

HAM PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A QUARTERLY PARISH MEETING

A Quarterly meeting of Ham Parish Council took place at 7.00 pm on Thursday 12th November at 7pm over Zoom video conference.

Present: Mr C Dean (Chairman), Lady Walker (Vice-chairman), Mr J Marriage, Mr M Humphreys, and Mr D Bicknell, and 1 member of public.

1. **Apologies:** none.

2. **Minutes:**

The Minutes of the Quarterly Meeting held on 22nd June 2020 were confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

3. **Matters Arising:**

The Chairman explained that Wiltshire was providing a large amount of information on Covid but it was agreed that no formal parish council involvement was required due to the numerous support groups already in place.

The Chairman showed copies of the new census poster and it was agreed to post information on the 2021 Census, due to be held in March, on the village noticeboard as and when it was available.

4. **Police Report**

The Chairman explained that no police report was available and that he would chase to ensure we are still on the circulation list.

5. **Roads, Signs and Speed Limits**

The Chairman read out a request from Rags Simmonds asking for an update on speeding restrictions and highlighting his concern on the speed of many drivers.

Mr. Bicknell confirmed that he had sent an email to Richard Rogers about the speed-watch devices discussed at the previous meeting, and information has been received with regards to the planning requirements and highways regulations, none of which was mentioned on the manufacturer's website. Further discussions were had and Mr. Bicknell agreed to look into this further, although it was looking unlikely we would be able to proceed as originally planned.

Mr. Bicknell also agreed to send out another reminder about the My Wiltshire App and the process for reporting issues. He also confirmed that the salt bins were all in good condition and full of grit.

6. Flooding

The Chairman reported that the grips on the east side of the road leading south out of the village had been cleared by Wiltshire recently, in no small part due to the continued efforts of Rags Simmonds in highlighting this issue.

7. Bridleways and Footpaths

Mr. Marriage explained that he continues to push on our promised delivery of scalpings for Field Lane, and if and when any were available, they could be stored on the farm until it was possible to move them. The Chairman thanked him for his efforts and the kind offer of providing a temporary storage site.

8. Finances

Mr. Buchanan Dunlop provided a summary of the financial position, explaining that we have a current balance just under £7,500, and that general expenditure was well under budget for the year. A large part of the balance is the Community Infrastructure Grant of just over £2,000 which can only be spent on infrastructure projects. Mr. Buchanan Dunlop continued and raised the question of the level of next year's precept advising that the current level of £1,500 should remain unchanged.

The Chairman asked all councillors to confirm if they agreed with the precept remaining unchanged and this was unanimously agreed.

The Chairman explained that of the £7,500, £3,000 was allocated to reserves, £1,500 for the repairs of field lane, and £500 for speed-watch devices, leaving £2,500, of which £2,000 must be spent on infrastructure projects.

9. Village Notice Boards

The Chairman explained that the village notice board across from the pub was now in extremely bad condition and beyond repair and suggested that the council should consider a replacement. It was agreed that a notice board was a requirement and therefore it must be replaced. It was also agreed that the smaller noticeboard by the Severalls was equally important. Mr. Humphreys suggested that a smaller notice board may be more appropriate as much of the content was out of date. The Chairman agreed to look at prices for a range of options for discussion at the next meeting.

Mr. Humphreys reported that he had investigated quotes for two new Church signs and the total was around £500 and the council all agreed this was acceptable. The Chairman agreed to discuss this with Jim Eldridge at the next opportunity.

10. Christmas Lights

The Chairman asked for opinions on when the lights should be switched on, and the 4th December was suggested and agreed. Mr. Bicknell offered his assistance in putting the lights up.

11. Correspondence

The Chairman read out a card of thanks from the HM Lord-Lieutenant of Wiltshire to the Parish Council and others in the community for all their efforts during the ongoing pandemic.

12. Any Other Business

The Chairman reported that the Crown and Anchor had requested the council's support for a brown sign to be placed on the junction to the village on the A338. All councillors wholeheartedly agreed.

The Chairman asked the council if they agreed that the council should pay the Village Hall the usual rental amount for the year despite the shift to video conferences, and all agreed.

13. Date of Next Meeting

It was agreed to arrange a meeting for February.

The meeting closed at 7:35pm