

HAM PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES OF A QUARTERLY PARISH MEETING

A Quarterly meeting of Ham Parish Council took place at 7.00pm on Thursday 15th August 2024 in the Village Hall.

Present: Mr C Dean (Chairman), Lady Walker (Vice-chairman), Mr M Humphreys, Mr. A Taylor, Mrs. J Lamb, Councillor Stuart Wheeler and 5 members of public.

1. Apologies: Mr. J Marriage

2. Minutes

The Chairman agreed to circulate on email.

3. Matters Arising: None.

4. Roads, Signs and Speed Limits

Mr. Taylor repeated his request for everyone to use the My Wilts app to report potholes and other issues.

The Chairman reported that the Pewsey Community Area Partnership were planning to send a letter to Highways highlighting issues, feedback problems, timescales and so on. They were asking for Parish Councils to add their name. All councillors agreed this was a good idea.

5. Flooding

Mr. Humphreys reported that there were no new flooding issues reported and that all drains and ditches were performing as expected. There was a discussion about the Gully truck and Mr. Taylor agreed to fill in the form as per previous years when it arrives.

The Chairman confirmed that he had reported the leak at the base of the Village Hall drive.

6. Bridleways and Footpaths

The Chairman reported on behalf of Mr. Marriage that no issues had been reported. There was a wide discussion about the damage to the ridgeway due to vehicular use and frustration that there was no obvious solution.

7. Finances

The Chairman reported that we had received a letter from the Community Infrastructure Monitoring Officer with regards to the usage of the CIL grants received in 2018 and 2020. The Chairman explained that in both cases we had submitted the required information, but it had clearly gone awry. Mr. Daking explained that he had spoken to Mr. Buchanan Dunlop and steps were in hand to get the required details from the old accounts. The Chairman agreed to write in response once the information was available but that it was likely to be for the defibrillator and new notice board.

The Chairman repeated the decision made a year previously, that through online banking, a single signatory was the only requirement to a total of £500 for previously agreed expenditure. The council re-affirmed their agreement to this policy.

8. Correspondence

None

9. Any Other Business

Mr. Humphreys raised the question of whether we should have a village skip on a yearly basis and explained that we had had this in the past for many years. After discussion it was agreed that due to the increased cost of skips and issue of limiting use to residents of the village, this was no longer practical.

There was a discussion about the village Whats App group and several members of the audience expressed concern at the size of the group and usage. The Chairman explained that the group was not maintained or the responsibility of the Parish Council, but that very kindly two villagers administered the list.

The Chairman reported that on the 17th October at 7pm there would be a Pewsey Community Area Partnership in the Village Hall sponsored by the Parish Council, and encouraged any councillors interested to attend.

There was a discussion about the small notice board near the Severalls, and the Chairman repeated the decision made at the previous meeting when it was agreed it was not financially sensible to repair or replace. He explained that there was no barrier to reversing this decision beyond available funds so if members of the village felt strongly on this topic to get in touch.

The Chairman reported that Tom Davies had kindly offered to take on the monthly Defibrillator check now that Mr. Simmonds had left the village.

The Chairman raised the question of Parish Elections and the spectre of the cost being born by the Parish Council themselves. Councillor Wheeler was unsure on the position on this topic and agreed to investigate.

Mr. Taylor raised the issue of a village dog poo bin. The Chairman reminded everyone of previous decisions and the simple issue that no landowner would agree to have a dog poo bin on their land, and until this changed there was very little that could be done. Mr. Daking pointed out that the best location for a dog poo bin was at either end of the footpaths in question. The Chairman agreed that if Mr. Taylor was happy to provide a location on the Ham Estate then the Parish Council would be more than happy to arrange for it to be emptied regularly. Mr. Taylor agreed to investigate.

Mr. Taylor reported that on the weekend of 6th/7th October the Ham Estate was hosting a large metal detecting event.

11. Date of next meeting

The Chairman agreed to circulate dates by email.

The meeting closed at 7:40pm.