

HAM PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF AN EXTRAORDINARY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

An Extraordinary Meeting of Ham Parish Council took place on **Friday 18th March 2016** at 7pm in **Ham Village Hall**

Present: Mr R Buchanan-Dunlop (Chairman), Councillor C Dean, Councillor R Miller, Mrs J Barnwell (Clerk) and 26 members of the public

1. Apologies

Mrs S Eldridge (Vice Chair), Councillors D Bicknell and Lady Walker.

2. The Sale of the Crown & Anchor Pub

The Chairman welcomed members of the public and said that events had moved swiftly in the last 36 hours. He had received a message from Mr Dominic Slade that he and his wife were exploring the organisation of a community qualifying initiative to buy the Crown and Anchor public house. Mr Slade had notified Wiltshire Council that he was making a bid under the Asset of Community Value regulations through Ham Pub Co Ltd, a company limited by guarantee, which does not distribute surplus to its members. Wiltshire Council had accepted this as a qualifying bid under the ACV terms and had notified the owners that there was now a moratorium until 22 August 2016. The Chairman explained that this did not guarantee that this bid would be successful, but that it was nevertheless very welcome news. Mr Andrew Melsom, speaking from the floor, added that Mr Slade was anxious that the community would get behind him to support the bid. There were a number of questions about the nature of the support that Mr Slade was looking for, but the Chairman responded that he was unaware of any further details at this stage. In response to a question, Councillor Dean said that he had recently contacted the agents and it appeared that there were no other bids to purchase the pub at this stage. It was clear from comments from members of the public that the village strongly welcomed Mr Slade's initiative and looked forward to hearing from him on how it might help him in his bid.

The meeting closed at 7.20pm