

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE PARISH OF HAMBLEDEN  
HELD ON MONDAY 12<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2008 AT 8.30PM IN THE VILLAGE HALL, FRIETH

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

Clerk: Mrs S. Henson

3 Members of the public

Chairman's Report

Cllr Nixey welcomed everyone and thanked them for coming.

This has been an especially busy year for your Councillors. New Government legislation has come into force in many areas, so there have been many training sessions and meetings relating to planning, open spaces, GC2C, Pathfinder and NAGS.

Planning Issues

This Council has an average of 10 applications per month, some being small extensions but others of a more contentious nature, when you, the residents, have been invited to view these plans and give feedback. May I say your views are always taken into consideration, but the Parish Council comments must relate to planning issues and the WDC Local Plan or government legislation which is always changing.

BCC speed limits

At long last we have the speed reductions for our villages and some of the other roads within our Parish. I know these have been welcomed by most people but if there are any concerns over the size of signs, or areas not covered by these restrictions, please write to Bucks County Council with your views, with a copy to the Parish Council. We will help if possible. Let us hope for safer roads for all users of the highway network. Please note that there will be police enforcement of these new limits.

Pheasants Hill Common

This is the twenty fourth year that we have been overseeing the Common on behalf of you the Parishioners. My thanks to Roddy Baird and Angus Armstrong who continue to work on maintaining the trees and the undergrowth.

Open Spaces

My thanks to Angus Armstrong who is our grass cutting contractor for Hambleden and Skirmett and to Pete Gomme who does the work in Frieth.

GC2C

This is where we meet the representatives from other parishes, BCC, WDC and the police to give them feedback on the issues in our parish. Have you noticed the amount of highways maintenance work that is now taking place? Police are now back in our parish and we are able to talk to them? Just two of the positives from this initiative.

Ellery Rise Playground Equipment

Following a survey carried out to all in the parish on the need for a play area for children, a grant from the Playfulldeas Lottery has been applied for substantial play equipment for Ellery Rise. A Working Party consisting of a Councillor, the Clerk and parents has been formed to oversee this project. My thanks must go to Cllr David White and to Sharon Henson for the hard work they have done on this.

Finally may I thank our District Councillor Roger Emmett and County Councillor Bob Woollard for their help and support, to you my fellow Councillors for your contribution and to our Quality Clerk, Sharon Henson, for her guidance and personal help to us all.

### 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 £23,000 in order to cover the cost of the unplanned for highways repairs in Frieth which took place at the end of the previous financial year and which were paid for by borrowing from the Hambleden Church Yard Wall Fund. There were no major unexpected expenses this year; however we did have to pay for an election in the South Ward. Our expenditure was very similar to the previous year, our additional expenditure was for the purchase of an A3 colour printer for printing out plans and to contribute a third share for the purchase of a new pc. The Clerk's salary continues to be reviewed under the NALC/SLCC guidelines and her working from home allowance was increased in line with these guidelines. The website continues to be well used by our residents. Insurance increased once again and will very likely increase year on year. We end the year with a balance of £14931.25 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 'grew' by £4,600 and donations to the value of £700 were made to Hambleden Parish Rooms, Lane End Day Centre and the Hambleden Valley Magazine. As £4000 was not received until the last week of the financial year we end the year with a balance of £4507.53

### Report on Wycombe Air Park JCC from Councillor David White

The JCC held its normal 3 meetings (the statutory minimum) over the past 12 months. Total movements at the Air Park were 96,000 in the past 12 months, a small increase over the prior year. Most of the increase was in helicopter movements.

Much of my report could be a repetition of previous years, but there have been some significant developments:

1. There was a marked reduction in numbers of telephoned complaints recorded by WAP, while complaints made instead to WDC Environmental Services rose substantially. Factors contributing to this behavioural change were (a) a feeling that not all complaints to WAP were being recorded under the decentralised system arbitrarily introduced by WAP during 2006, (b) a growing realisation that complaints are largely not pursued unless the registration number could be read, and (c) a feeling that nothing changes anyway. Arising from this frustration and the perceived lack of power and ineffectiveness of the JCC, a group of concerned residents from locations surrounding the Air Park have formed themselves into Wycombe Air Park Action Group (WAPAG) and have just launched a website which includes the facility to lodge complaints using the prescribed WAP form. After only a few days, I am told that the volume of complaints has been so great that Tim Orchard has suspended dealing with them!
2. The long-awaited Silencer Report was finally published in July 2007. On a one for one basis, this showed an approx halving of noise output from an individual plane, with no loss of power. However, because WAP management stated that they could only mandate the fitting of secondary silencers to planes owned by BAFC or WAC and that these planes represented only 50% of total circuit movements, the conclusions of the Report just failed to reach statistical significance in terms of overall benefit to affected residents. In contrast, we now know that the results of official monitoring of over 400 circuits by WDC since Jun 07 show that approx 80% of these circuits have been performed by Club planes. This is a large enough sample to be highly statistically significant and therefore renders invalid the conclusion of the Silencer Report. Put in simpler terms, if 4 out of every 5 circuits emitted half the noise, there would clearly be a material benefit to affected residents. This topic was therefore reopened at the most recent JCC meeting, linked to the very generous offer from a local resident to fund the fitting of secondary silencers, but WAP management declined to respond on the basis that the matter had been referred to a "higher agenda" involving the

new owner of AAA Ltd, the Company holding the lease on WAP from WDC.

3. AAA Ltd was purchased by a property development company in Oct 07. While ownership of the Air Park is not a topic for the JCC, a press release issued at the time and subsequent speculation have raised fears that this may lead in due course to a substantial increase in traffic at the Air Park. The current lease agreement with WDC expires in 2014 and we must rely on WDC to ensure that any extension, if agreed, should include much tighter constraints than at present and a much better economic return to Council taxpayers. They may also consider alternative uses for the 204 acre site.

It continues to be an anomalous fact that current CAA and Environmental legislation places no restrictions on noise nuisance caused by light aircraft and helicopters. Our MP, Paul Goodman, has gone into print stating that he believes there is an imbalance between the rights of pilots to enjoy their leisure activity and the rights of surrounding residents to enjoy a tranquil environment. He has said that, if he gets the opportunity to introduce a Private Members Bill, he will consider doing so on this topic. In the longer term, it seems very clear that major change will require new legislation applicable to all Air Parks, light aircraft and helicopters. In the shorter term, we rely on WDC to exercise their power on behalf of a wide group of local residents in respect of any new Planning Applications and any lease negotiations.

#### Reports from Cllr Mrs Susan Walker Allies on the recently formed Thames Valley Police NAG and the BCC Local Area Committee

The Neighbourhood Action Group (NAG) has been initiated members of Thames Valley Police (Inspector Dave Evans, Sgt Gill Fox, PC Claire Marchant and PCSO Jon Bateman). Other members include our County Councillor, representatives from Wycombe District Council and Parish Councillors and residents, clergy and school representatives from Medmenham, Fawley, Hambleden, Turville, North End and Ibstone parishes. Residents in these areas were asked to complete a questionnaire listing their priorities for the police. It was unanimously agreed that speeding was first on the list followed by burglary and theft and lastly heavy goods lorries travelling through our narrow roads. It has had three meetings, so it is still early days for the group to be working together and plans are to hold a meeting every 6 weeks. One suggestion has been for a Parish or Parishes to purchase the Community Speedwatch pack of a tripod mounted speed camera and hand held recorder. A number of volunteers would be enrolled for training with one person being selected to be Police checked as they will import the information into the police computer which will produce warning letters for drivers travelling too fast through our villages. After two warning letters there is then a potential for a fine or points being issued. We have allowed for the purchase of this in our budget for 2008/09. There are reservations from some Councillors about being involved in this scheme, however as it is entirely voluntary they would not need to be involved.

The Local Area Committee is run by BCC and meets 4 times a year and mainly works on highways issues which have been raised by Parish Councils and residents. It has a delegated budget of £125,000 where Parish Councils can bid for schemes of work. This will have its last meeting in July when it will change into 19 Local Area Forums. This will cover all sorts of local issues and will involve the District Council as well.

#### Open Forum

Mrs Russ provided information about who had previously cleared weeds from The Brook.  
Mrs Russ asked if a light could be installed in the centre of Hambleden Village.  
Mrs Russ asked if the back road into the village was going to be repaired.  
Mrs Russ asked if ditches opposite Woolleys could be dug out to reduce flooding.  
Miss Jennings asked if a light could be installed by the car park by The Stag and Huntsman.  
Cllr White asked if we could once again try to gain ownership of Pheasants Hill Common.

Cllr Nixey invited everyone to stay for light refreshments.

**Hambleton Parish Council****Receipts & Payments For the year 2007/2008**

	<b>2008</b>	<b>2007</b>
OPENING BALANCE	16208.47	13198.16
<b>INCOME</b>		
<b>Precept</b>	<b>23000.00</b>	<b>18000.00</b>
Interest on investments	664.91	617.86
Refund on stopped cheque	---	15.00
For Hambleton Film Fund	---	600.00
Wayleaves	91.94	88.75
VAT refund	1253.06	1218.17
Donation	---	60.00
Golden Jubilee refund	---	200.00
Community Leaders Fund	---	369.44
Donate a Gate refund	---	250.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>25009.91</b>	<b>21419.22</b>
<b><u>EXPENDITURE</u></b>		
<b>General Administration:</b>		
Chairman's allowance	100.00	100.00
Clerks room allowance	500.00	100.00
Clerks salary	4525.29	4976.59
Postage	146.46	92.00
Photocopying	147.99	80.40
New Printer – A3	395.61	---
Share of new pc	388.95	---
Elections costs	970.92	---
Official advert	56.80	---
Stationery	147.66	76.70
Telephone, fax, email, domain name	205.72	295.53
Website (2nd year of 3 years)	510.00	680.00
Petrol (mileage) & parking	566.87	447.83
Audit fee and internal auditor	210.00	171.00
Insurance	833.35	792.87
Bouquet/gifts	35.00	76.00
Minute book	65.95	---
Technical Notes and book	12.00	15.99
Filing cabinet	---	47.00
	<b>9818.57</b>	<b>7951.91</b>
Public lighting	531.38	2145.44
Hire of Halls	96.00	137.00
Training	85.00	30.00
	<b>712.38</b>	<b>2312.44</b>
<b>Subscriptions &amp; Donations from Parish Council:</b>		
SLCC	43.00	40.00
WDALC	4.00	4.00
NALC	190.62	187.63
Chiltern Society	25.00	25.00
Open Spaces Society	49.00	30.00
CPRE	27.00	26.00

Hambleden PCC – light at Frieth Church	150.00	150.00
Specially Hambleden	35.00	----
Frieth Village Society	200.00	----
Hambleden Golden Jubilee Fund	---	200.00
War Memorials Trust	50.00	50.00
Hambleden Film Fund	---	600.00
	<b>773.62</b>	<b>1312.63</b>

**Parks & Open Spaces:**

Regular maintenance	4705.00	4125.00
Hedge cutting	374.00	73.00
Frieth – posts, repairs	505.00	65.00
Ellery Rise rental & maint	140.00	160.00
Skirmett – verge cutting and seat installation	495.00	
Seat (part was refunded by Cllr Emmett)	407.00	----
Maps	20.00	----
Tree works	----	774.26
Donate a Gate	----	250.00
Car Park sign	148.50	131.50
Best Kept Village Comp	8.00	---
	<b>6802.50</b>	<b>5578.76</b>

**Bucks CC – road works in Frieth**      **6927.00**      ----

VAT on payments	1253.06	1218.17
Bank Charges	---	35.00
<b>Expenditure</b>	<b>26287.13</b>	<b>18408.91</b>
Less Film Fund Transfer	---	600.00
<b>Actual Expenditure</b>	<b>26287.13</b>	<b>17808.91</b>

Opening Balance	16208.47
Income	25009.91
<b>Total</b>	<b>41218.38</b>
Expenditure	26287.13
<b>Balance</b>	<b>14931.25</b>

**This balance includes the sum of £9030 for the Church Wall Fund**

**BANK RECONCILIATION:**

Bank balance – current	3222.62
Bank balance – deposit	91.80
Bank of Ireland	11616.83
<b>Total</b>	<b>14931.25</b>

**Signature: Sharon L. Henson**      **Tom Nixey**  
**Responsible Financial Officer/Clerk**      **Chairman**

**Date: 14<sup>th</sup> April 2008**

**STATEMENT OF ACCOUNT FOR HAMBLEDEN FILM FUND 2007/08****Income**

Opening balance	607.53
Midsomer Murders	600.00
A Bunch of Amateurs	4000.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>5207.53</b>

**Expenditure**

Hambleden Parish Rooms	400.00
Lane End Day Centre	200.00
Hambleden Valley Magazine	100.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>700.00</b>

**Balance at bank** **4507.53**

**Sharon L. Henson**  
**Responsible Financial Officer/Clerk**

**Tom Nixey**  
**Chairman**

**14<sup>th</sup> April 2008**