

## **Hamstead Marshall Parish Council**

Minutes of an ordinary meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday, 18<sup>th</sup> November, 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  
Robin Band – National Sales Manager, Gigaclear  
8 members of the public

### **36. Accepted apologies**

Cllr Jon Phillips

### **37. Declarations of Interest**

All councillors declared their interest in the precept setting and signed the relevant dispensation forms.

### **38. Minutes of previous meeting**

The minutes of the meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> September, 2015, and of the planning meeting held on November 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2015, were agreed as a correct record and signed by the chairman.

### **39. Matters arising**

None

### **40. Presentation on Superfast Broadband by Gigaclear**

Cllr Handy gave a brief introduction highlighting the lack of broadband in the village. He introduced Robin Band, from Gigaclear, the company that has the contract to try to get superfast broadband to the 10% who still will not get it through the Superfast Broadband project.

The main points reported by Robin Band were:

- BT are unable to supply superfast broadband to around 10% of homes, which are mainly villages like Hamstead Marshall, which is why Gigaclear has been brought in. Superfast Berkshire is heavily subsidising the works.
- Gigaclear is a private company that has been running for five years and its USP is that it brings fibre broadband to rural communities only. It is the largest broadband provider in the areas it currently serves, which include areas of Oxfordshire. It is not 'a poor relative of Infinity'. It is an Ofcom-licensed utility.

- Hamstead Marshall comes under the area Berkshire 11, which is part of Phase 2. This will run from May – October 2016.
- They provide fibre to the property, which provides speeds of around 1000 Mb/sec down and up. This compares to around 76 Mb/sec down and 19 Mb/sec up from BT Infinity. Currently Hamstead Marshall experiences around 2 MB/sec.
- There are four packages available, dependant on speed bands. It doesn't matter how far you are from the cabinet, your speed will be constant.
- It is future-proof – all cables laid will be able to take any upgrade. It is very reliable as there isn't much to go wrong. The network is all underground, but can be run along a fence to your home if necessary.
- Hamstead Marshall is at the centre of the area covered and Gigaclear will definitely be coming to the village.
- There will be more detailed presentations in the area nearer to the time it will be available.
- During the build there will be some road/pavement closures but Gigaclear will try to make it as discreet as possible. Residents will be notified in advance of any issues on their roads.
- If you choose to take up the option Gigaclear will be your ISP.
- Packages run from £39.90 - £74 per month. Unlimited usage.
- There will be a 'pot' or connection point outside every property. Most problems occur within the home so this makes it easier to identify and fix issues.
- Gigaclear will publish a route and do its best to accommodate where people would like the pot to be sited.
- Network is monitored 24/7
- Service can be used to boost mobile signal too.
- Prices: £100 connection fee + £95 installation fee + £40+ monthly package charges. There may be an additional charge if the pot is more than 50m from the property itself, for connection.
- Just because it is faster doesn't mean it will go further wirelessly though and some homes may require boosters.

#### **41. District councillor update**

District cllr James Cole reported that there is a new leader of West Berkshire Council; Roger Croft.

#### **42. Planning**

It was noted that the White Hart planning meeting was well attended by parishioners. Cllr Budd reported that 99 people had so far signed a petition against the application and there had been more than 30 letters of objection sent to WBC. Cllr Cole noted that he would be supporting the application.

Clerk to contact WBC to find out when the date for the committee meeting, when the application will be decided, will be.

#### **43. WBC Housing Site Allocation Development Plan consultation**

It was noted by Cllr Benest that there was a lot of opposition to the site in Enborne being included in the document yet it has still be put in as a potential site.

The PC has previously objected and it was resolved that the same objections be resubmitted to this latest consultation. Proposed by Cllr Budd and seconded by Cllr Morton.

#### **44. Relief in Need charity field rental**

Cllr Benest reported that the field is now clean and tidy. He has produced a draft grazing license for use next year. A realistic rent has been suggested of £80 per month. It was noted that lease should run during the summer months only, from April 1<sup>st</sup> until August 31<sup>st</sup>, each year.

#### **45. Proposal to renovate parking area in village – WBC Member’s Bid**

The clerk reported that she has had investigative work carried out at the site by WBC. The work can be carried out but would cost in the region of £9,000. The member’s bid is only for £2,500 and match funding is required. The current reserves of the council do not allow for this work to take place at the moment. Clerk will contact Greenham Common Trust to ask about match funding.

#### **46. Accounts**

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

Payee	Description	Amount
Sarah Bosley	Salary for November (505)	£170
Sarah Bosley	Salary for December (506)	£170

Councillors looked at the draft precept figures. Proposed by cllr Budd and seconded by Cllr Morton. It was resolved to keep the precept the same as last year, at £3,400.

#### **47. Any other business**

Cllr Budd reported that the Kintbury Surgery Patient Participation Group is looking for villagers, particularly younger people, to serve on a virtual patient group. Anyone interested can contact Cllr Budd for more details.

#### **48. Close of meeting**

The meeting closed at 10.06pm. The next meeting is on Monday, January 18th, 2016.

Date:

Signed:

Print name: