

HAM PARISH COUNCIL

HAM PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES OF A QUARTERLY PARISH MEETING

A Quarterly meeting of Ham Parish Council took place at 7.00pm on Wednesday 26th November 2025 in the Village Hall.

Present: Mr C Dean (Chairman), Lady Mary Walker (Vice Chair), Mr M Humphreys, Mr J Marriage, Lady Rose Clowes, Mrs P Medd, and 5 members of the public

1. Apologies:

Mr Stuart Wheeler

2. Minutes

The Minutes of the following meetings were confirmed and signed by the Chairman: Parish Assembly and Annual General Meeting on 9th May 2025, and Quarterly meeting on 13th August 2025.

3. Matters Arising:

The Chairman welcomed Lady Clowes and Mrs Medd to the council as co-opted members and thanked them for volunteering.

4. Roads, Signs and Speed Limits

The Chairman reported that the Parish Steward is due on the 13th December and confirmed that three jobs were on the job sheet, culverts, cleaning around street signs and lower areas of banks.

There was a wide discussion about the increase in number of dangerous potholes. It was agreed to continue to persuade everyone to report potholes on the My Wilts app.

The Chairman confirmed that C209, the road from the Village Green heading east to the county boundary was due to be resurfaced early in the New Year.

5. Flooding

Mr. Humphreys reported that there were no issues he was aware of and that the culverts were working well.

6. Bridleways and Footpaths

Mr. Marriage reported no problems despite the bad weather.

The Chairman reported that the footpath heading east from Prosperous was very overgrown and had received several reports. There was a long discussion about the various options and Mr. Marriage agreed to investigate options.

7. Finances

Mr. Daking took the council through the current state of the finances and explained that once all expenses for the year are considered there is a surplus of £3,685.

The Chairman explained that in the past we have kept a buffer of £3,000 representing approximately one year's worth of expenditure. The Chairman continued to explain that the Precept needed to be decided, and that for the previous 2 years it had been set at £2,000. All councillors agreed there was no specific reason to increase the precept at this time, and it was agreed to set at the same level of £2,000 for the 2026/7 financial year.

The Chairman asked the council to sign off on some items of expenditure, £41.50 for food for the September BBQ, £139.99 for the new All Seasons Heavy Duty Gazebo, and finally £138.00 for three strings of LED lights for the Christmas lights on the Green. All councillors agreed with the expenditure and Mr Daking agreed to draw up a cheque.

Lady Clowes raised the issue of speeding, particularly on the south entrance into the village and suggested that speed indicators could be considered. The Chairman explained that we had looked into these in the past with no resolution. Following a detailed conversation it was agreed to revisit the idea, and the Chairman volunteered to report back at the next meeting. However, the council agreed that no increase in the precept was required at this point to cover any potential costs.

The Chairman explained that with the expenditure above our surplus was now closer to £3,400.

Mr. David Bicknell asked the council if they would consider purchasing a table or bench for the Village Green in remembrance of Reg and Brenda Stevens, explaining that they lived in the village for 60 years and contributed hugely to the community. Following a discussion the council agreed in principle to a budget of £500 to be discussed at the next meeting. The Chairman and Mr. Bicknell agreed to investigate the options.

8. Correspondence

None.

9. Any Other Business

The Chairman thanked David Bicknell for mounting the new blood trauma kit on the wall near the Defibrillator.

The Chairman also wished to thank Richard and Alison Schofield for organising the first aid course in the Village Hall.

The Chairman confirmed that the Christmas Lights would be switched on at 6:30pm on Friday 28th November. He also extended huge thanks to Simon Bird for arranging for a cherry picker and his team to help put the lights in the tree, and to David Bicknell for his help throughout the process.

The Chairman asked the council if they were happy for a charge of £100 for mulled wine at the Crown and Anchor for the lights switch on evening. All concurred.

10. Date of Next Meeting

To be agreed.

The meeting closed at 7:45pm.