

HAM PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF QUARTERLY MEETING

A quarterly meeting of Ham Parish Council took place on
Tuesday MARCH 4th 2014 at 6.30pm in Ham Village Hall

Present: Mr R Buchanan-Dunlop (Chairman), Mrs S Eldridge (Vice Chair),
Mr D Bicknell, Mr C Dean, Mr R Miller, Lady M Walker, Mrs J
Barnwell (Clerk) and two members of the public

1. **Apologies** - none
2. **Minutes of Meeting held 12th November 2013**
The Council approved the minutes (above) and the Chairman signed them.
3. **Matters Arising** - none
4. **Policing**
 - a) WPC Teresa Herbert sent her apologies that she was unable to attend, but she had kindly emailed a report, in which she outlined recent criminal activity in the Parish.
 - b) The Chairman reported that a door-to-door salesman, who had been working in the area, had been stopped and checked by the police. Councillor Eldridge added that WPC Herbert would be supplying her with a copy of a legitimate door-to-door sales licence which would enable parishioners to double check any licence offered as I.D. by such trades people.
 - c) Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator Mr S Byatt sent apologies that he was unable to attend. Mrs Eldridge said that she thought a NHW meeting was going to be organised by Mr Byatt this Spring.
5. **Flooding**
 - a) The Chairman expressed frustration that despite all attempts at getting the Parish culverts and underground drains pumped out, Wiltshire Highways Department had still not attended to any of them.
 - b) The Clerk had emailed a copy of a recent Wiltshire Council Flooding Questionnaire to councillors. It was agreed that despite the questionnaire being inapplicable to Ham, as there had been no internal flooding in any properties, the Clerk would attach a letter expressing the Council's grievance at having localised flooding in various parts of the village and having reported it, received no response from Wiltshire Council at all. She said she would copy it to District Councillor Stuart Wheeler.

c) Councillor Dean said that he would investigate the possible cost of buying a device to unblock the underground culverts etc.

6. Roads & Signs

a) Councillor Eldridge told the meeting that the process to extend the village's 30mph speed limit beyond Acorn Cottages was in progress.

b) In the light of Wiltshire Council announcing its intention to support 20mph speed restrictions in some villages and towns, Councillor Eldridge said that parishioners would need to be consulted, then it would have to be considered by Wiltshire Council and even if it were greenlit, the cost at this stage was unknown. The Chairman said that the Council would need to look into the matter in greater depth.

c) The Chairman and Councillor Eldridge reported that they would do a road inspection in the coming week and compile a list of the defects and potholes etc, so they could be flagged up with Wiltshire Highways.

7. Bridleways & Footpaths

a) Councillor Bicknell enlightened the meeting on his attempts to make the access to the permissive footpath adjacent to Acorn Cottages safer. Due to safety legislation and various aspects of red tape, putting steps in place was not legal, so Councillor Bicknell said he had spread some hard core in the hope that it would render the slope less hazardous and slippery, especially in wet weather.

b) Councillor Bicknell said that he had repaired the post on the stile at the bottom of the Nature Reserve.

c) The Clerk agreed to email former Councillor Ron Forbes to ascertain who was the Nature Reserve warden.

8. Village Green bench

At the last meeting Councillor Miller brought to the Council's attention the poor state of the bench on the village green, which had been in place for 19 years and commemorated the 50th Anniversary of VE Day. Councillor Dean confirmed that having inspected it, it was indeed in a poor state and was beyond repair. The Council agreed it should be removed and replaced. After discussion it was agreed that the bench should be replaced with a similar size bench and rather than a carved inscription it should have a plaque. It was suggested and agreed unanimously that it should be dedicated to the memory of the fallen of Ham in the two World Wars. Councillor Dean offered to find a similar bench to purchase and a budget of around £300 was agreed in principle.

9. First World War Exhibition

Councillor Eldridge said she had distributed leaflets to the residents asking for volunteers to get involved in helping to create a First World War exhibition at the village hall in July. She was awaiting response. Major P Dunn showed the meeting a collection of fascinating photographs of his family entertaining wounded soldiers in the First World War. He wholeheartedly supported the idea of an exhibition and

Councillors felt that an exhibition for the weekend July 26/27th was looking like a viable prospect. Mrs Eldridge suggested that some thought needed to go into the way in which material could be displayed. The Clerk suggested that archive gloves should be available when the exhibits were handled to avoid damage to any of the memorabilia.

10. Parish Lunch- Hog Roast

The date of Sunday June 1st was confirmed. Councillor Eldridge said she would approach Mr J Popperwell to ask him if he could supply the hog and the equipment or if he would be prepared to roast the hog. It was also hoped that the Indigo Palace would prepare a lamb dish.

11. Finance

Councillors approved the Clerk's annual expenses and the annual subscription fee for membership of the CPRE (Campaign to Protect Rural England).

12. Correspondence

The Clerk said that she had received an application form from CPRE for the Best Kept Village 2014 competition. The Council agreed that Ham should be entered.

13. Any Other Business

- a) Councillor Walker told the meeting that the Village Hall Committee was investigating a post and rail fence along the driveway to the village hall. The Chairman said that the Council would be in support of it.
- b) There were no questions from the floor.

14. Date of Next Meeting

The date of the AGM and Annual Assembly was confirmed as Friday May 9th at 6.30pm in the village hall.

The meeting closed at 7.30pm

Ham Parish Council
March 2014