would be inappropriate to discuss these until a formal planning application was made. In the meantime any comments should be made to the owners.

 - b. **Superfast Broadband** - The Chairman stated that work on bringing Superfast Broadband to the village would recommence in July with planned completion date of early autumn. Coverage would now include the whole Parish except for New Buildings and the adjacent business premises which received their broadband connection from a different route.

 - c. **Parish Magazine** – The Chairman reminded the Council that as the Parish Magazine was now much more a community magazine than a church magazine, it had been agreed that the Parish Council would now pay half the village's subscription

which had previously been paid wholly by the PCC. Since then gift envelopes had been sent out with the May edition of the magazine, and depending on the response it was hoped that a separate subscription would be unnecessary. He was in touch with the Chairman of Shalbourne Parish Council on the matter.

5. **Finances**

- a. **Annual Governance Statement.** The Chairman read out the responsibilities placed on the Parish Council for the preparation of the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2017 and these were confirmed by councillors.
- b. **Annual Finance Statement.** The Chairman drew attention to the main features of the Annual Finance Statement. The annual precept had returned to £1,500, and this sum had been expended almost exactly, leaving reserves of over £4,000. The statement was agreed, and was then signed by the Chairman who said he was also signing it as the Responsible Finance Officer following the interregnum of Parish Clerk and subsequent authorisation by the external auditors
- c. Chairman requested that the cheque for £69, the annual subscription to the Wiltshire Association of Local Councils could be signed – this was agreed.

6. **Flooding**

It was noted that there was a potential problem with a ditch and gully near Acorn Cottages, which would be taken up in due course with the Parish Steward.

7. **Roads & Signs.**

The Chairman reminded the meeting that anyone could contact Wiltshire Council online or by a mobile telephone application to report a pothole or other road issue. He suggested that when doing this to copy either himself or the Parish Clerk by email.

The new, monthly **Parish Steward Scheme** was fully explained. The name of Ham's Parish Steward was Karl McAlpine, and the Chairman encouraged everyone to introduce themselves if they saw him but requested that they did not give him specific jobs to do as this had to be organised centrally.

8. **Bridleways and Footpaths**

The footpath wardens have now used up all funding and therefore no further work can start or continue.

The issue of Field Lane was discussed again. Due to the dry spell the bridlepath was currently easy to negotiate, but it would become boggy and dangerous again when wet weather returned. It was agreed that the use of crushed concrete to fill the boggy patches

was the best way forward although this could not be guaranteed as a long term solution. Following a general discussion it was then agreed that the Parish Council could spend up to £1,000 from reserve funds to get the work done, and that Roy Hibberd and Trevor Bolland should be asked to estimate for the work. Mr M Marriage offered to be present when Roy Hibberd visited the lane.

9. **Correspondence**

None

10. **Any other business**

Parish Walk – The Chairman thanked Mr D Bicknell for organising last year's Parish Walk and asked the public when they might prefer to have a walk this year. It was agreed to have one early autumn.

11. **Composition of Parish Council**

It was agreed to co-opt a sixth councillor, and that appropriate notices should be put on notice boards and also on Hamnet.

12. **Date of Next Meeting** – 2nd half of August. TBC

Meeting closed at 7.30
Ham Parish Council
May 2017