

## HAM PARISH COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF A QUARTERLY PARISH MEETING

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A Quarterly meeting of Ham Parish Council took place at 7.00 pm Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> August in the Village Hall.

**Present:** Mr C Dean (Chairman), Lady Walker (Vice-chairman), Mr J Marriage, Mr M Humphreys, and Mr. A Taylor, and 3 members of public.

1. **Apologies:** none.

2. **Minutes:**

The Minutes of the Quarterly Meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2021 were confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

3. **Matters Arising:** none.

4. **Roads, Signs and Speed Limits**

Mr. Taylor explained that he had been in touch with two companies that rent and sell Speed Awareness devices and was expecting some quotes. One option was to buy and then rent out to other villages. It was agreed to re-discuss when numbers were available.

It was also agreed that the individual approach for drivers that exceed the speed limit was proving very successful.

Mr. Taylor also reported that he had discussed with the Parish Steward repairing some of the worst damage to the side of roads with some scalplings.

5. **Flooding**

Mr. Humphreys reported that everything was looking ok despite some episodes of very heavy rainfall.

6. **Footpaths**

Mr. Marriage reported that he had received reports of issues on the footpath from Bitham Lane through to Inkpen, and this has been passed on to Mr. Kent. No other issues have been reported with the exception of complaints about Field Lane passed to Mr. Humphreys. Mr. Marriage explained that we were very close to receiving some scalplings recently and will continue to chase. Mr. Marriage also explained that he and the Chairman met with Stephen Leonard recently to discuss footpaths with the overriding message that the council budgets were almost non-existent but that they would provide support wherever they could.

A discussion then started on the potential use of Astro Turf and the various options available. Concerns were raised about what sort of base would be required. Mr. Taylor agreed to investigate this and report back.

Mr. Baring explained that he was pursuing a fencer to fit new gates either side of the Old Rectory grounds and that he had recently repaired the styles as a temporary measure.

## **7. Finances**

The Chairman explained that Mr. Buchanan Dunlop sent his apologies but had provided a brief report. The Parish Council has £7,830 cash in the bank, of which £2,027 is from the Community Infrastructure Levy. We anticipate a further £600 of normal expenditure for the remainder of the finance year, split in thirds between insurance, grass cutting, and Village Hall hire fees. As a result, we have just over £7,000 for reserves and exceptional expenditure. Of this amount £1,500 is allocated to Field Lane and £1,500 to the new notice board which leaves £4,000.

The Chairman explained that it was important not to hold too many reserves and that the council should consider worthwhile projects for expenditure.

The Chairman also explained that the delay on replacing the Notice Board is due to an accident with the bus reversing into the board and was waiting for them to respond.

The Chairman explained that he had received an email from PCAP (Pewsey Community Area Partnership,) requesting funds and suggested we donate £100. This was agreed by all councillors.

## **8. Best Kept Village Competition**

The Chairman reported that we had come 3<sup>rd</sup> in the first round and had therefore not gone through to the second round. He continued to read out some of the comments given, "a little gem of a village tucked away on the edge of the country in stunning scenery", "the village green was small and pleasingly well kept", "the pub appeared to be an excellent facility for locals and visitors". There were some negative comments on the range of housing, noticeboard contents and lack of mobile compatibility on the website.

It was suggested by several councillors that regardless of the competition we should organise a yearly village tidy up day in May.

## **9. Village Party**

The Chairman explained that we had been stymied on every occasion to organise a village party, but that Mr. Baring had kindly offered the use of his garden as a location for a gathering. Lady Walker suggested that an impromptu picnic would be a nice occasion and suggested the bank holiday weekend. It was agreed to look into the options and gauge interest for a lunch on the Saturday. The Chairman and Lady Walker agreed to liaise further.

## **10. Correspondence**

The Chairman reported that correspondence had been received regarding the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Beacons on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> June. Asked whether we would want to be involved in a beacon up on the hill. There was significant enthusiasm to light a beacon on the top of the hill. The Chairman agreed to pass on our desire to be involved.

The discussion continued to the party itself and it was agreed to plan a street party on the Sunday of the long weekend.

## **11. Any Other Business**

The Chairman raised one item of business, to ask the council to discuss whether a dog poo bin was needed in the centre of the village. He also confirmed that Wiltshire will empty any bins. The council unanimously agreed that the Green or the notice board locations were not suitable, and that it was not required by residents of the village.

The Chairman thanked Rags Simmonds for taking on the task of monthly checks on the village defibrillator.

## **12. Date of next meeting**

The Chairman agreed to circulate dates by email.

The meeting closed at 8:00pm