

## **Hamstead Marshall Parish Council**

Minutes of an ordinary meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday, 21<sup>st</sup> September, 2015 in the village hall.

### **Present:**

Cllr John Handy  
Cllr Peter Benest  
Cllr Stuart Morton  
Cllr Anne Budd  
Sarah Bosley, parish clerk  
District councillor James Cole

### **25. Accepted apologies**

Cllr Jon Phillips  
District cllr Anthony Stansfeld

### **26. Declarations of Interest**

None

### **27. Minutes of previous meeting**

The minutes of the meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> July, 2015 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the chairman.

### **28. Matters arising**

None

### **29. District councillor update**

District cllr Cole reported on the closure of the magistrates' court in Newbury. A short discussion took place on local justice and the impact on local people – victims, accused and witnesses. Proposed by cllr Budd and seconded by Cllr Benest. It was resolved that the clerk writes to voice the parish council's objection to the closure of the court and suggests it could be held in alternative premises, such as the town hall, like inquests are.

District cllr Cole also reported:

The budget is coming along and the current proposal is to make a very large cut. It seems that a lot of areas will be affected. Cllr Cole said it would be a hard discussion, as everyone is very understaffed already. Discussion taking place on whether or not council tax should increase.

After the recent negative inspection the council is trying very hard to get 'looked after children's services' right and they are getting it right now.

Discussion took place on whether money would still be available for the members' grants for the layby project. Clerk to contact Highways to see if we can get quotes.

### **30. Planning**

### Planning applications:

Application number	Location	Description	Decision
15/01969/FUL	Craven Keep, Park Lane	Creation of new driveway entrance	No objections

### Planning decisions:

Application number	Location	Description	Decision
15/01530/COND 1	Rickety Gate Farm	Approval of details	Approved
15/01769/COND 1	Plumb Farm	Approval of details	Approved
15/01343/FUL	The Old Pound	Change of use for the whole plot to residential with provision of permanent off road parking	Withdrawn

A parishioner has raised concerns about Enborne Equestrian Centre: Low level lighting was installed with a number of planning restraints. Lights now apparently appear to be much higher than was allowed under planning permission. Clerk to contact Richard Beech at WBC Enforcement to ask him to investigate.

### 31. Relief in Need charity field rental

Cllr Benest reported that the lease has now expired on the Relief in Need field. Part of the arrangement was to clear the paddock when the tenant left, but, although the structures have been dismantled, the wood is still in the field. Clerk has asked them to remove them, but she will contact them again and ask them to remove the wood within two weeks as the vehicles need to get in to top the field and it will get harder if the weather gets wetter. If the wood is not removed it was agreed that it will be given to a local good cause to use for bonfire night.

### 32. West Berkshire Council highways proposals

Cllr Handy reported on the meeting held with WBC after the last parish council meeting. Rumble strips are not acceptable because of the noise impact for neighbours.

WBC has informed Cllr Handy of the following:

- It will be installing 1 additional 30mph repeater sign, which will be put on the reverse of the existing yellow backed repeater sign outside 'Merrow Mead', to serve westbound traffic.

- An engineer has visited Hampstead Marshall noted the 30mph repeater signs are dirty, partially or completely obscured by vegetation. They will be cleaned/replaced and vegetation around these signs cut back as necessary.
- The two chevron signs on the bend outside ‘Merrow Mead’ will be replaced with two yellow backed chevrons of the same size as the bigger of the current signs.
- An engineer reported that she believed the road markings had already been refurbished and the additional SLOW marking installed.

Cllrs will monitor the situation and hope that the measures will help improve things.

### **33. Accounts**

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

Payee	Description	Amount
Sarah Bosley	Salary for September (503)	£170
Sarah Bosley	Salary for October (504)	£170

Proposed by cllr Budd and seconded by Cllr Morton. It was resolved to approve and accept the externally audited accounts. The clerk has put up the notices of completion of audit.

### **34. Any other business**

It was reported that there are rumours that the White Hart may be looking to convert the pub into houses.

It was reported that a suspicious vehicle has been seen on two occasions looking at the cattle in the field behind Ash Tree Grove. Clerk to report to TVP as it is definitely not the farmer.

### **35. Close of meeting**

The meeting closed at 8.42pm. The next meeting is on Monday, November 16th, 2015.

Date:

Signed:

Print name: