

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE PARISH OF HAMBLEDEN
HELD ON MODAY 8TH MAY 2006 AT 8.45PM IN THE VILLAGE HALL, FRIETH

Present: Cllrs Mr T. Nixey, Mr R. Baird, Mrs E. Robinson, Mr J. Jackson,
Mrs A. Chanter, Mr D. White, Mrs J. O'Leary, Mrs S. Walker (Allies)

Dist Cllr R. Emmett

4 Members of the public

Apologies: County Cllr R. Woollard

Chairman's Report

Cllr Nixey welcomed everyone and thanked them for coming.

I will start my report by congratulating our Clerk, Sharon Henson on being joint winner of the Bucks Clerk of the Year Award. She was nominated by both us and West Wycombe PC and she was presented with her award at the West Wycombe Annual Parish Meeting on 4th May. Sharon's expertise on the running of Parish Councils is much appreciated, not only by ourselves but also Wycombe District Council Officers and our parishioners.

Planning issues continue to take up a lot of our time with site visits and listening to parishioner's views, which I can assure you are taken into consideration when making our comments. We, like Wycombe District Council have to conform to The Local Plan when these comments are made.

We will welcome the introduction of BCC speed limits this coming winter, which should make our own lanes and villages a safer place. Much discussion has taken place over recent years with Bucks County Council. Our lanes continue to be used by heavy lorries and the erosion of verges is always being discussed to find a solution on maintaining them.

Open Spaces - Mr Symes and Mr Gomme, our grass cutting contractors, continue to work hard maintaining them to the standard yourselves and the Parish Council expect. The closed churchyard in Hambleton is still awaiting the refurbishment of The Kenrick Memorial to make it safe for those who visit.

Pheasants Hill Common – This is the 22nd year of our overseeing and managing it. We are still looking into trying to Register it in our name for the benefit of all our parishioners.

Wycombe Air Park – Cllr David White continue to be our representative on the Joint Consultative Committee. I must thank him for his work on taking your views on aircraft and helicopter noise to the JCC and at last it does look like neighbouring Parish Councils will be supporting us in our endeavours to make the environment in which we live acceptable to all.

Cllr Penny Everard has left our parish and after a co-option process, Mrs Susan Walker (Allies) from Skirmett has joined our fold. We welcome her and wish her well in her work in the years to come.

Finally my I thank our District Councillor, Mr Roger Emmett, and County Councillor, Mr Bob Woollard, for their continued support and advice to ourselves; also to my entire fellow Councillors, for their hard work in at times difficult situations, which at times we can find ourselves.

Thank you once again, Sharon for the mentoring you give us.

Financial Report from the Responsible Financial Officer

Everyone present had a copy of the accounts in front of them and the figures were explained. We had requested a higher precept of £18,000 as we wanted to build up a fund for repairing the playground in front of the school and we were consulting over erecting a street light in Frieth, something which in the end was not carried out. We received £400 from the Hambleden Film Fund as a donation towards the continued maintenance needs of the Churchyard Wall. Our expenditure was very similar to the previous year, with the Clerk's salary being reviewed under the new profiling system produced by NALC/SLCC. The Parish Council now shares a dedicated telephone lines and the increase there reflects this and the fact that we have set up our own email and website addresses. Insurance increased once again and will very likely increase year on year. We gave £1000 to Skirmett Village Hall for redecoration and will, from now on, give £150 per annum to Hambleden PCC to pay for the church light to be on in Frieth for a longer period of time. Our open spaces budget expenditure was lower this year as there were no major projects carried out. We end the year with a balance of £13,198.26, with £9030 of this money allocated to the Churchyard Wall Fund.

The Hambleden Film Fund is looked after by the Parish Council but the money is always kept totally separate. This year the fund only 'grew' by £200 and donations were made to The Lane End Day Centre, the Hambleden Parochial Charity, Especially Hambleden, The Valley Tea Club, The Winged Fellowship and the Parish Council for the Churchyard Wall Fund. We end the year with a balance of £307.53.

Report from District Councillor Roger Emmett

Cllr Emmett gave a brief report on his activities within Wycombe District Council in relation to his role as our District Councillor. He has represented the Parish Council and parishioners on a variety of planning applications. He explained the role of Planning Enforcement Officers and also explained the new government scheme for farmers which affect the frequency of hedge cutting.

Wycombe District Council has to increase the amount of recycling carried out within the District to meet Government targets and to that end is gradually increasing the amount of recycling collections they carry out. Green waste collections are gradually increasing and High Heavens will be selling compost to the public from May. He has asked for a plastic recycling centre to be set up in Lane End. All these projects depend on funding from Defra.

He has become involved and encouraged others to report the recent series of attacks by dogs in an area in the parish.

He will continue to work to safeguard our environment, communities and areas of outstanding natural beauty

Report from County Councillor Bob Woollard

Cllr Woollard was unable to attend as he had two other engagements he had to carry out on the same evening. The Clerk gave a brief report.

'Cllr Woollard is the Vice Chairman of the County Council this year and the Annual Meeting will take place on 25th May.

Currently he is on the 'Overview and Scrutiny Committee for the County and Environment of Bucks; he has been on the Anti-social Task Group looking at the types of anti social behaviour, and this study has covered parts of Lane End; he is on the Corporate Task Group whose role is to look at the County Council's budget process and 3 year plan. He is the lead spokesman for Adult Social Services working with Mike Colston; he is the Chair of the

Standards Committee; he sits on the Adult Social Services Advisory Group and also on the Establishment Panel, which looks at the number of County Council employees and he is involved in the Resources portfolio, working with Frank Downes. He has attended numerous committee meetings and receptions in his capacity as Vice Chairman of the County Council. Most importantly for our parish he sits on the Working Party Group for the Speed Limit Review and to that end he is able to support our hopes for speed reductions in our area – Area 8. The timetable for implementation is hoped to be:
Proposed speed limits advertised in local press – late Jul/August
Feedback collated and reported to Working Group – September
Final recommendations reported to Cabinet Members – October
Traffic Regulation Orders published – November/December
New speed limits signed – December 06/January 07.

Report on Wycombe Air Park JCC from Councillor David White

The JCC held its normal 3 meetings over the past 12 months. Total movements at the Air Park were 102,000 in the past 12 months, 4000 less than the prior year. Only helicopter movements were slightly higher than a year ago.

Residents' complaints again totalled around 200 in the 12 months, with the lion's share of these coming from the Frieth area. As in past years, Air Park management were only able to follow up a disappointing (for residents and management) 10 – 15% of these, because of insufficient detail to identify the specific plane or helicopter. If visible, the final two letters of the registration are required for certain identification. Otherwise, precise time and a good description may suffice.

Official monitoring reports by Wycombe DC continue to show less than 10% of movements in breach of the agreed NAZ. This is a lower % than the subjective impressions of affected residents and also lower than the monitoring data collected by Keith Chanter on behalf of FVS. Keith's reports are now a welcome standing item on the JCC agenda. Discussions are ongoing to try to reconcile the differences in data.

During the year, we learned that silencers of German manufacture have been fitted to all club aircraft at the White Waltham Air Park. WAP Management is sceptical of the benefits, since they are aware that White Waltham has a commercial interest in the UK sales of these silencers. For the next JCC meeting in July, WAP Management has undertaken to collect and present objective data on silencers. Unlike commercial aircraft or motor cars, it seems that there have been very few technological advances in engines for small planes over the years, and many small planes are 20 or more years old.

The nature of the long term lease agreement for WAP between AAA Ltd and Wycombe DC is such that restrictions on the nature, volume and frequency of traffic cannot be introduced unilaterally, nor can initiatives such as the fitting of silencers be compelled, despite most of the flying being overhead the Chilterns AONB, where both Wycombe DC and Bucks CC are committed to the preservation of tranquillity. Meaningful changes can only be mandated by the CAA or a new Act of Parliament.

The original lease agreement was made in an era when public concerns on environmental matters were much lower than nowadays. With the support of the other PCs bordering WAP, we shall be writing to both the CAA and our MP on this important matter.

Open Forum

Cllr Walker asked Dist Cllr Emmett when the Hambleden Valley will benefit from the WDC Recycling Schemes – he reported that about 40% of the District is in the scheme but there is no time scale for the less populated areas. The schemes are funded by money from DEFRA. Cllr Walker asked if there were any plans to create any more comprehensive recycling areas as people in the Hambleden Valley had to travel to Marlow to carry out plastics recycling. Cllr Emmett stated that he was trying to get plastics recycling put in place at Edmunds Shopping Parade in Lane End.

Cllr Emmett explained the new Government scheme for farmers which would have an effect on hedge cutting for those farmers who opted into the scheme. This means that hedges will be cut less frequently and within a certain time. These hedges will then only have an extra cut if dispensation is given to the farmer because it is considered necessary to cut the hedges for safety reasons. Those present had different views as to the need/necessity for cutting hedges – some felt that allowing them to grow was not only good for the environment but made drivers slow down, others felt that by allowing hedges to grow they were putting motorists, cyclists and walkers in danger.

Mr Riley asked the Parish Council and Cllr Emmett how the Planning Enforcement system worked. Currently we have 2 sites which Planning Enforcement Officers are visiting but it cannot be guaranteed as to what the outcome will be. Cllr Emmett will talk to the Officers involved at Wycombe District Council.

Cllr Nixey explained that it was always planned to talk about the roadside erosion at the Annual Parish Meeting as it was felt that Mr Packer's insurance claim would have been settled by then, as has happened. A general discussion took place on the issues raised by Mr Packer's letter and his view that the Parish Council should be finding funds to have works carried out to the edges of the road and the Common Land to ensure that the dips/potholes created by parked cars and the running water are filled to prevent other people from falling in them. Some had concerns that the erosion of the Common Land/verges was being caused by 'school' cars, others felt that road sweeping may be a contributory factor. Larger lorries visiting the area are also having an effect on verges. Concerns were raised that the village roads are being made wider by a variety of things. There was a view that granite setts could make the area look more urban and others felt that they should be considered and would help define the Common Land/Road. If setts were put in it was felt that cars may well park up on them and on to the Common Land. A public meeting will be called to get the views of the community before any further action is taken.

Jane Jennings asked if the Parish Council could do anything about the 'walker' parking occurring in Innings Road.

Mr John Dawson asked if there was anything that could be done to ensure the silent/quiet running of the generators used during the late night/early morning filming of Midsomer Murders.