

HAM PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH ASSEMBLY

The Parish Assembly of Ham Parish Council took place on Thursday 9 May 2019 in Ham Village Hall following the Annual Parish Meeting

Present: Mr. C Dean (Chairman), Mr. R Buchanan-Dunlop, Mr. J Marriage, Mr. D Bicknell, Mrs. C Garrod (Acting Parish Clerk), Mr. Stuart Wheeler, PCSO Paul Whiteside and 8 members of the public.

1. **Apologies:**
Lady Walker and Mr. Humphreys
2. **Minutes of Previous Meeting:**
The Minutes of the last Parish Assembly held on 9 May 2018 were confirmed, and signed by the Chairman.
3. **Matters Arising:** None
4. **Parish Council Report** *was read by the Chairman*

"This is the end of my first year as Chairman and I would like to thank my fellow councillors and the Parish Clerk for all their support. In particular, Robin, for his help and patience in answering all my questions.

As a council we have had a busy year, the usual 4 parish meetings and 9 planning meetings. Up from 6 the year before, and 3 before that. Much of our time is spent on planning issues, and these are becoming increasingly complex and often with conflicting views.

We had a hugely successful Hog Roast, which was well attended, including a fire engine which proved very popular. It was a great shame they were called away so quickly.

The annual cricket match was as always a close run thing, although this time we were victorious, and it provided great entertainment for an afternoon in glorious weather. It is a shame that this year's match is cancelled and a reminder of how busy we all are and how difficult it is to keep these events going.

Later in the year, the Giant Onion Completion, the Harvest supper in the Village hall. Followed by the rerun of the World War One exhibition on Remembrance weekend, which was again extremely well received and well attended. Including a visit from the local school that was talked about by the children for some time afterwards.

And of course the Christmas carols and lights on the Green. Our thanks to Mary and Nicola for organising everything, and our thanks again to Bill Bird for providing the machinery, a much needed upgrade from the previous method using a long wooden stick. I am pleased to say that the lights remain on the tree.

Looking forward, we are, I'm sure all very excited by the impending opening of the Crown and Anchor.

On behalf of the Parish Council I would like to thank everyone for all their time in organising, running and ensuring all these events continue."

5. Police Report:

PCSO Paul Whiteside gave his report which highlighted the main concerns in the area which are opportune burglaries and break-ins at beauty spots. A member of the public raised the question of CCTV security cameras. Personal CCTV can only be used in their domestic environment but the Parish Council can install their own CCTV to cover the village. PCSO Whiteside suggested they should be 'evidence quality'. Automated number recognition can also be installed whereby police can be alerted. He recommended personal CCTV and motion security lighting. PCSO Whiteside advised that vulnerable residents (i.e. those over 60) contact the Bobby van who will give advice on security, install a camera and check it regularly. This is a free service from the police.

6. Wiltshire Council Report:

Stuart Wheeler said that Wiltshire are trying to improve services. He mentioned the new Vale Centre in Pewsey with facilities for disabled; the Oxenwood Centre with resources for young carers; congratulated Mr. Buchanan-Dunlop for his work; congratulated the village for saving the public house. He mentioned planning. He is the only member who can be called in and he needs 21 days to intervene. He noted the disquiet of the Parish Council and agreed with their views. Mr Buchanan-Dunlop wanted to know how the village Conservation area plan is regarded by the planners. He suggested we contact Mike Willmott and Pippa Carr to suggest a meeting to discuss this issue.

7. Shalbourne School Report.

Mr. Chris Daking addressed the meeting saying that 11 pupils were Ham residents. He confirmed that it is a Church of England School and has been inspected by the Christian Anglican Schools. The school has received an improved Ofsted report. A full report can be found in the Parish magazine.

8. PCC Report:

Mr. Tony Peace reported that sadly Jo Reid will be replaced and there has been one applicant for the position of a new stipendiary priest. He announced that there is a worry that the congregation is ageing and whilst there are significant numbers at Christmas and Remembrance Day the general congregation is not being replaced by younger people. He estimates three or four families are needed to support the church on a regular basis and that villagers need to also support the church financially.

9. Ham Village Hall Report.

Mr. Buchanan-Dunlop read the report prepared by Lady Walker. There is a new heating system throughout, new down lights and the lavatories and kitchen been upgraded. The roof and guttering has been made good. Two old and unused exterior doors to the lavatories have been removed. Three exterior doors to the hall need replacing and the windows need renovating. Following the grant application last year, we were awarded a grant of £3000 by the Pewsey Area Board. An application has been made this year for the remainder of a possible £5000 for the work to the doors and windows. The meeting is on 20 May. Funds permitting the hall will be redecorated internally. Copies of the accounts are available. Lady Walker thanked the village and the Parish Council for their generosity for making the improvements possible. Re. Income, she mentioned the Harvest Festival raised £800; the playgroup continues to thrive; Friday night pub nights last summer and Carols on the Green raised £88. Further fund-raising will continue once the refurbishment is completed. Copies of the accounts are available but as at 31 March 2019 the income was £18962 and expenditure £14501. The reserves were £9945. The amount spent to date following the accounts is £17208 leaving reserves of £5460. £3000 of the reserves will be used over the next few weeks and there are £1875 of confirmed donations. The Chairman thanked Lady Walker for her hard work.

10. Ham Relief Fund:

Mr. Buchanan Dunlop reported that there are reserves of £1884 in what used to be known as the Poor Fund, which is administered by Lady Walker and him. The fund will run for another year and any deserving cases should be reported to Lady Walker or Mr. Buchanan-Dunlop.

The meeting closed at 8.20 pm followed by refreshments provided by Charmaine Dean. The wine was supplied by Barnaby Smith.