

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE PARISH OF HAMBLEDEN
HELD ON MONDAY 12TH MAY 2010 AT 8.30PM IN THE PARISH ROOMS, HAMBLEDEN

Present: Cllrs Mr T. Nixey, Mr R. Baird, Mr J. Jackson, Mr D, White, Mrs E. Robinson,
Dr M. Elliott, Mr A. Armstrong, Mrs L. Mann. Clerk: Mrs S. Henson

8 Members of the public,

Apologies for absence: Cllr Mrs S. Walker Allies,

Chairman's Report

This has been a busy but successful year working on your behalf. Not only have we dealt with the usual issues such as planning applications, overseeing of Common Land and footpaths but there have been several projects which have come to fruition.

Hambleden Broad Band

At last after much negotiation with Village Networks some of our parishioners in the Valley are receiving this much needed asset. Many thanks should go to Cllr Mrs Walker Allies for her work with the group of local people who have driven this project forward.

Defibrillator Project

Many thanks to Cllr Mrs Susan Walker other Councillors and local people for their efforts to ensure that Parish Council could purchase, maintain and train residents to use the 4 defibrillators within the villages of the parish. This was jointly funded by the Parish Council, County Councillor Bob Woollard, District Councillor Roger Emmett and other local residents. I thank you all for your contributions to what could be a very real life saver.

The Parish Play Area, Ellery Rise

Once again to due lack of funding from Government and other bodies who could provide grants, this has been a joint venture with ourselves, Frieth Village Society and local parents. Thank you once again for those people who have driven this forward with a special thank you to Cllr David White for overseeing the project.

Pheasants Hill Common

This is the twenty sixth year that we have been managing the Common. We continue to await the results of a test case to see whether we can register the land in the Parish Council's name on your behalf. My thanks to Roddy Baird and Angus Armstrong who continue to work on maintaining the trees and vegetation.

Best Kept Village Competition

Frieth won this competition and were awarded the Dashwood Cup. Much time, effort and money was spent on painting the white posts and chains, tidying the bush shelter and phone box and clearing round the Notice Board. Local residents also played their part by tidying and cleaning the centre of the village. Another joint venture.

Open Spaces

My thanks to Peter Gomme and Angus Armstrong for the care of our grassed areas in Frieth, Skirmett and Hambleden.

Finally thanks to my fellow Councillors for their hard work and support over the past year and what would we do without our Quality Clerk Sharon Henson for her guidance and hard work. Thank you Sharon.

Financial Report from the RFO

Everyone present had a copy of the accounts in front of them and the figures were explained. The precept had not been increased as Councillors did not want to increase the financial burden on residents. We received further money from our District Councillor towards the defibrillator project and a total of £3,700 as donations for the Parish Play Area - £2000 of this came from Frieth Village Society. We also benefitted from £3000 from the use of locations within the parish for filming. The BCC Parish Path scheme refunded the cost of clearing paths; however this will be the last time as BCC have terminated the scheme with immediate effect.

Our expenditure was carefully watched as we wanted to fund the cost of the Parish Play Area and have it available for the children of the parish as soon as was possible; this project cost a total of £23,583 – some of this money was borrowed from the Hambleden Church Wall Fund, which we now have to top back up. Repairs on the wall cost in the region of £3000 each time work is necessary. We spent more money on training as we attended courses on the legal aspects of Common Land and Open Spaces as well as planning and general Parish Council legislation. We also spent £2614 on oak posts, clearing Frieth Horse Pond and other maintenance within the parish. We paid to have the Hambleden War Memorial renovated and made a donation of £2000 to Hambleden Parish Rooms. We spent a further £1000 on installing the defibrillator machines, publicity, leaflets and notices. We ended the year with a balance of £4278.20.

Reports on Community Speedwatch, the Defibrillator project and the Parish Playing Field

In Cllr Mrs Walker Allies's absence due to ill health, the Clerk read out her reports:

Community Speedwatch – sessions have been held over the past year in Frieth, Skirmett and Hambleden. Too few volunteers as a whole in the parish – some villages provide more than others – to run the programme as effectively as possible. There is no doubt that the frequent use helps slow traffic and increase awareness of speed. Varnells Terrace stands out as an area that requires a reduced speed limit from 40mph to 30mph as well as relocation of the southbound sign. No speeding motorists have had to receive more than one warning letter.

Defibrillator Project – launched in October 2009. The Hambleden kit has had to be used once. We organised Awareness Sessions in October and January where a total of 75 people attended. There are plans to run more of these and to also encourage the children at Frieth School to receive some training. The intention is to have as many people as possible in the Parish to attend the sessions.

Cllr White gave a short report on the Parish Play Area

Following a lot of hard work in 2008 and 2009 put into regrettably unsuccessful attempts to win Lottery funding for a Play Area at Ellery Rise in Frieth, the Parish Council resolved to go ahead from its own resources with a simplified, lower cost plan, with facilities appropriate for younger children. In finalising the preferred supplier, choice of play equipment and preferred lay-out, we were greatly aided by a committee of 3 young mothers – Samantha Joyce, Lisa Sanderson and Sarah Broad – and John Sandeman, who had many years of experience in the Play equipment business, aided and abetted by our Clerk, Sharon Henson.

The total cost was circa £23,000, which the PC funded by setting aside circa £7000 per annum from its funds in 2008/9, 2009/10 and 2010/11 (the latter by “borrowing” temporarily from the Hambleden Church Wall Fund), supplemented by donations totalling some £3500 from Frieth Village Society and individuals. The equipment was installed by Playground Services Ltd in Dec 2009, unfortunately at a time when there was a lot of rain and when major building work at the neighbouring house had created something of a mudbath at the access to the play field. Following installation, a ROSPA inspection took place in January. The Inspector's report was generally very complimentary but recommended secondary fencing on the side of the field adjoining the next field, in order to protect children from the barbed wire fence, and also some infill planting to thicken the hedge above the road.

When this work was completed, the Play Area was opened for use in Feb to coincide with the half term school break. Despite the muddy entrance, which has since been improved by a layer of gravel and will be further improved when the neighbour's building work is finished, feedback from children and parents has been very positive and there has also been increased usage of the small football pitch. Children have been quoted as saying: “This is the best thing that has ever happened in Frieth”. Two volunteer mothers – Samantha Joyce and Suzi Rockett – have agreed to check the equipment weekly and to empty the rubbish bin. Concerns about possible car parking congestion in Ellery Rise have not materialised. It seems that local parents and children are walking to the Play Area, while others are parking in the Yew Tree car park, notably after school.

A formal opening is planned for July, by which time hopefully the neighbour's building works will be complete. Depending upon experience over the coming months, the “committee” also plans to give further thought to the possibility of raising funds to permit installation of some of the other elements from the original plan, notably a “kick wall” with basketball net amplifying the top goal of the football pitch and a protective fence behind the lower goal.

So far, so good!

Open Forum

Cllr Nixey invited members of the public to ask questions. Mr Packer asked the Parish Council what they intend to do over the parking issues being caused by local building work in the High Street, Frieth the school parents and use of the Village Hall and this is before Hatchett Wood

really starts. The residents are nervous about what they may have to endure over the next few months. He acknowledged that he was not particularly talking about the Hatchett Wood Construction phase and that he was a strong supporter of the school. Cllrs Nixey and White answered Mr Packer's questions explaining the different ideas which had been considered over double yellow lines and Traffic Regulation orders as well as trying to get a minibus to deliver children from the Lane End/ Bolter End area. Bucks County Council would not support the mini bus idea and none of the other ideas would really solve the problem. When work on The Firm starts then builders will have to park their cars on site, not on the road. The school has been working with Thames Valley Police on the issue. Mrs Dawson, as a Governor of the school confirmed that a great deal of time and discussion had taken place by the governors on the issue of the car parking. Mr Packer suggested that the teachers should park their cars to the rear of the school or possibly The Yew Tree Car Park. Parents are allowed to park in The Yew Tree however they do not feel it is safe to walk their children up the hill as there is no footway.

Mr Macleod restated that the introduction of reduced speed limits may encourage more parents to walk their children to school. He also wanted to thank the Parish Council for developing the Play Area and for all their hard work on behalf of the residents of the parish.

It was agreed that the Parish Council would talk to the school governors about the parking issues.

Mrs Packer asked if it would be possible to produce a leaflet about the defibrillators as she had attended the Awareness Session but now felt that she had probably forgotten a great deal of what she had learned. It was also suggested that a poster in the Village Hall would be a good idea to provide information on the defibrillator. The Clerk reminded everyone that the defibrillator machines 'talk' you through the procedure.

Mr Packer asked if it would be possible to have Vehicle Activated Signs in the parish which flash when motorists are driving too fast. The Clerk explained that Bucks CC is investigating a hire scheme as currently the equipment is too expensive.

Cllr Nixey invited everyone to stay for light refreshments.

Receipts & Payments for the year ending March 2010

	2010	2009
INCOME		
Opening Balance	17349.81	14931.25
Precept	27000.00	27000.00
Interest on investments	1.25	615.29
For Hambleden Film Fund	2000.00	150.00
Wayleaves	98.17	95.28
VAT refund	4886.46	2087.48
Donations for defibrillators	---	2550.00
Donation for Memorial Seat	---	1183.73
WDC Community Leaders Fund for the defibs	200.00	2225.00
Refund from BCC for Parish Paths	246.65	526.26
Donations for Parish Play Area	3700.00	---
Total Income	55482.34	51364.29
EXPENDITURE		
Administration		
Staff, stat,audit, halls, post, phone, website	8902.22	9369.25
Training	180.00	56.35
Insurance	660.50	777.06
Subscriptions	342.82	328.93
Public Lighting	800.95	657.48
Donations		
Hambleden PCC – light at Frieth Church	150.00	150.00
Specially Hambleden	40.00	---
War Memorials Trust	30.00	50.00
Hambleden Parish Rooms	2000.00	---
First Aid Course for parishioners (S137)	---	141.90
Arrhythmia Alliance, electrics, sign, print	1058.28	6775.00

14164.77

18305.97

APM/04/10

Parks & Open Spaces:

Regular maintenance	4929.97	4749.96
Ellery Rise equipment, fence, ins, inspect	23583.79	----
Hambleden Churchyard and wall	---	3832.04
Hedge cutting	53.00	81.00
Frieth – posts, repairs,pond, sign, bollards	2614.85.	485.47
Ellery Rise rental & maint	100.00	250.00
Repair to Skirmett Notice board	---	130.00
Seat & installation (paid for by a family)	200.00	1017.89
Clearance of footpaths (BCC refunded)	246.65	526.67
Deposit and work on War Memorial	416.65	350.00
Best Kept Village Competition	8.00	8.00
	32152.91	11431.03
Community Speedwatch	---	2040.00
VAT on payments	4886.46	2087.48
Total Expenditure	51204.14	34014.48
Less Film Fund Transfer	---	150.00
Actual Expenditure	51204.14	33864.48
Total Income	55482.34	51364.29
Expenditure	51204.14	34014.48
Balance	4278.20	17349.81

Represented by:

Current account	4041.03
Deposit Account	93.46
Bank of Ireland	<u>143.71</u>
Total	4278.20

Sharon L. Henson, Responsible Financial Officer/Clerk
Tom Nixey, Chairman

12th April 2010**STATEMENT OF ACCOUNT FOR HAMBLEDEN FILM FUND 2009/2010****Income**

Opening balance	1307.53
Midsomer Murders	600.00
Nanny McPhee	2700.00
The Outsider	500.00

Total **5107.53**

Expenditure

Hambleden Sports & Social Club	1000.00
Hambleden PCC	850.00
Hambleden Parish Council – Ellery Rise	1000.00
Hambleden Parish Rooms	1000.00

Total **3850.00**

Balance at bank **1257.53**

Sharon L. Henson, Responsible Financial Officer/Clerk
Tom Nixey, Chairman

12th April 2010

