

HAM PARISH ASSEMBLY

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

The **Annual Parish Assembly** was held immediately after the 7pm Parish Council AGM in the Village Hall on **Fri 22nd May 2015**.

Present: Mr R Buchanan-Dunlop (Chairman), Mrs S Eldridge (Vice Chair), Mr D Bicknell, Mr C Dean, Mr R Miller, Lady Walker, Mrs J Barnwell (Clerk)
Plus 15 members of the public

1. Apologies

Councillor S Wheeler and Mrs E Riley

2. Minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly held on Friday 9th May 2014

These were approved by the Council and signed by the Chairman

3. Matters arising

None

4. Parish Council Report – Chairman

The Chairman thanked his Councillors and the Clerk for their support over the past year and went on to outline some of the highlights in the village calendar. He particularly praised those individuals who help to make all this possible.

His full report is attached.

5. Wiltshire Council – Councillor Wheeler

The Clerk said she had not received any correspondence from Mr Wheeler.

6. Village Hall Committee Report

Councillor Walker read out Mrs Riley's report.

Copy attached.

7. Neighbourhood Watch Report – Mr S Byatt

Mr Byatt reminded those present that he had a stock of Neighbourhood Watch stickers should any parishioner require one to display in their windows. He said there wasn't much to add on crimes and crime fighting in the area, as PC Herbert had covered it comprehensively. Reflecting on the possibility of

creating a so-called No Cold Calling Zone in Ham, he didn't feel that this would be necessary, as fortunately the incidences of cold calling didn't pose a regular nuisance. The Chairman added his thoughts, that the important thing to remember was to call 101 to report such events. Mr Byatt concluded by urging villagers to sign up to the free crime alert service provided by Wiltshire Police, called 'Community Messaging', which circulates crime alerts from the Pewsey Neighbour Police Team via email. It was agreed that the link would be circulated via HamNet.

8. Ham Relief Fund

There have been no donations made and so no movements in the fund at all. The Chairman said that should a parishioner know anyone who needs modest help, then they should contact him or Councillor Lady Walker.

9. Open Forum – questions from the floor

i) A parishioner started the open questions session by thanking Councillor Dean for his informative HamNet email bulletins, which, he said, were very informative and helpful. All those present agreed with this sentiment and the Chairman thanked Councillor Dean for this on behalf of the Parish.

ii) The topic of litter in the hedgerows around the Shirley Lodge building plot was raised – others present agreed that it was unsightly, unacceptable and needed addressing. The Chairman said he would contact the owner of Shirley Lodge.

iii) The point was raised that, due to the increased Precept, intended to cover the then unknown costs of extending the 30mph zone, but subsequently found to be considerably cheaper than first thought, the Council could use some of the surplus to boost the Ham Relief Fund and to make a grant to the Village Hall. The Chairman commented that while the Parish Council would always be prepared to consider a specific appeal from either charity, it would be sensible not to make unsolicited charitable grants from what was public money, as there was always the possibility of unforeseen exceptional calls on the Parish's funds. This was agreed by the meeting.