

HAM PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

The Annual Meeting of the Parish of Ham took place on Wednesday 15th May 2024 in Ham Village Hall at 7pm.

Present: Mr. C Dean (Chairman), Lady Walker (Vice-chairman), Mr. J Marriage, Mrs. J Lamb, Mr. M Humphreys and Mr. A Taylor, and 8 members of public.

1. Apologies:

Councillor Stuart Wheeler

2. Election of a Chairman and Vice-Chairman

Mr. Charles Dean was proposed as Chairman by Lady Walker and seconded by Mr. Humphreys. Lady Walker was proposed as Vice-Chairman by Mr. Dean and seconded by Mr. Marriage.

3. To confirm the minutes of the Quarterly Meeting held on 28th February 2024

The Minutes of the Quarterly meeting held on 28th February 2024 were confirmed, and signed by the Chairman.

4. Matters Arising

None.

5. Finances

5a. To confirm the Annual Governance Statement.

The annual governance statement was approved by the council.

5b. To approve the Parish Council accounts for the year ended 31 March 2024.

The council approved the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2024.

5c. To approve the submission of a Certificate of Exemption for external audit.

The submission of a Certificate of Exemption for external audit was approved by the council.

5d. To confirm appointment of Responsible Financial Officer.

The council agreed to appoint Mr. Chris Daking as the new Responsible Financial Officer and offered their thanks for him taking up this role.

The council thanked Mr. Buchanan-Dunlop for his many years of service both as Responsible Finance Officer and on the Parish Council and presented him with a small token of their appreciation.

The council extended their huge thanks for Mr. Hawley's continued help as external auditor.

Mr. Buchanan-Dunlop explained that the bank balance was at £4,778 which included the precept of £2,000 for this year. He explained that we were also expecting a VAT refund of £506. As a result if the usual level of £3,000 was kept as a reserve, this would leave £2,284 available for expenditure.

The Chairman asked the council to approve £69.86 subscription fee for WALC, and £58.80 for HAMnet covering the period 22/06/23 to 21/06/24.

The council agreed to all items of expenditure.

6. Roads, Signs and Speed Limits

Mr. Taylor reported that they had had great success using the My Wilts app to report potholes on Spray Rd., many of which had been recently dealt with. He explained that the key was weight of numbers with regards to complaints.

Mr. Humphreys raised the issue of tractors driving over may of the verges in the middle of the village. Mr. Taylor suggest that as with potholes the My Wilts app was the perfect way of reporting issues.

The Chairman reported that Mark Baker, the MD of Acorn builders was keen to help with any speeding issues with their vans and requested license plates and details.

7. Flooding

Mr. Humphries reported that despite the huge amount of rain over the last 6 months there had been relatively few issues, and the main culverts were all working as expected.

There was a discussion about issues with the drain in Church Rd. often being full of mud. Mr. Taylor said he would discuss with the Gully truck at the next visit, and suggested the App was also useful for any drainage issues.

8. Bridleways and Footpaths

Mr. Humphreys raised the issue of the tree clearance at the top of the Nature Reserve and the state that the land had been left in such that the footpath was now extremely difficult to walk on and indeed locate. Mr. Taylor explained this was managed by Wiltshire Wildlife Trust who had a 99 year lease on the land.

The Chairman suggested the Mr. Humphreys speak to Mr. Melsom to find out who the local warden was for the Nature Reserve in order to progress the issue.

Mr. Marriage reported that in general other footpaths were all in good condition, and all issues raised over the last six months had been dealt with. Mr. Marriage also pointed out that despite the rain the improvements to Field Lane had held up extremely well, and thanked Mr. Buchanan-Dunlop for instigating the project some years ago.

Mr. Daking explained that the byway running from Prosperous down to Tidcombe was heavily overgrown in places. Mr. Marriage explained that he was aware of this and was planning to contact the landowners.

9. Correspondence

The Chairman explained that he had received The Annual Town and Council report for 24/25 from Stuart Wheeler which was available to anyone who wished to have a copy. In addition the recent Pewsey Community Area Partnership report.

10. Any Other Business

None.

12. Date of Next Meeting

The Chairman agreed to circulate potential dates via email.

The meeting closed at 7:30pm