



# HAMSTEAD MARSHALL PARISH COUNCIL

## **Minutes of the annual parish assembly of the Parish Council held on Tuesday, May 19th, 2015 in the village hall.**

### **Present:**

Cllr John Handy  
Cllr Peter Benest  
Cllr Stuart Morton  
Cllr Jon Phillips  
Cllr Anne Budd  
Sarah Bosley, parish clerk  
Gill Comley – Village Agent scheme  
Inspector Warren Mckeown – TVP  
1 member of the public

### **1. Welcome**

The chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced all of the councillors and speakers.

### **2. Parish Council report**

Chairman John Handy reported the following:

- The election – all the previous councillors returned without opposition. He paid tribute to district councillor Andrew Rowles, who stood down at the election.
- Planning – Long Copse Farm has been proposed by WBC as a possible travelling show people's site. It is on the DPD and WBC will be releasing more details around September time. Currently up to 20 caravans have been seen at the site, when there is only permission for four.
- Relief in Need – The charity mandate has been changed in the past year, as the parish council take more control following the retirement of the previous chairman. Although there was nothing wrong with the way it was run in the past the parish council now aims to make it even more open and the new mandate automatically makes any new councillor a trustee for the duration of their tenure as a councillor. The charity has rented out the field this year and is now in a position to start allocating funds again. Currently looking at who in the village may receive the grant.
- Village market – This continues to be very successful and is held once a month. The playgroup is also a very busy one, and held in the village hall. There was also a great firework party last November. He thanked Sue Watts and the other village hall committee members for all their work.

- He also thanked cllr Budd for always championing the village and getting involved in all of the challenges presented by drainage issues in Ash Tree Grove and successfully challenging Sovereign and WBC on issues.
- Thefts – Unfortunately there have been a number of thefts from outbuildings and gardens in the village. The police are working hard to counter the problem.

### **3. Thames Valley Police report**

Inspector Warren McKeown reported the following:

- Crime figures – He reported that although they may seem high this year it is due to a different way of reporting.

The figures for the Hungerford, Lambourn and Kintbury area are:

Total crimes: 82 (last year) / 105 (this year)

Domestic violence: 8 / 10

Burglary, non-dwelling: 11 / 19

Criminal damage: 13 / 21

Public order: 1 / 1

Theft from a vehicle: 6 / 8

Burglary, dwelling: 2 / 0

House break ins are at an all-time low and it thought this is due to more security and a greater chance of being caught due to DNA advances. Other crimes are going up however, including shop-lifting, but TVP has decreased crime over the whole year. In Hamstead Marshall, since April 1<sup>st</sup> there has been one burglary, non-dwelling and one theft.

West Berkshire is experiencing a higher level of rural crime currently, than this time last year and it is also happening in neighbouring areas. A lot of work is being done by police to combat this and in recent years it has been working so the current peak is disappointing. The response is to get police out in to the rural areas.

He also urged people to call police if they see anything suspicious, however small they believe it may be. Registration numbers of suspicious vehicles are vital. There are also alarms that can go straight to your mobile, which speeds up getting a police response and increases the chances of catching people.

### **4. Village Agent Scheme**

Gill Comley spoke about the scheme, which is being run by the Volunteer Centre West Berkshire.

It is a scheme run by the Department of Health and Wellbeing, West Berkshire Council, Sovereign and VCWB.

The aim is to help older or socially isolated residents and signpost them to community or voluntary and statutory agencies and assist them in engaging in local activities.

The agents are volunteers from the local community, who are DBS checked and go through a lot of training. People in need can then be referred to the agents or contact them directly.

VCWB is looking for one or two people from Hamstead Marshall, and they would be expected to give around two or three hours a week, on a flexible basis.

The clerk will contact Penny Stokes to see if she can put something in the Hornet.

**5. Relief in Need charity**

A number of names were noted as people who could receive money from the charity. Proposed by cllr Handy and seconded by cllr Budd. It was resolved that a Midsummer gift of £50 would be given to each of the four people already identified.

**6. Open forum**

There was no further discussion.

The meeting closed at 8pm.

Date:

Signed:

Print name: