

# **HAM PARISH ASSEMBLY**

## **MINUTES OF THE MEETING**

The Ham Parish Assembly took place in Ham Village Hall immediately after the Annual General Meeting on **Friday 6<sup>th</sup> May 2016**.

**Present:** Mr R Buchanan-Dunlop (Chairman), Mr C Dean, Mr R Miller, Lady Walker and 19 members of the public.

### **1. Apologies**

Apologies were received from Mrs S Eldridge (Vice Chairman), Mr D Bicknell and Mr and Mrs Robinson.

### **2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

The minutes of the Parish Assembly held on 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2015 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

### **3. Matters Arising**

None.

### **4. Parish Council Report**

A report by the Chairman of the Parish Council is attached to these minutes.

### **5. Police Report**

No police representation was possible and the Chairman read excerpts from an annual police report compiled by PC T Herbert, Community Beat Manager Pewsey east villages. It was noted that an assault on 9 February by two dogs at The Severalls had been referred to the Crown Prosecution Service for a decision. A number of rural crime events had been reported and investigated over the 12 months. The police had also conducted a number of rogue trading operations in the area. The report also warned about telephone scams involving impersonation of Police Officers to gain access to personal bank details. Separately, Mr A Taylor, Farm Manager Three Counties Farms, mentioned a very recent incident in which farm animals had been killed which was still under police investigation. The meeting asked for their sympathy to be conveyed to Mr P Clark and the farm staff.

### **6. Wiltshire Council Report**

Councillor S Wheeler was unable to stay for the whole meeting but gave this brief report. He acknowledged that the repair of roads was an open wound and reflected demands on a straitened budget. However, he reiterated his promise to lobby for the repair of Ham Road to be dealt with properly. As Ham was part of the Pewsey Area Board, he commented that one of the success stories of the past year was the rebuilding of the entire Pewsey leisure centre, including a new swimming pool, to serve the Pewsey area. Overall, Wiltshire Council faced a further reduction of £21 million in its funding from central government this year. The main losers were likely to be the aged, children and the handicapped. He asked parishioners to copy him in on

any emails to Wiltshire Council to enable him to keep abreast of concerns in the village ([stuart.wheeler@wiltshire.gov.uk](mailto:stuart.wheeler@wiltshire.gov.uk)).

### **7. Village Hall Committee Report**

Councillor Lady Walker, Chairman of the Committee, reported that the Harvest Supper had again been well attended and had raised £680 for the Village Hall funds. Carols on the Green at Christmas time were again organised by the Committee. Due to inclement weather the carols were held in the pub, a happy affair which had raised £120 for Naomi House Hospice. The Hall was being well used by the Playgroup run by Mrs C Dean and also by Welpets. The Hall was generally in good condition although the lighting needed attention, and the renovation of the lavatories and the kitchen floor had still to be decided. Current funds stood at £4,489. She suggested that now the Crown and Anchor was not available, the village might be interested in using the Hall for evening 'gatherings'. The most pressing need was for new committee members. Being a committee member offered fun particularly to younger members of the community.

### **8. Neighbourhood Watch Report**

Mr S Byatt, Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator, reported that the system was working well and he had no particular points to raise. He added that he had been given a number of hand-outs by the police which were available at the back of the hall.

### **9. Ham Relief Fund**

Councillor R Buchanan-Dunlop, Chairman of the Ham Relief Fund, reported that funds stood at £1,851. In essence this was a charity where the capital, which accrued minimum interest, was a wasting affair. No attempt had been made in recent years to raise more funds. Grants were traditionally modest and were essentially top-ups to other grants such as winter fuel allowance. No grants had been given since December 2013, and if no further grants were given in the next few years the trustees might recommend winding up the charity and giving the remaining funds to a similar local charity which was active. In the meantime he asked parishioners to suggest to the trustees, himself and Lady Walker, anyone in the village who might benefit from such a grant, but at the same time urged discretion in how this was done to avoid embarrassment to potential recipients.

### **10. Open Forum**

No topics were raised for discussion.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.20pm by thanking his fellow Councillors for their support over the past year. Refreshments were then served.