

HAM PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES OF A QUARTERLY PARISH MEETING

A Quarterly meeting of Ham Parish Council took place at 7.00pm on Wednesday 28th February 2024 in the Village Hall.

Present: Mr C Dean (Chairman), Lady Walker (Vice-chairman), Mr M Humphreys and 2 members of public.

1. Apologies: Mr. J Marriage, Mr. A Taylor and Mrs. J Lamb

2. Minutes

The Chairman asked if the minutes from the Quarterly meeting on 22/11/23 and Planning meeting on 11/10/23, could be signed off. All councillors concurred.

3. Matters Arising: None.

4. Roads, Signs and Speed Limits

The Chairman reported on behalf of Mr. Taylor, to encourage continued use of the "My Wilts" app for reporting any issues.

The Chairman also reported that he had chased Mr. Baker of Acorn builders and had received a response asking for any details possible, including times and vehicle details.

The Chairman reported that Mr. and Mrs. Medd had been in touch and wished to apologise for any disruption caused by the electricity and water works at the entrance to Pettits on Spray Road.

5. Flooding

Mr. Humphreys reported that there were no new flooding issues reported and that all drains and ditches were performing as expected.

6. Bridleways and Footpaths

The Chairman reported on behalf of Mr. Marriage that no issues had been reported.

7. Finances

Mr. Buchanan-Dunlop took the council through the existing finances, explaining that the year ended on 31st March. One outstanding invoice for the village hall remains and the accounts stand at £2,670 once that has been presented, just slightly below the usual reserve of £3,000.

For the year starting 1st April, we expect to receive £2,000 for the yearly precept, of which £1,200 will be used for standard expenditure which includes grass cutting, hall hire and insurance, leaving £800 for other activities and costs.

The Chairman raised the question of whether the Christmas lights would need replacing this year, at a cost of around £400.

The Chairman explained that every 12 months the council had to vote in a responsible financial officer, and that whilst the official vote was in May, as per the minutes of the previous meeting he asked the council to approve the appointment of Mr. Chris Daking. All councillors concurred, and thanked Mr. Daking for accepting the role. It was agreed to add Mr. Daking to the banking mandate at the earliest opportunity.

8. Summer Party

The Chairman explained that members of the council who were not present were keen to explore alternative ideas for the summer party.

The Chairman explained that it was not vital that the Parish Council hosted a party every year, and indeed until very recently it was a bi-annual event. The council agreed that we should avoid charging for entry if possible.

There was a discussion around the options, and it was agreed to delay any discussion until the next meeting, but with the weekends of 15th and 22nd in mind.

The Chairman raised the topic of the 80th anniversary of D-Day on Thursday 6th June. It was agreed to arrange a drink in the Crown & Anchor.

9. Correspondence

The Chairman reported that the "Best Kept Village Competition" was running again, and it was agreed that similar to previous years, Ham would not be entering.

The Chairman also reported on the police report covering the period 01/10/23 to 28/12/23 during which no burglaries or offences had been reported.

10. Any Other Business

There was a discussion about the idea of a village clean up in May, to include the Village Hall. Mr. Humphreys agreed to organise.

The Chairman reported that there had been some discussion on social media with regards to a village dog poo bin. He continued by outlining the discussion at the Parish Assembly earlier in the year during which it became apparent that there was no landowner in the centre of the village prepared to accept a dog poo bin on their land, and the discussion was closed. The question was raised again, and it was apparent that there was no change in this position, so the idea was abandoned.

11. Date of next meeting

The Chairman agreed to circulate dates by email.

The meeting closed at 7:45pm.