

MINUTES OF THE HAMBLEDEN PARISH COUNCIL MEETING held on Monday 10th September 2007 at 8.00pm in The Parish Rooms, Hambleden

Present: Cllrs Mr T. Nixey, Mrs E. Robinson, Mr D. White, Mr J. Jackson, Mrs S. Walker (Allies) , Dr M. Elliott, Mrs Lyndsey Mann, Mr A. Armstrong Mrs S. Henson, Clerk

1 member of the public

Apologies for absence were accepted from: Cllr Mr Baird, Cllr Mr Emmett

- Minute 7415 Confirm and Sign the Minutes of the July Parish Council Meeting
Councillors agreed the Minutes and the Chairman signed them off.
- Minute 7416 Declaration of personal or prejudicial interests
Cllr Nixey declared a prejudicial interest in any issue relating to Frieth School and Cllr Dr. Elliott declared a prejudicial interest in the item relating to the JCC as he carries out pilots medicals.
- Minute 7401 Progress on items from previous minutes
2. Potholes have been repaired and Laburnum Cottage hedge has been cut back and Huttons Farm Lane gully covers are in the process of being repaired.
3. The Donate a Gates should be erected on 4th October.
6. The Clerk has tabled the issue of taxi tokens in rural areas as an item at a forthcoming WDC meeting. Cllr Emmett is also investigating the subject.
9. No further sand bags are required. WDC were very quick at getting a stock out to residents during the recent flooding.
- Action: Cllrs Emmett & Woollard
- Minute 7406 27. WDC has advised the Parish Council that they sweep the section of road from Shogmoor Lane to Pheasants 6 times a year and all other roads in the Parish twice a year. As BCC only 'gully clear' every three years in rural areas it would be difficult to organise that the gullies are cleared after road sweeping thus leaving the gullies as clean as possible. Cllrs Mrs Walker and Jackson reported that road sweeping was carried out on Sunday 9th September when residential cars were parked outside their homes and when the roads did not really need sweeping. Clerk will write to BCC as gullies are always full of silt and need more regular clearing and WDC to see if a more logical road sweeping regime could be adopted.
- Action: Clerk
- Also refers to Minute 7413, item 10
- Minute 7410 28. We received a price of £395 from Peter Gomme and £300 from Roddy Baird. The order was placed with Cllr Baird and the work has been completed and Councillors have received favourable comments.
- Minute 7410 Cllr Nixey attended the JCC meeting and there was discussion by the JCC committee on the draft report on silencers. Mr Orchard was not in favour as he felt that they would reduce engine power which meant aircraft would take longer to clear the area. A large amount of complaints about helicopters had been made. Complaints from residents of Spring Coppice. A National Helicopter Action Group has been set up.
The Parish Council has received a letter from Cllr Blanksby stating that it was felt that Cllr White's actions in going to a third party with the silencer report prior to the JCC meeting which was not in the public domain until it had been raised at the JCC meeting were inappropriate and also that as the Parish Council representative had he been given the authority to take the above action.
Councillors considered Cllr's White actions in seeking to understand the Silencer Report prior to the meeting were entirely reasonable and acceptable. To receive technically complex documents and to be able to discuss them at a meeting can only be achieved if they are

understood. The report was not issued as being confidential. It was noted that Cllr Blanksby's letter was written the day before the JCC and therefore not as a result of a committee request, and would therefore appear to be a personal view. The role of a Committee Chairman is to facilitate full and open discussion. It was also understood that Cllr Blanksby had held a pre-meeting with Mr Orchard but had not undertaken such a meeting with members of community groups/representatives. As all the JCC Committee papers arrived after our Parish Council meeting and there was not another meeting prior to the JCC meeting, there was no opportunity to present it to a Parish Council meeting. We had put the JCC meeting on the July Agenda but we could only state that the Silencer Report had not been published. Community representatives cannot sit mutely in a meeting just because they have not had the opportunity to discuss issued documents. It was also understood that the report had been presented to Mr Orchard prior to the meeting and subsequently changes were made prior to wider circulation. The creators of the report from WDC accepted that the report was limited in its applicability to WAP as a small airfield. The key assumption being that 50% of the aircraft are private and 50% are club and that WAP management cannot insist that private owners fit silencers. On this basis it is hard to prove a benefit to the local community as at least 56% of the aircraft movements would need to be with club aircraft. This point was not raised at the subsequent JCC meeting nor was the fact that the measurements in the paper were based on a logarithmic scale so that the difference between silenced and non-silenced aircraft are much greater than would at first appear. Councillors agreed that it would be useful to receive data at every JCC meeting asking for a breakdown of Club/Private aircraft movements taking off and landing from WAP.

Cllr Blanksby's email to Cllr White revolved around Mr Chambers, who had sought advice from the Parish Council on an idea he had for funding silencers on all aircraft.

The Parish Council will reply to Councillor Blanksby's letter. A separate letter will also be sent to the JCC Committee with our request for further information.

Mrs Pratt of Spring Coppice had written to the Parish Council seeking support on her issue of the renewal of the WAP lease from Wycombe District Council in 7 years time. The Parish Council will write to WDC asking about Best Value in relation to the value of the land and the rent received from WAP and the lack of conditions in the lease when it was drawn up, a situation that should be addressed when a new lease is negotiated taking into account the affects on the environment(a copy will be forwarded to Mrs Pratt).

Minute 7411
Action: Councillors

Councillors reports on footpaths – Cllrs Mrs Walker, Mrs Robinson and Mrs Mann have walked their paths. The remaining Councillors still have to do this and will report at the next meeting.

Minute 7413

1.BCC has cleared the gullies near The Stag and Huntsman - they had been blocked by small stones running down from the car park and lane. The deepest soakaway is by the church wall but unfortunately it only has a 2" inlet/outlet pipe which is too narrow to jet. Clerk will ask if they could they rod.

Action: Clerk

2. The National Trust had been fully aware of everything relating to 35 Hambleton Rise.

3. The tree has been cut back from the road.

5. £1500 had been set aside in the budget for works in Hambleton Church Yard. Cllr Baird will be asked to supply a price for the works to be carried out.

Minute 7417

Correspondence received from 19th July – 1st September

1. Letter from Defra re the paths across the Common at Frieth circulated to all Councillors prior to meeting

- Action: Clerk
- Action: Cllr White/Clerk
- Action: Cllr Nixey/Clerk
- Action: Cllr Nixey
Action: Clerk
- Action: Clerk
2. Notification from BALC on the Best Kept Village Competition – Frieth was awarded a Certificate of Merit.
 3. Letter from BCC re our Road Surfacing request – BCC will put forward a bid for the 'back road' to be resurfaced, as regards other roads in the parish they are carefully observed and will always be maintained in a safe state.
 4. WDC lease for Ellery Rise issued on 4th September. To be signed by Chairman and Clerk and forms forwarded to Inland Revenue.
 5. Letter from Cllr Blanksby re the JCC circulated to all Councillors prior to the meeting.
 6. Notice of 1 day National Conference for Clerks – cost would be £10. resolved to pay the costs involved.
 7. Notification of a Play Funding Workshop at WDC on 26th September – Cllr White and Clerk will attend.
 8. BCC request for Local Committee scheme bids.
 9. BCC Stokenchurch & Marlow Community Accessibility Partnership – next meeting on Tuesday 25th September – Lane End Youth & Community Centre 2pm – 4.30pm or Lane End Village Hall 6pm – 8.30pm – Cllr Nixey and Clerk will attend.
 10. Notification of 1 day (10am – 3.30pm) course on new Code of Conduct on 2nd October, Green Park, Aston Clinton
 11. WDALC Minutes and Agenda – passed to Cllr Nixey
 12. BCC Rights of Way consultation document – on circulation – responses due by 31st October and invitation to an Open Day at Adams Park on 10th October from 1 – 8pm
 13. Notification that WDC Planning will be online only from 1st October
 14. War Memorials Trust bulletin
 15. Chilterns Planning Conference on 3rd October at Whipsnade Zoo
 16. BCC notification of a change in rules re road closures for Events on the Highway – this will include filming.
 17. Chiltern News Magazine
 18. Notification of The Chiltern Society AGM – 3rd November, Green Park, Aston Clinton
 19. WDC Together we Can Newsletter
 20. Chilterns Conservation Board Annual Report & Chiltern Chalk Stream Annual Report
 21. The Playing Field Newsletter
 23. Fieldwork Newsletter
 24. Emails from a large number of Frieth residents in response to the planning application for The Firm and the proposed removal of the yew tree on the main road and all stating their strong objection to the proposal.
 25. WDC Tree Preservation Order on the yew tree at The Firm, Frieth
 26. email from Susan Pratt re WAP circulated to all member prior to the meeting.
 27. Letter from WDC asking if we have any comments on how the new Licensing Act is working in relation to our parish – no issues.
 28. An anonymous letter re grass cutting in Frieth
 29. Local Council Review
 30. Quotation from Peter Gomme for £ 395 and Roddy Baird £300 for hedge cutting
 31. Notification of road closure on the Skirmett Road for 5 days, 9.30 – 15.30, from 1st October
 32. £600 from Midsomer Murders from Frieth filming..
 33. BCC letter about Vehicle Activated signs – costs approx £4000 if we maintain or £8000 if BCC maintain Mill End speed of traffic.
 34. SEERA report.

Minute 7418

Planning Report – Applications and Decisions

<u>/07103/CTREE</u>	Meadowbrook, Skirmett Road, Skirmett	Remove 1 Eucalyptus tree no objection
<u>07/07097/LBC</u>	3 Old Crown Cottages, Skirmett Road, Skirmett	Listed Building application for alteration to internal stairs & insertion of french doors in place of window to rear – no objection
<u>07/06962/FUL</u>	Huttons Farm, Main Road, Rotten Row	Erection of 4 x wall mounted & 6 x pole mounted security cameras – no objection
<u>07/06935/FUL</u>	The Moorings, Spurgrove Lane, Frieth	Erection of detached double garage – no objection
<u>07/06892/FUL</u>	Cecil, Pheasants Hill, Hambleton	Construction of extension to garage and raise roof over to provide habitable accommodation (alternative scheme to 06/06086/FUL) – no objection
<u>07/06884/FUL</u>	Bussetts, Pheasants Hill, Hambleton	Construction of rear conservatory – no objection
<u>07/06870/CTREE</u>	The Firm, Frieth Hill, Frieth	Fell 1 Yew tree (T1), 2 Lawson Cypress trees (T2 & T3), 1 Sycamore tree (T5) and a group of Holly and Cypress trees (G4) – strong objection to T1 being felled, a TPO should be applied to this tree as there is no good reason for its removal and is an important part of Frieth's street scene. We have no objections to the removal of the other trees as they are either self set or their roots are causing damage to paths/walls.
<u>07/06825/FUL</u>	Ranch House, Frieth Hill, Frieth	Demolition of existing dwelling and erection of one 4-bed dwelling and detached triple garage – no objection but the neighbour's views should be taken into consideration. Permit.
<u>07/06823/CTREE</u>	St Bartholomews Church Chequers Lane, Fingest	Reduce height to 2 metres and remove all side branches leaving central stem only to 1 yew tree (T1). – no objection – Not to make a TPO
<u>07/06778/FUL</u>	The Moorings, Spurgrove Lane, Frieth	Construction of two storey side extension – no objection. Permit
<u>07/06743/FUL</u>	1 Ellery Rise Frieth	Insertion of 2 x front and 1 x rear dormer in connection with loft conversion – no objection Permit
<u>07/06738/FUL</u>	Springfield Farm Main Road, Rotten Row	Conversion of garages and store rooms within existing stable block to form 2-bed staff accommodation – no objection

<u>07/06728/TPO</u>	Isabel Cottage Skirmett Road, Skirmett	38/07 50% crown reduction and removal of two lowest branches to 1 Hornbeam tree – no objection Grant Consent
<u>07/06708/FUL</u>	Fingest Manor Lodge Chequers Lane, Fingest	Demolition of existing conservatory and erection of two storey rear extension and single storey side extension
<u>07/06707/FUL</u> & amended plans	Fingest Manor Chequers Lane Fingest	Creation of new access, erection of 2.-1 metre high boundary wall & erection of replacement entrance gates to Chequers Lane frontage – strong objections to the removal of the hedge and question the need for so many entrances.
<u>07/06706/FUL</u>	Fingest Manor Chequers Lane Fingest	Demolition of existing staff accommodation & workshop & erection of new staff cottage & detached 4-bay workshop with store over – we do not feel that a need has been shown and that the planned building will be too high and dominant.
<u>07/06705/FUL</u>	2 Manor Farm Cottages Chequers Lane, Fingest	Erection of two storey side extension and part two storey, part single storey rear extension – we believe that this still has an agricultural occupancy condition applied to it.
<u>07/06704/FUL</u>	Land Adjacent Fingest Manor Chequers Lane, Fingest	Construction of raised timber boardwalk – strong objections as it would be a totally inappropriate structure in AONB. Refused

<u>/06616/LBC</u> <u>07/06615/FUL</u>	Bagmoor, Bagmoor Lane Hambleton	Construction of two storey side extension to main barn conversion, insertion of new dormer window and roof light in existing roof slope – Permit & Grant Consent
<u>07/06559/TPO</u>	Garden House, Ferry Lane Hambleton	Crown reduce by maximum of 2 metres to 2 Cedar trees (T1 and T2). Grant Consent
<u>07/06392/FUL</u>	1 West Cottage, Spurgrove Lane, Frieth	Erection of outhouse to rear - Permit
<u>07/06329/FUL</u> <u>07/06330/LBC</u>	Coombe View, Skirmett Road Skirmett	Construction of two storey rear extension and relocation of rear dormer window – Permit & Grant Consent
<u>07/06289/CLE</u>	Treveans Frieth Road Frieth	Certificate of existing lawfulness for continued occupation of dwelling in breach of condition 1 (agricultural occupancy) on planning permission reference number WR/430/68 (– Permission to continue non-agricultural occupancy

07/06044/FUL	22 Ellery Rise, Frieth	Erection of first floor rear extension, single storey rear extension, pitched roof over existing flat roofed side projection and new front porch – Permit	39/07
07/05959/FUL	Rockwell End Farm Barn	Construction of a detached two bay car port Permit	

Minute 7419

To discuss Councillor Allowances

In March 2004 Councillors had agreed that Allowances, other than the Chairman's Allowance of £100pa would not be paid. The Clerk had obtained a copy of the current WDC Councillors mileage allowance. It was resolved by a majority to adopt a scheme to pay mileage allowance for Councillors attending meetings organised by BCC/WDC/JCC and other relevant bodies in the course of their duties as a Parish Councillor. Councillors will not receive an allowance for attending Parish Council meetings. We will continue to pay the Chairman's allowance. Councillors can elect not to make a claim.

Minute 7420

To consider the response from Defra re the paths across Frieth Common and to consider what further action should be taken

It was agreed that we send a copy of the Defra letter to the PCC and ask them, in view of the contents of this letter, how they propose to respond. Defra indicate that either a retrospective application is made or we have to go to court for a judgement to be issued.

Action: Clerk

Cllr Nixey relinquished his position as Chairman and represented the school as Chair of Governors.

Cllrs Mrs Mann and White had carried out a site visit to the area in front of the school towards the end of the summer term. They had made a suggestion to create an area of non permanent hard standing. Parents continue to regularly park on the Common despite a great deal of work by the School . Cllrs Nixey and Jackson felt that the area in question had not changed dramatically over the years. Two Councillors were for 'tidying' work to occur, two Councillors were against any work being carried out. It was agreed that we would monitor the situation and possibly, in the future, consider placing gravel chips on the area. A lengthy discussion then ensued covering such issues as the safety of children; staggering school starting and closing times - problems as this would just extend the length of period when there are issues; school coaches and the possibility of more children using the school bus system; creating a pavement but road too narrow. The Governors and the Parish Council cannot prevent parking on the Common Land. Governors will continue to deter the practice. The school has no jurisdiction over the parents once they are off school premises. The Governors have looked at travel initiatives- e.g School Travel Plan. It was agreed to write to Chair of Governors stating our concerns about car parking, safety and that parents are putting their own children at risk.

Minute 7421

To discuss the Quality Parish Council scheme

Prior to the meeting, the Clerk issued the 'tick list' for those Parish Councils considering the scheme. It was agreed that we work towards applying for Quality Status with our main aim to improve cohesion and communications. We need to make a list of the areas we need to improve. A perfect opportunity for the Parish to work together is the possible closure of the Post Office which has been given a category 3 for closure. The Clerk will invite Martin to attend a meeting.

Action: Clerk

- Minute 7422 To receive a report on the latest position on broadband in the Hambleden Valley
 Cllr Mrs Walker reported that a BT/SEEDA/BCC agreement to carry out a trial on fibre to the home for the Hambleden Valley and possibly to Medmenham has been drawn up for the second half of next year. Document being produced. SEEDA paying £50,000, being supported by OFCOM. Hambleden has proved to be the hardest place in country to get broadband to. Thank you letters to be sent to Steve Proffitt and Paul Goodman for all their hard work. Costs to householder not known.
- Minute 7423 To consider the purchase of an A3 printer in advance of WDC Eplanning which will be operating as a non paper function from the 1st October
 Action: Clerk This Parish receives in the region of 100 planning applications per year. Printers cost from £300 plus another £50 for a network connection as the printer cannot sit next to the PC, a projector would cost from £450. We could also continue to print off as A4 or take to print company. It was resolved to purchase a printer as a maximum cost of £500. This will not be shared between West Wycombe or Piddington and Wheeler End as the volume of plans they receive is extremely small in relation to Hambleden Parish.
- Minute 7424 To Approve the Accounts and Sign the September Cheques
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|---|------------------|
| Current Account Balance as at 1 st July | £ 2362.60 |
| Plus transfer from Bank of Ireland | £ 2500.00 |
| Less July cheques issued at meeting, plus Frieth VH | £ 2288.27 |
| Balance | £ 2574.33 |
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| Investment Account | £ 89.68 |
| Bank of Ireland | £11638.13 |
| Total | £14302.14 |
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| Cheques issued in August | |
| Mrs S. Henson salary s/o | £ 367.52 |
| A A Armstrong – grass cutting | £ 705.01 |
| Britannic Garden Furniture – Skirmett seat & fixings | £ 478.24 |
| WDC Code of Conduct advert | £ 56.80 |
| Chiltern Society – footpath maps | £ 20.00 |
| WDC Ellery Rise rental | £ 60.00 |
| Total | £ 1687.57 |
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| Cheques for September signature | |
| Mrs S. Henson (s/o) | £ 367.52 |
| Mrs S. Henson expenses/ 6 month room allowance | £ 130.20 |
| Roderick Baird Ltd – Frieth Playground hedge | £ 352.50 |
| CPRE subs | £ 27.00 |
| West Wycombe PC (40% of tel bill) | £ 44.92 |
| SLCC National Conference (1/3 of cost) | £ 10.00 |
| Total | £ 932.14 |
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| Film Fund | |
| The Parish Rooms, Hambleden - £400 | |
| We have received £600 for filming Midsomer Murders in Frieth, the balance is now £807.00. This money was given as a donation – no negotiations took place with the Parish Council, who has no powers to prevent film companies filming in areas – it is up to the property owners and because of a new policy, in the future, Bucks County Council. | |
| The owners of Hambleden currently will not give permission for filming to take place on the properties/land. The Clerk will write explaining the Parish Councils previous involvement and the financial benefits to the community. | |

- Members Questions**
- Minute 7425
1. Cllr Elliott supported by other Councillors, reported a dead tree going into Henley, between Riverside Cottage and by the 30 mph sign.
 2. Cllr White asked for an update on the speed review. It will go to public consultation on 28th September until 22nd October.
 3. Cllr White reported that the bin in Ellery Rise needs emptying. Clerk will ask WDC if they could put this bin on the regular schedule.
 4. Cllr Mrs Robinson asked when anything was going to be done about the fence at The Cottage, Hambleden. Cllr Armstrong agreed to speak to a representative of the owners about the problem. The Parish Council has no powers; BCC has already written but will not create a threatening situation.
 5. Cllr Mrs Robinson asked if the weeping cherry in the centre of the village on Common Land could be trimmed.
 6. Several Councillors raised the question of a close board fence which as been erected at Faylands. Clerk will contact Planning Enforcement.
 7. Cllr Mrs Walker asked if the seat for Skirmett had been delivered it has and we need to decide exactly where we would like it sited – probably close to Watery Lane. Clerk will write to BCC Highways for permission. Angus Armstrong to produce a price for fixing it on site.
 8. The Clerk announced that a Neighbourhood Watch meeting will beheld on 22nd September at 10am at Northend Village Hall. They need representatives from the Hambleden Valley - Cllr Baird is planning to attend.
 9. Cllr Armstrong asked what course of action could be taken where agricultural land is being developed into a garden – the complainant would need to talk to Planning Enforcement at WDC.
 10. Councillors and local people had reported that Little Colstrove appears to be building and is hiding the works. Clerk will contact Planning Enforcement.
 11. Cllr Mrs Mann asked if an extra sign for Innings Road could be ordered as there is only one and this is hidden in the hedge. Clerk will write to the owners of the property asking them to cut back the hedge to behind the sign and will also ask for an extra sign.
- Action: Clerk on all
- Minute 7426
- Action: Clerk on all
- The Public will be excluded due to the confidential nature of the discussion - To consider the Clerks 'Working from Home Allowance'
It was resolved to pay £500 per annum backdated to 1st April 2007.
- Minute 7427
- Date of next meeting
Monday 8th October, 8pm in Skirmett Village Hall
- Date..... Signed.....