

Hamstead Marshall Parish Council

Minutes of an ordinary meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday, July 20th, 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
District councillor Anthony Stansfeld
District councillor James Cole

15. Accepted apologies

None

16. Declarations of Interest

None

17. Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on May 19th, 2015 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the chairman.

18. Matters arising

None

19. West Berkshire Council highways proposals

WBC contacted the PC to consult on plans to move the 30mph limit around 300 yards closer to Chapel Corner to try to reduce accidents in the area. Due to a misunderstanding on the date WBC were not present to discuss their plans, but councillors discussed their concerns noting:

- Because of the rural feel people do not realise it is 30mph.
- Verges at the corner are overgrown
- Could rumble strips be used?
- Could there be larger, and more, signs on the approach and where the chevrons are?
- Could there be a 20mph advisory sign or 'Dangerous bend' sign?

Clerk to contact WBC and arrange a meeting as soon as possible.

20. Planning

Planning applications

Application number	Location	Description	Decision
15/01343/FUL	The Old Pound	Change of use for the whole plot to residential	The PC believes that, if approved by WBC, the site should have a Section 106 condition that it can only be used for the parking of cars, with the remainder of the land being used solely for amenity woodland/garden. No other built development.
15/01769/COND1	Plumb Farm	Approval of conditions	No comment needed
15/01530/COND1	Rickety Gate Farm	Approval of conditions	No comment needed

Planning decisions

Application number	Location	Description	Decision
15/00155/FUL	Enborne Equestrian Centre	Retention of mobile home for a further three years	Approved
14/03366/FULMAJ	Plumb Farm	Demolition of existing kennels and construction of new kennels building. Construction of exercise areas, car parking etc. Extensions to existing buildings and subdivision of existing house into two for staff use. Retention of existing flat, reduced in size, for overnight accommodation for staff.	Approved

21. Relief in Need charity field rental

Cllr Benest updated councillors on the lease between the Relief in Need charity and the tenant. The clerk reported that the tenant has asked if she can sign a lease for next year and return after the winter. She will then maintain the field each summer, ensuring it is topped and fences well-kept, if she can use it throughout the summer on a long-term basis. She has another field to go to every winter, so would split her time. Councillors are still undecided what they will do with the field and want to wait until they see how the field copes over the winter before they make any decisions on the future. They noted that the field and the fencing does need work doing to it and will look to get a

working party together to carry it out. The clerk was asked to write to the tenant one month before the lease expires.

22. Accounts

Proposed by Cllr Handy and seconded by cllr Phillips. It was resolved to approve the following payments:

Payee	Description	Amount
ICO	Annual renewal fee (547)	£35
WBC	Election fee (548)	£100
Sarah Bosley	Purchasing website address (549)	£9.56
Sarah Bosley	Postage costs (550)	£5.27
Sarah Bosley	Salary for July (501)	£170
Sarah Bosley	Salary for August (502)	£170

23. Any other business

District cllr Stansfeld reported that TVP had the second largest percentage decrease in crime (5%) in the country. This was a 42 year low. £60m has been taken out of TVP budget and another £50m still to go. Crime reporting is much better now that it has been in the past and other crimes are being better reported so they have gone up considerably. More people responded, to a recent national survey on rural crime, in Thames Valley than other places in the country and there was also more confidence in TVP than any other force.

Cllr Benest noted that he has had problems with fly-tipping and, although eventually resolved, he found it disappointing that WBC and TVP couldn't seem to work together on this particular issue.

Cllr Budd noted that there seems to be no police presence in the village unless they are responding to an incident. Mr Stansfeld highlighted that £1m is equivalent to 20 officers, so with another £50m due to be cut, that equates to 1,000 staff. He admitted there will be fewer officers if the money is taken out so there is nothing that can be done. He said he was raising the issue at 'senior government level'. He also said that there were around 40-50 more officers in West Berkshire than four years ago.

District Cllr Cole also reported that WBC's budget next year will be difficult as costs are increasing but funding is being cut.

Cllr Budd reported that BT has not met its obligations on Superfast Broadband. The clerk gave the update on the SFB Berkshire project, which has just signed a deal with Gigaclear, which should increase the chances of Hamstead Marshall receiving broadband. It is a case of waiting for an update now. Clerk to keep chasing.

Cllr Handy noted that he and cllr Benest attended a planning meeting, run by WBC, which was very interesting and informative.

Clerk to report that road edges all around the village are in a terrible state, particularly along Holtwood Road.

Concerns were raised over the ongoing water leaks along the main road. Clerk to contact Thames Water and voice concerns about what all the water may be doing underground.

Cllr Budd reported that recently Kintbury doctors' surgery stopped providing the telephone repeat prescription service, in line with national policy. She took it up with the surgery as a number of elderly residents in Hamstead Marshall do not have access to the internet to now get their prescriptions. The surgery listened and will now allow telephone service for patients on an individual basis.

24. Close of meeting

The meeting closed at 9.18pm. The next meeting is on Monday, September 21, 2015.

Date:

Signed:

Print name: