

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE PARISH OF HAMBLEDEN
HELD ON MONDAY 11TH MAY 2009 AT 8.30PM IN THE PARISH ROOMS, HAMBLEDEN

Present: Cllrs Mr T. Nixey, Mr R. Baird, Mr J. Jackson, Mr D. White, Mrs S. Walker Allies,
Dr M. Elliott, Mr A. Armstrong, Mrs L. Mann. Clerk: Mrs S. Henson
District Cllr R. Emmett (from 8.45pm),
12 Members of the public, PC Claire Marchant,

Apologies for absence: Cllr Mrs Robinson. District Cllr R. Emmett (until 8.45pm)

Chairman's Report

Once again your Council has been busy working on your behalf on the usual issues of Planning Applications, Speeding on our country lanes, overseeing Common Land, Footpaths and Wycombe Air Park as well as training sessions, attending District and County meetings, Thames Valley Police meetings and keeping abreast of the continual changes in Government legislation.

Pheasants Hill Common

This is the twenty fifth year that we have been managing the Common and after finding the Tythe Map of the area in the church at Hambleden, we find that there has been no record of an owner of this land since before 1860. This has raised our hopes of registering the ownership on your behalf (we await the outcome of a test case). My thanks to Roddy Baird and Angus Armstrong who continue to work on maintaining the trees and the undergrowth.

Speed limits

We have purchased a Community Speed Watch kit to monitor those motorists who contravene the speed limits in our villages and these are being operated by volunteers from our community in conjunction with Thames Valley Police.

Hambleden Broad Band

Cllr Mrs Walker Allies and ourselves continue to press Government through our MP Paul Goodman to enhance the broadband service in rural areas. Negotiations between all parties and BT Openreach continue.

Wycombe Air Park

We have suspended our membership of the JCC until such times as our parishioners views and ourselves are listened to and taken note of, in the hope that noise from helicopters and some fixed wing aircraft might improve.

Open Spaces

Work has taken place around Frieth Horsepond and the pond itself will be cleaned during the autumn. The Village Green and the white posts surrounding it are to be repainted and maintained before the Best Kept Village Competition at the end of this month.

Two other schemes - Playground equipment and Defibrillators are to be spoken about later this evening and we intend to support both of these with the assistance of some of our generous parishioners. Many thanks to those concerned.

My thanks must go to Angus Armstrong and Peter Gomme who care for our grass cutting; my fellow Councillors for their hard work; the assistance given by our District Councillor Roger Emmett and our County Councillor Bob Wollard.

Councils only run efficiently and to the letter of the law if you have a good Clerk. Sharon Henson is a Quality Clerk with much experience. Thank you Sharon from all of us.

Financial Report from the RFO

Everyone present had a copy of the accounts in front of them and the figures were explained. We increased our precept to allow for work on the Ellery Rise Play Area which in the end we did not use and this money will be held over. Our income increased with donations from local people and our County and District Councillors for the defibrillator project. We also receive money to purchase and install a memorial seat for a local family and the seat can now be seen on the left hand side of the Hambleden Church porch. Our expenditure was very similar to previous years apart from the purchase of the Community Speedwatch kit, the four defibrillators and some major maintenance work required in Hambleden Church Yard which was required as a result of the Quinquennial Inspection report.

District Councillor's report – Cllr Roger Emmett

Cllr Emmett gave a short report on the District's success in recycling and its plans to develop this as soon as more Government funding is forthcoming. We reached a level of 44% in recycling this year. WDC has been badly affected by the downturn in building and planning applications which has seriously reduced its income and officers are being made redundant. Planning enforcement has had an increase in workload.

Cllr Emmett recently attended a meeting with Paul Goodman, WAPAG and the District Councillors relevant to the Parishes/Wards affected by activity at Wycombe Air Park. There are proposals to review the Terms of Reference for the JCC and he feels that parishes should provide an input in that process.

Reports on Community Speedwatch, Wycombe Air Park and the Defibrillator project

Mr Peter Allies, as the Lead Volunteer Co-ordinator for the Speedwatch project had put all the equipment on display and briefly went through the process. There had been a delay in getting the scheme fully operational due to the delay in implementing the recording process by Thames Valley Police, however there is now a dedicated PCSO in place who will be inputting all the information gathered during a Speedwatch session. Volunteers have been going out onto roads within the parish where the speed limit is up to 40mph. Motorists who are recorded as doing over 35mph receive a letter from TVP warning that they had been recorded as speeding, if they are caught a second time they have another letter, however if they are caught a third time then Thames Valley Police make personal contact with them and if there is a significant number of speeding motorists recorded in any one area then Thames Valley Police will bring in the traffic police to carry out a measuring session. It has been noted that vehicles have been recorded at over 50mph and that the worst time of day is between 3pm – 4pm. Mr Walker is always looking for more volunteers and it is hoped that we can 'hire' out the equipment to other Parish Councils.

Cllr White reported that as we had suspended our membership, along with Lane End Parish Council, of the JCC there was not much to report. We have written to the Civil Aviation Authority and the Department of Trade asking them to investigate our complaints about the working of the JCC, the control exerted by Wycombe Air Park Management and the Chairmanship of the JCC. We have had two acknowledgement letters of our concerns and we are currently waiting for a response to our third letter. Cllr White will resume his representation of the Parish once the Terms of Reference are changed and provide the correct structure for residents and parishioners views to be correctly represented and discussed.

Cllr Mrs Walker Allies was thanked by Cllr Nixey for all the hard work she has put into the Defibrillator Project. A display of the storage boxes and a short presentation was on display. Cllr Mrs Walker Allies explained that she had first come across the Defibrillators at a First Aid Course. The scheme was started in the Chew Valley, Somerset. It is known that a suspected heart attack patient has about 8 minutes to receive some form of treatment to give them a 50% chance of survival. Waiting for an ambulance to arrive in our rural area can take longer than 8 minutes and in that time, the person could have died or suffered permanent damage with their percentage chance of recovery reduced to single figures. The Parish Council approached some of the wealthier residents of this Parish, as well as the County and District Councillors and placed articles in the local magazines and newsletters. As a result of this publicity we received sufficient donations and combined with the parish Councils donation we have placed an order for four machines and their storage cabinets. It is our intention to keep the fund going in order to purchase a fifth machine for Mill End. The original four will be placed on Frieth Village Hall, The Frog, Skirmett, The Chequers, Fingest and the Hambleton Sports and Social Club. The equipment has been designed to allow completely untrained people to use. They are extremely simple to use – the operator does not have to make any life threatening decisions. We hope to have the units installed during the Summer months and we will be publicising the scheme at Henley Show and Frieth Fete. Cllr Mrs Walker Allies is also giving talks to local groups including the Women's Institute.

Open Forum including the development of Ellery Rise Playing Field

The plans and tender for the play area were on view in the hall.

Cllr White and Mrs Henson had worked with a small committee of parents from Frieth and another resident who had many years of experience in the play equipment industry. We submitted an application for the Lottery Fund – we got through to the second round but then were rejected. We were advised that they had less money available than originally indicated and that the Olympics may

well have taken some of the money. We then had our application submitted to the Government's Play for all Awards which allocated money to BCC. However we were not considered deprived enough. We have now wasted a year waiting for all these decisions. We have built up a fund and are in a position to spend about £14,000 on Ellery Rise this year. We would like a view on whether we should build up a fund for the pay scheme or whether we should install some equipment and add to it over several years. Mr Joyce, Treasurer of Frieth Village Society indicated that he thought there could be some financial support from the Village Society with the possibility of Fund Raising for specific pieces of equipment. It was also felt that we should start the project and gradually build on it.

Questions were asked by residents about the planning legislation relating to outside lighting/motion sensor lighting. Sometime it comes under planning or environment but there may be nothing which can be done about it.

A request was made to Cllr Emmett to see whether permit costs for waste disposal could be removed in an attempt to reduce the amount of flytipping.

Cllr Nixey invited everyone to stay for light refreshments.

Hambleden Parish Council

Receipts & Payments For the year 2008/2009

	2008	2009
OPENING BALANCE	16208.47	14931.25
<u>INCOME</u>		
Precept	23000.00	27000.00
Interest on investments	664.91	615.29
For Hambleden Film Fund	---	150.00
Wayleaves	91.94	95.28
VAT refund	1253.06	2087.48
Donations for defibrillators	---	2550.00
Donation for Memorial Seat	---	1183.73
Community Leaders Fund for the defibs	---	2225.00
Refund from BCC for Parish Paths	---	526.26
Total Income	25009.91	36433.04
<u>EXPENDITURE</u>		
General Administration:		
Chairman's allowance	100.00	100.00
Clerks room allowance	500.00	500.00
Clerks salary	4525.29	5725.01
Postage	146.46	129.40
Photocopying	147.99	30.46
Share of new printer	---	109.27
Secondhand laptop	---	150.00
New printer A3	395.61	----
Share of new pc	388.95	----
Elections costs	970.92	----
Official advert	56.80	----
Stationery	147.66	359.04
Telephone, fax, email, domain name	205.72	352.78
Website (3rd year of 3 years)plus new pages	510.00	830.98
Petrol (mileage) & parking (Clerk & Cllrs)	566.87	600.93
Audit fee and internal auditor	210.00	360.00
Insurance	833.35	777.06
Annual Parish Meeting refreshments(S137)	---	3.88
Minute book	65.95	----
Technical Notes and Book	12.00	---
National Archive	---	27.50
	9818.57	10056.31

Public lighting	531.38	657.48
Hire of Halls	96.00	90.00
Training	85.00	56.35
	712.38	803.83

Subscriptions & Donations from Parish Council:

SLCC	43.00	44.33
WDALC	4.00	4.00
NALC/BALC	190.62	197.60
Chiltern Society	25.00	25.00
Open Spaces Society	49.00	30.00
CPRE	27.00	28.00
Hambleden PCC – light at Frieth Church	150.00	150.00
Specially Hambleden	35.00	----
Frieth Village Society	200.00	----
War Memorials Trust	50.00	50.00
First Aid Course for parishioners (S137)	---	141.90
Arrhythmia Alliance	---	6775.00
	773.62	7445.83

Parks & Open Spaces:

Regular maintenance	4705.00	4749.96
Stripping ivy from Hambleden Churchyard wall	---	502.50
Repairs to Hambleden Churchyard wall	---	1913.54
Re-edging paths in Hambleden Churchyard	---	1416.00
Hedge cutting	374.00	81.00
Frieth – posts, repairs	505.00	55.00
Frieth Horse pond and tree	---	405.00
Ellery Rise rental & maint	140.00	250.00
Repair to Skirmett Notice board	---	130.00
Skirmett – verge cutting and seat installation	495.00	---
Seat (part was refunded by Cllr Emmett)	407.00	---
Seat (paid for by a family)	---	1017.89
Clearance of footpaths (BCC refunded)	---	526.67
Deposit for work on War Memorial	---	350.00
Maps	20.00	----
Car Park sign/cycle sign	148.50	25.47
Best Kept Village Comp	8.00	8.00
	6802.50	11431.03

Bucks CC – road works in Frieth	6927.00	----
Community Speedwatch	---	2040.00

VAT on payments	1253.06	2087.48
Expenditure	26287.13	34014.48
Less Film Fund Transfer	---	150.00
Actual Expenditure	26287.13	33864.48

Opening Balance	14931.25
Income	36433.04
Total	51364.29
Expenditure	34014.48
Balance	17349.81

This balance includes the sum of £5197.96 for the Church Wall Fund

Sharon L. Henson, Responsible Financial Officer/Clerk

Tom Nixey, Chairman

Date: 6th April 2009

