

HAMBLEDEN PARISH COUNCIL

**YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED TO ATTEND A MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL
ON MONDAY 18TH MARCH 2024 COMMENCING AT 7.30PM, HAMBLEDEN VILLAGE HALL**

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS ARE INVITED TO ATTEND

AGENDA

1. Public Question Time – A period not to exceed 30 minutes, members of the public are permitted by the Chairman to speak only at this time
2. To receive any apologies for absence
3. Declaration of disclosable pecuniary and personal interests by Members relating to items on the agenda
4. To confirm and approve the minutes of the ordinary meeting held 12th February 2024
5. Clerk and any Councillors if appropriate to report on matters arising and any updates from previous minutes which are not on the agenda – [see Appendix 1](#)
6. To receive updates if any from meetings attended since the previous ordinary meeting by Clerk and Councillors – [see Appendix 4](#)
7. To receive updates from the Climate Change Working Party; to consider and adopt if appropriate the [draft Biodiversity Policy](#)
8. To consider options for maintaining the field at Ellery Rise; to consider quotations for stock fencing; to consider any other maintenance items or issues
9. To consider a tree survey report at Pheasants Hill Common and works recommended
10. To consider a recycling scheme for items not currently removed by Buckinghamshire Council; including possible locations for collection bins and costs
11. To consider the purchase of sand bags to be kept by the Parish Council for residents should they be needed during times of flooding; 60 pre filled bag would be at a cost of £299.99 +VAT (one supplier)
12. To discuss the [telephone digital switchover](#) and any affects on residents in the parish
13. To discuss the Devolved Services agreement from Buckinghamshire Council
14. To consider a grant application from St Katherines, Parmoor for a defibrillator
15. Finance: a) approve the accounts for March 2024 – see [Appendix 2](#); b) to nominate a Councillor to check and approve the bank reconciliation for February
16. Members questions: including any items for the next agenda
17. To consider all recent applications received from Buckinghamshire Council detailed below; and any other planning applications submitted and published on the Buckinghamshire Council Planning Portal between the circulation of this agenda and the meeting:
[23/07295/FUL – Stables North East Of Greenwood Cottages Main Road Rotten Row Hambleden](#) – Erection of replacement equestrian building with yard and land for equestrian use
[24/05464/CTREE – The Cherries Parmoor Lane Frieth](#) – Raise the canopy by 1m x 1 Beech
[24/05442/LBC – Henley Business School Greenlands Henley Road Hambleden](#) – Listed building application for upgrading of and replacement of internal fire doors and associated works
Planning decisions made since the date of the last Parish Council meeting – [Appendix 3](#)
18. To confirm the date for the next meeting as:
Monday 8th April – Skirmett Village Hall

LM Coldwell

12.03.2024

**PLEASE REPLY TO: Clerk to the Parish Council, Mrs. Lorna Coldwell,
clerk@hambleden.org.uk
01494 881 483**

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Appendices

Appendix 1 – Clerks Report

- Minute 9936 – Clerk has spoken with Planning Enforcement about the damage to the roadside verges and hedges in the local area caused by construction traffic, no response received as yet.
- Minute 9936 – Cllr Webb has submitted the application to Buckinghamshire Council Planning department for works to be carried out on the tree at Cherries Corner, Frieth.
- Minute 9938 – Clerk is still waiting for details of the Safety Team at Buckinghamshire Council to pass Cllr Hopkins – this has been chased several times.
- Minute 9939 – Clerk updated the Climate Change Working Group Terms of Reference on the website.
- Minute 9940 – Clerk arranged for the hedges to be cut at Ellery Rise.
- Minute 9941 – Clerk continues to update the website with any articles about groundwater from BC.
- Minute 9943.3 – Clerk organised for the white lines to be repainted. A “give way” sign is not possible at this location.
- Clerk arranged for the light above the AED in Skirmett to be fixed. The invoice was paid between meetings.
- Minute 9943.4 – a tree survey has been carried out at Pheasants Hill Common following the January storms – to be discussed at the March meeting.
- Minute 9943.5 and 9943.7 – Clerk wrote to thank the residents for the works carried out.
- Clerk has responded to various emails from parishioners regarding highways and footpath issues.
- Minute 9936 – Clerk has arranged for the lilac bush to be cut back outside Frieth Village Hall, but this needs to be done after it flowers in June.
- AED machines have been checked and reported to The Circle.
- Clerk has reported various potholes, damaged signs, blocked drains and faded white lines around the parish. This can be done by anyone via [Fix My Street](#).
- Clerk will be collecting parish maps from Buckinghamshire Council in Aylesbury.
- Clerk has requested more bin collections for the bins in Frieth and Fingest, which are regularly overflowing with dog mess bags.
- Buckinghamshire Highways are considering if they have the budget to erect pedestrian signs in Fingest.
- Clerk has been approached by a resident in Mill End regarding the ongoing problems they face with Thames Water and tankers.

Appendix 2 – Accounts to be paid in March 2024

Mrs L Coldwell – salary (via standing order)	802.91
BC Pension Fund (via standing order)	248.09
Mrs L Coldwell – expenses	40.77
Ridgeway Woodlands – tree survey, Pheasants Hill Common	150.00
Buckland Landscapes – grass maintenance	1234.99
Hambleden Village Hall	36.00
M Tuddenham – Hambleden toilet clean	90.00
SSE – electricity charges (invoice expected)	280.00 (approx.)
Total	2882.76
Balance as 1st February 2024	68966.39
Less February payments	(4164.64)
Income – CCB Hall hire (2023)	36.00
Balance as of 29th February 2024	64837.75
Of which CIL Funds	6618.95
Church Wall reserve	20000.00
Other Earmarked reserves	3250.00
Hambleden Parking fund	912.39
Unrestricted Reserves	34056.41

Film Fund

Total of all funds at 1 st February 2024	4775.87
Total of all funds at 29th February 2024	4775.87

Appendix 3 – Planning Application Decisions made by Buckinghamshire Council since previous meeting (for information only)

[23/07961/VCDN – Pargrove Parmoor Lane Frieth](#) – Variation of condition 2 (plan numbers) attached

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to 22/07188/FUL (Householder application for construction of two storey detached outbuilding and parking area following demolition of 3 x timber outbuildings) to allow for substitution of drawings – **Application Permitted**

[24/05054/FUL – Ashcroft Frieth Hill Frieth](#) – Householder application for demolition of existing garage and replacement with a carport and store **Application Permitted**

[23/08094/FUL – The Walled Garden Skirmett Road Hambleton](#) – Householder application for construction of timber conservatory to replace existing and two replacement doors and one window – **Application Permitted**

[23/07930/FUL – 2 Ellery Rise Frieth](#) – Householder application for proposed construction of two-storey storey rear and side extension with internal and fenestration changes – **Application Permitted**

Appendix 4 – Meetings Attended

Clerk has attended:

15/02/24 – Parish Online mapping system training

15/02/24 – Agendas and Summons training

27/02/24 – Buckinghamshire Council Planning Forum Meeting

28/02/24 – South West Chilterns Community Board meeting

01/03/24 – Parish Online mapping system training

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Biodiversity and Climate Change Policy

Statutory Duty:

Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 placed a duty on authorities in England, including Parish Councils to have regard to conserving biodiversity as part of their policy or decision making.

Environment Act 2021 public authorities must now consider what they can do to conserve and enhance biodiversity in England. This means, a public authority must:

- Consider what they can do to conserve and enhance biodiversity
- Agree policies and specific objectives based on their consideration
- Act to deliver their policies and achieve their objectives.

Definitions:

Hambleden Parish Council (HPC) (1) recognises the existence of both a climate and a biodiversity crisis. We recommend that HPC formally aligns with Buckinghamshire Council (BC) and commits to achieving net zero by 2050 and pledges to consider the effects on climate change and biodiversity in all its decision making.

Biodiversity refers to the variety of life on Earth, including in the air, on the land – in hedgerows, trees, fields, gardens, roadsides etc; within the soil and in our rivers and seas. (2)

Climate change refers to long term changes in our temperature and weather patterns driven mainly by human activity, including reliance on fossil fuels (3)

Biodiversity loss and climate change are linked, so if we act on one, improvement is likely in the other.

Land Managed By The PC:

HPC owns or has responsibility for:

- The wildflower meadow on Ellery Rise, Frieth
- The adjoining playground
- Common land in front of St John Evangelist, Frieth
- Maintaining the churchyard of St Mary the Virgin, Hambleden
- The maintenance of Pheasants Hill Common
- Devolved responsibilities for various open spaces around the parish from BC
- Advisory responsibilities on planning decisions
- Can be a conduit between residents and PC

How the PC Can Help:

Resilience:

The Met Office paper – Effects of Climate Change, states that “In the future we project that the UK will see: warmer and wetter winters, hotter and drier summers, more frequent and intense weather extremes.” The Parish could therefore be impacted.

Government Advice is available at: [Community Resilience](#)

Actions:

- *Identify and prepare for risks to the community*
- *Liaise with Local Authority, Fire Service and NHS to ascertain our role in an emergency*
- *Identify local venues that can be used as emergency shelters*
- *Identify local persons with equipment, tools and vehicles that would be useful in an emergency.*
- *Consider drawing up an emergency plan*

Planning:

[The National Housing Federation 2021 report](#) “England’s 25 million homes – which produce 58.5 million tonnes of CO2 every year – are emitting the equivalent of the average annual use of 28 million cars”.

The government initiated The [Skidmore Progress Report](#) to Parliament 2023, which states that all building should “be in line with net zero.”

Actions:

- *Identify risks/threats to biodiversity*

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- *assess planning applications based on the environmental impact of any building work, in terms of design, insulation, light pollution, energy source, impact on surrounding area of potential increased traffic on wildlife, air quality, greener travel and tranquility in the National Landscape.*
- *Lobby BC to allow only new builds in line with net zero.*

Management of the Rural Environment:

[The UK's State of Nature Report for 2023](#) reports that because of climate change and loss of habitats, across the UK species studied have declined on average by 19% since 1970 and 16% (nearly one in six species) are threatened with extinction from Great Britain. The UK is now one of the most nature-depleted countries on Earth. "Changes in the way we manage our land for farming, and climate change were the biggest causes of wildlife decline on our land, rivers and lakes".

Actions:

In order to conserve, restore and improve habitats under its control, HPC will endeavour to:

- Audit the biodiversity and landscape of the parish in order to use our local knowledge to support conservation efforts.
- Take professional advice to follow best practice to manage the land that we care for.
- Liaise with landowners, The Chilterns Conservation Board and the Local Wildlife Trust to promote the creation of wildlife corridors.
- Avoid chemical treatments except in exceptional circumstances.
- Contractors employed by HPC to be made aware of professional advice and best practice and follow recommendations given.
- Commence a dialogue with BC about our policy and what more they and we can do together to manage open spaces and restore biodiversity.
- Form a working partnership and consult with local farmers on their successes to improve biodiversity and climate change set out in the Environmental Land Management (ELM) Schemes, and how they feel they can best contribute to preserving and improving our unique landscape for the future.

Raising Awareness Locally:

"What you do makes a difference, and you have to decide what kind of difference you want to make. The greatest danger to our future is apathy. You cannot get through a single day without having an impact on the world around you." Dr. Jane Goodall

Actions:

- *Build on the good work already achieved, and use the website to provide a 'greener living' resource hub to disseminate information for its residents about energy saving, recycling opportunities, wildlife -friendly gardening, local events / organisations, repair cafes, grants, existing schemes etc.*
- *Involve residents in activities that benefit the whole community: e.g. asset sharing, litter picking, giving residents some responsibility for managing PC field for biodiversity.*
- *Investigate HPC providing enhanced recycling facilities.*
- *Work with BC on what more it can do to help individuals reduce their carbon footprint and help BC reach their target of net zero by 2050.*

Transport:

Government official statistics 2023 state: "transport is the largest emitting sector of greenhouse gas emissions, producing 26% of the UK's total emissions in 2021".

Action:

HPC does not have a specific responsibility for transport, but given the sector's high emissions, encouraging BC to improve its transport infrastructure to normalise and make greener methods of travel easier in rural areas, will add pressure to BC to achieve its aim of net zero by 2050.

For example, in our area, possibilities include:

- *Lobbying BC to provide a school bus from Lane End.*
- *Encourage BC to adopt 20 mph through villages, and adopt traffic slowing methods.*
- *Lobby BC to make road safety for pedestrians in our villages and visitors a priority; and improve public education to drive considerately on country lanes, mindful of vulnerable road users.*

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- *encourage BC to promote greener travel e.g. safe cycling routes*
- *Local EV charging points*
- *Use potential school bus to extend their 'pick-me-up' service for the public (particularly the elderly) on e.g. Market days.*

Collaboration:

Developing partnerships and alliances with wider communities is now standard for charities and becoming an increasingly effective way to effect change.

Action:

HPC will strive to work with residents and other local Parish Councils, ward councilors, and the Community Board to identify areas of mutual benefit such as potential economic efficiencies, creating wildlife corridors, spreading awareness locally, and making our roads safer, to ensure we all play our part in limiting climate change, and restoring and protecting our unique and precious biodiversity.

Draft: March 2024

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Appendices:

1. *The Local Area*

The Hambleden Civil Parish comprises a group of rural villages and hamlets, within a landscape containing important habitats for nature; including beechwoods with yew and holly, hedges, arable fields, pasture, water meadows, a significant winterbourne (the Hamble Brook) and the River Thames. The Parish lies entirely within the designated Chilterns National Landscape and mostly within the Hambleden and Wormsley Valleys Biodiversity Opportunity Area. It contains one Site of Special Scientific Interest (Fayland Bank SSSI) and 11 Local Wildlife Sites (a non-statutory designation). Over 40 per cent of the Parish is under National Trust protection (The Greenlands Covenant).

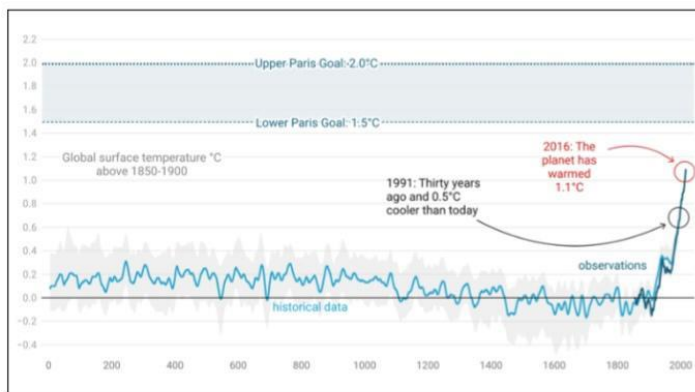
2. Biodiversity

The UK is one of the most nature depleted in the world. Since 1970 UK species have declined by about 19% on average, and nearly 1 in 6 species (16.1%) are now threatened with extinction ([State of Nature Report](#) September 2023).

3. Climate Change

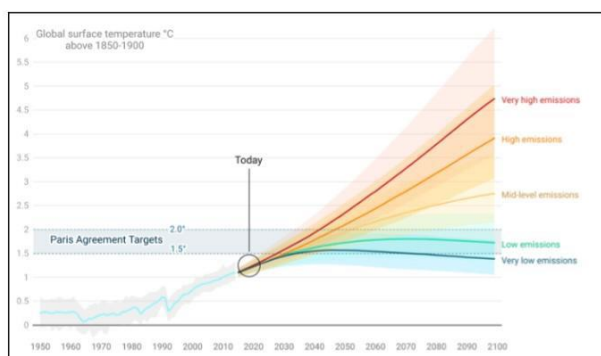
Since the 1800s, the Earth has been getting hotter:

1. Global Warming Thus Far



The scientific consensus is that global warming has increased because of human activity and the use of fossil fuels. 2023 has been the hottest on record with a number of weather events and there is a danger that we may exceed the 1.5C, deemed safe by [The Paris Agreement](#). The latest [IPCC report 2023](#) states “Governments, the private sector, civil society and individuals must all step up to keep the future we desire in sight. A narrow window of opportunity is still open, but there is not one second to waste.” Hence the imperative to do more.

2. Future Warming Pathways



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