

HAM PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A QUARTERLY PARISH MEETING

A Quarterly meeting of Ham Parish Council took place at 7.00pm on Monday 27th February 2023 in the Village Hall.

Present: Mr C Dean (Chairman), Lady Walker (Vice-chairman), Mr M Humphreys, Mr. A Taylor, and 6 members of public.

1. Apologies: Mr J Marriage.

2. Minutes

The Chairman asked if the minutes from the quarterly meeting on the 15th November 2022. All councillors concurred.

3. Matters Arising: none.

4. Roads, Signs and Speed Limits

Mr. Taylor reported on the deteriorating road conditions generally and the clearing of undergrowth from around existing signs. He also reported that Acorn builder vans were frequently speeding through the village. In addition that the road on the sharp corner at the edge of the village towards Inkpen had finally been repaired.

Mr. Taylor turned to the subject of speed cameras and reported that he had researched several different types of signs from a firm called Elan City. Options included solar or battery, however solar panels were often stolen and as a result battery operated models were considered more sensible, with two sets to aid with charging. Some measure speed in both directions, and there is also an option on messages vs smiley faces. There are significant issues with recording license plates due to data protection and use as evidence by the police. The company advising suggested a model with a programmable message, battery option and speed measurement in both directions. Cost is £2,640 including VAT supplied.

Mr. Taylor explained that we require permission from the council and the Police before a unit can be installed which is a long process, but that he has emailed the Police to ask for permission to start the ball rolling. The advice is to wait for this process to complete before proceeding any further. The permission granted would apply to the whole Parish and therefore the unit can be moved around as required.

5. Flooding

Mr. Humphreys reported that he was not aware of any major problems and most drains were working as expected.

There was a discussion about the ditches and pipes near Little Field House and Mr. Simmonds reported that although nothing had happened to clear the pipes themselves discussions were in progress.

Mr. Humphreys then raised the issue of the flooding outside 1 and 2 Malthouse Cottages and reported that after investigation it was likely the pipe itself had collapsed. It was agreed that it was likely this would be the responsibility of the homeowners rather than Wiltshire Council.

6. Bridleways and Footpaths

The Chairman reported on behalf of Mr. Marriage and confirmed that there had been no reports of any issues and that Field Lane was holding up well despite the recent weather.

7. Finances

Mr. Buchanan Dunlop reported that funds stood at £4,719 of which £2,500 is for infrastructure. This also represents the Parish Council's reserves, which are historically kept at £3,000 representing approximately two years' worth of expenditure. A further £1,500 arrives in April from our precept, and of this amount an estimated £1,200 is required for standard expenditure leaving £300 remaining.

The Chairman reported that the small notice board by the Serveralls was in very bad condition. During the ensuing discussion it was agreed that the Parish Council could not afford to purchase two notice boards and therefore if the smaller one by the Serveralls could not be repaired it would need to be taken down.

The Chairman asked for opinions on the elements of the new noticeboard. It was agreed that the new noticeboard would not have a top banner, no locks and plastic posts to ensure longevity. A brief discussion was had on a potential change of location, but it was decided the existing location was best. The Chairman reported the quote was £1,713 net plus delivery and all councillors agreed.

The topic of a dog waste bin was raised, and the Chairman explained that in previous discussions no suitable locations had been identified that were acceptable.

8. The Coronation

The Chairman reported that Sunday 7th May was the official day for a Village lunch party and that support in the village was strong. A varied discussion was had around the subject, including beacons and alternative event ideas but in the end, it was agreed to arrange a similar event to the previous year with a reduced budget. The Chairman explained that Chris Daking and David Bicknell had kindly offered to run a barbeque and it was agreed this would be an excellent solution. All councillors agreed a budget of £300 to cover food and other supplies.

9. Correspondence: None.

10. Any Other Business:

The Chairman raised the issue of the parish records. It was agreed to look through the archives at the next meeting in order to make a decision.

11. Date of next meeting

The Chairman agreed to circulate dates by email.

The meeting closed at 8:00pm