

HAM PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF QUARTERLY MEETING

The Quarterly meeting of Ham Parish Council took place on **Friday 12th FEBRUARY 2016** at **7pm** in **Ham Village Hall**

In attendance: Mr R Buchanan-Dunlop (Chair), Mrs S Eldridge (vice Chair), Mr R Miller, Mr C Dean, Mr D Bicknell, Lady Walker, Mrs J Barnwell (Clerk) and six members of the public.

1. Apologies

None

2. Minutes of Meeting held 13th Nov 2015

The minutes were approved as a true record by the Council and duly signed by the chairman.

3. Matters Arising

None

4. Policing & Neighbourhood Watch

Police Community Support Officer (PCSO) Jonathan Mills addressed the meeting and recounted a recent crime, which had taken place in December at The Severalls, in which a van had been broken into and tools stolen. He also said that an investigation was currently underway into a dog attack at one of the houses in The Severalls, in which a puppy and its elderly owner had both been injured. The injured resident had received hospital treatment as a consequence and the puppy had undergone surgery on its wounds. As the investigation was ongoing, no further details could be divulged, but PCSO Mills conceded that it was a worrying incident. Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator Steve Byatt reiterated the concern of PCSO Mills. He said that all the neighbours had been affected by it and he hoped for a satisfactory outcome pending the police investigation.

On a related matter PCSO Mills showed those present a photograph of a woman wanted in relation to another dog attack, which had taken place in Bitham Lane, Mount Prosperous and asked for this to be circulated on the village, in case anyone could identify the woman. Other local crimes committed in recent weeks included four garages having been broken into at

Kew Gardens in Shalbourne and a burglary of tools at Shalbourne Gliding Club at Rivar Hill.

The Chairman asked PCSO Mills if there were any changes in police cover for Ham under the recent publicised police funding cuts. He replied that under a planned new policing initiative, which should come into effect towards the end of the year, there would likely be more 'cover' ie 24 hours, for villages such as Ham. He said he would update the Council as and when he had more concrete information.

5. Flooding

None

6. Roads & Signs

None

7. Bridleways & Footpaths

Following on from the earlier reports of aggressive dog behaviour in the village, complaints were raised about the aggressive behaviour by two dogs owned by residents in The Acorns towards walkers and their dogs, using the permissive footpath adjacent to the property.

The Chairman said that anyone who felt threatened by the aggressive behaviour of any dog in the village should always make a complaint direct to the Police, as the Parish Council had no powers to act in such an event. He said this was based on the advice he had received from PC Teresa Herbert, who had advised that she would follow up any complaint of this nature.

8. Finance

The Clerk confirmed that the Parish Precept Requirement Form for 2016/17 had been completed for an amount of £1,500 and returned to Wiltshire Council financial planning department in time for the deadline last month.

9. Superfast broadband

Having been on the agenda for most of the Parish Council meetings last year, the Chairman didn't dwell on the subject, only to say that there was, at last, good news. He said that Ham had already been surveyed for Phase 2 of Wiltshire Council's Superfast Broadband Rollout Programme and hopefully superfast broadband was imminently on its way to the village, typically within the next five months. He said that as soon as the green street cabinet was updated it would then be up to each individual householder to opt for the benefits of the faster service with his or her provider.

10. The Crown & Anchor Public House

The Chairman said that as everyone had probably seen, the 'For Sale' board had gone up on the pub. He said it was sad to see, especially in the light on other local pubs also coming on the market; The Plough at Shalbourne being one of them. He said that he spoke for the Parish that the closure of the Crown & Anchor was a great pity and that he hoped a buyer would be found. Khan and Aggi, having announced their final trading weekend would be at the end of this month, were arranging a leaving party for Saturday 27th Feb. The Chairman explained that ultimately, should the present owners not be able to find a buyer, they could then try to make a case for Change of Use – this process would then trigger the mechanism of the registration of the pub's Asset of Community Value (ACV*). This in turn would give the village an opportunity to find a consortium to buy it. The Chairman suggested, that in the interim time, the village should find a means for parishioners to meet and socialise on a regular basis. He suggested that the Village Hall Committee might have such an event in its sights. He called for villagers to come up with ideas to arrange something along those lines in order to keep village life afloat for all those who regularly enjoyed meeting at the weekends at the pub.

NB. *ACV is an entry into the Land Registry, which effectively prohibits the owner disposing of the asset without first giving formal notification to Wiltshire Council, who would then invoke an initial six week moratorium and then, if necessary, a fuller six month moratorium, in order to give a community interest group the opportunity to put a bid together. The ACV entry lasts for five years and will be due for renewal on February 5th 2020.

11. Pending Retirement of the Clerk

The Council had not yet found a replacement for Mrs Barnwell, who steps down at the end of March as Clerk, but Councillors had been putting out feelers and were hopeful someone would be found. It was agreed that the vacancy would be advertised in the next edition of the Parish News and on HamNet.

12. Correspondence

None

13. Any other business

i) Annual Parish Walk

It was proposed that the annual Parish Walk would take place on Saturday 23rd April (St George's Day), starting from outside the pub.

14. Date of next meeting

A provisional date of 6th May 2016 was set for the AGM & Annual Parish Assembly.

THE MEETING CLOSED AT 7.50PM