

## MINUTES OF THE HAMBLEDEN PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Held on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> February 2024, Skirmett Village Hall

PRESENT: Cllr S Webb – Chair, Mr J Jackson, Mrs A Hopkins, Mr C Hussey, Mr R Gronmark, Mr R Ashcroft  
Mr G Hartley Russell, Mr J Lidstone.

Mrs L Coldwell – Clerk

2 members of the public (part)

Buckinghamshire Councillor Mark Turner

Makyla Devlin – South West Chilterns Community Board

### **Minute 9932**

#### **Public Question Time**

- A resident attended regarding the Howson memorial “Poppy Shop” project, to give thanks to the Parish Council for contributing funding and to give an update. Permission has been granted by the Diocese, and the stonemason will start work which will take approximately 14 weeks. Fundraising efforts continue.
- Makyla Devlin, South West Chilterns Community Board Manager also gave further information about the Howson memorial and will be in touch when the final contribution total is known.
- A resident attended with concerns about hedgerows that are becoming thinner in Parmoor, Bushes Wood and Chisbridge. Clerk will speak with Planning Enforcement to see if anything can be done.
- **Action:Clerk**
- Footpath HA18 is still being used by cyclists. “No cycling” signs been put up by both the resident and the Clerk several times, but they are pulled down. Buckinghamshire Council have said they will put up larger signs but are unable to say when.

### **Minute 9933**

#### **To receive any apologies for absence**

Cllr Armstrong.

### **Minute 9934**

#### **Declaration of disclosable pecuniary and personal interests by Members relating to items on the agenda**

None declared.

### **Minute 9935**

#### **To confirm and approve the minutes of the ordinary meeting held 8<sup>th</sup> January 2024**

The minutes for the meeting held in January were confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

### **Minute 9936**

#### **Clerk and any Councillors if appropriate to report on matters arising and any updates from previous minutes which are not on the agenda**

- Minute 9923 – Clerk has advised Buckinghamshire Council for the intent to continue with devolved services.
- Minute 9925 – Clerk contacted Project Groundwater and Buckinghamshire Council regarding flood issues, Cllr Webb met with BC representatives in Hambleton village.
- Minute 9928 – Clerk sent the precept demand to Buckinghamshire Council.
- Minute 9929.1 – Clerk chased about the overflowing bin in Fingest and asked again for more regular collections.
- Minute 9929.2 – Clerk reported the surface water, the LAT advised she has requested works to take place to alleviate the flooding and the gullies will be cleaned on the cyclical programme.
- Clerk has received complaints about damage to road verges in Rockwell End due to building works being carried out. Clerk will speak with planning and highways about making them good.

#### **Action:Clerk**

- Clerk has arranged new councillor training for 3 members.
- Clerk has replaced “no cycling” signs in Frieth and given some to a resident for them to erect.
- Clerk has responded to various emails from parishioners regarding highways and footpath issues.
- 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 has been contacted by the Frieth Village Hall committee asking if the PC can cut back the Lilac tree outside the hall as it is encroaching on the benches. All in agreement, Clerk will obtain quotations.

#### **Action:Clerk**

- Cllr Hopkins asked if the application for works to the tree at Cherries Corner has been submitted yet, Clerk does not believe so. Cllr Webb and Clerk will do so.

#### **Action:Cllr Webb/Clerk**

- Cllr Hopkins advised a thank you letter was received for the contribution the PC made for repairs to the village clock in Frieth.

#### **Minute 9937**

##### **To receive updates if any from meetings attended since the previous ordinary meeting by Clerk and Councillors**

Clerk has attended, with slides circulated to Cllrs where applicable:

09/01/24 – “Clerk Smarter” webinar

17/01/24 – SLCC Committees training

18/01/24 – SLCC Managing Closed Churchyards training

19/01/24 – SLCC Cemetery Safety training

22/01/24 – Buckinghamshire Council Clerks Forum

24/01/24 – Buckinghamshire Council Parish Liaison meeting

24/01/24 – Future Nature, also attended by Cllr Hussey.

Various BMKALC training from their “Free January” sessions

Cllr Hopkins – Greener Frieth held their meeting in January and have produced an information leaflet about how to transition from oil to greener forms of energy. Clerk to add to the website.

Cllr Webb – met with Buckland Landscapes, the grass maintenance contractor.

#### **Minute 9938**

##### **To consider the results of the speed survey carried out in Frieth and any further actions to be taken**

The survey showed that during the 7 day period 2.8% of cars were recorded travelling at speeds of over 35 mph. A lengthy discussion was had regarding traffic and larger HGVs. Clerk will get a contact from Buckinghamshire Council and/or Buckinghamshire Highways for Cllr Hopkins to speak too. Cllr Hopkins said that given the increase in traffic which includes HGVs and vehicles travelling in excess of the speed limit on a road that leads to a school that ways to slow traffic and protect pedestrians should be explored. It was noted that from the survey the busy times are at school pick up and drop off, the Headteacher of Frieth CEC School does speak with the parents regularly about this.

**Action: Clerk/Cllr Hopkins**

#### **Minute 9939**

##### **To receive updates from the Climate Change Working Party; to consider and adopt if appropriate the draft Biodiversity Policy**

An update was provided from the first meeting of the Working Party. The Biodiversity Policy was deferred to next meeting as not all Cllrs received the document, Clerk to send out to all Cllrs. Cllr Hopkins proposed minor amendments to the Climate Change Working Party Terms of Reference, to which all agreed. Clerk to update the website.

**Action: Clerk**

#### **Minute 9940**

##### **To discuss and consider options for maintaining the wildflower field at Ellery Rise, Frieth; to consider the purchase of stock fencing; to discuss and consider any other maintenance required**

Cllr Hussey advised he met with the farmer since the last PC meeting; he and Cllr Hopkins met with representatives from Frieth Village Society and Frieth Natural History Society. The farmer is happy to put sheep in the meadow but it needs to be made escape proof; it was resolved to proceed with stock fencing. Cllrs Gronmark and Hartley Russell will make enquiries for prices. There is a grant from the Chilterns Conservation Board that Clerk will apply for. Frieth villagers are keen to be involved, which will be feasible once the immediate need works have been carried out by the PC, then it may be appropriate to hand over to residents in the late summer/autumn. Clerk will organise for the hedges to be cut back by a local contractor, including on the roadside. Cllr Hopkins commented that best practice to encourage wildlife and biodiversity is for a 3 year plan of works for hedge trimming and all sides should not be trimmed in one go.

**Action: Cllrs Gronmark/Hartley Russell/Hussey/Hopkins/Clerk**

#### **Minute 9941**

##### **To discuss flooding on the highways and groundwater flooding in the parish and consider any actions to take**

All in agreement for Clerk to publicise any details on the website and Facebook page regarding groundwater flooding from Buckinghamshire Council. Cllr Armstrong dug out at Watery Lane, Skirmett during the last heavy rainfall. Buckinghamshire Highways attended Skirmett Road during the flooding.

**Action: Clerk**

#### **Minute 9942**

**Finance: a) approve the accounts for February 2024; b) to nominate a Councillor to check and approve the bank reconciliation for December and January**

**Accounts to be paid in February 2024**

Mrs L Coldwell – salary (via standing order)	802.91
BC Pension Fund (via standing order)	248.09
Mrs L Coldwell – expenses	229.56
SLCC – Cemetery & Churchyard safety training	42.00
War Memorial Trust – annual subs	20.00
Buckland Landscapes – grass maintenance	1234.99
Vision ICT – website hosting charges	360.00
Skirmett Village Hall – hire	35.00
M Tuddenham – Hambleden toilet clean	90.00
M Tuddenham – cleaning products	7.05
<b>Total</b>	<b>3069.60</b>
<b>Balance as 1<sup>st</sup> January 2024</b>	73353.98
Less January payments	(4387.59)
<b>Balance as of 31<sup>st</sup> January 2024</b>	<b>68966.39</b>
Of which CIL Funds	6618.95
Church Wall reserve	20000.00
Other Earmarked reserves	3250.00
Hambleden Parking fund	912.39
<b>Unrestricted Reserves</b>	<b>38185.05</b>

**Film Fund**

Total of all funds at 1 <sup>st</sup> January 2024	3275.87
Donation – “Too Much” filming in Hambleden village	1500.00
<b>Total of all funds at 31<sup>st</sup> January 2024</b>	<b>4775.87</b>

Accounts and payments approved. Cllr Ashcroft checked and approved the bank reconciliations. The SSE invoice has not been received; it was resolved to pay between meetings when received.

**Minute 9943****Members questions: including any items for the next agenda**

- 1. **Cllr Gronmark** – the “no parking” signs have been put up in Skirmett. Thanks were given.
- 2. **Cllr Hussey** – proposed investigating a recycling programme for items over and above those that Buckinghamshire Council will take. All agreed it was a promising idea, future agenda item.  
**Action:Cllr Hussey/Clerk**
- 3. **Cllr Ashcroft** – concerns about the junction in Hambleden where the road from the car park meets the village, the white lines need to be repainted. Clerk to report via [Fix My Street](#) for the lines to be repainted as well as a “Give Way” sign to be installed. This has been requested several times before.  
**Action:Clerk**
- 4. **Cllr Webb** – a number of dog walkers have reported to her fallen trees at Pheasants Hill Common after the recent storms – Clerk to arrange a tree survey.  
**Action:Clerk**
- 5. The flood triangle in Hambleden has been trimmed by the landowner, Clerk to thank them.  
**Action:Clerk**
- 6. A donation was given to the Film Fund after the recent filming in Hambleden, as well as to the Church.
- 7. Hambleden churchyard – Mr Steward and his gardener have completed a huge amount of work pruning and tidying, and ivy removal on the Kenricks memorial. Cllr Webb will help Cllr Armstrong to dispose of it, Clerk to write to them to give thanks.  
**Action:Clerk**
- 8. The gatepost of the church yard wall is showing some damage, likely following a frost. Cllr Webb will get a quote for repair.  
**Action:Cllr Webb**
- 9. There is an RV parked in the layby on the Skirmett Road between Hambleden and Mill End. A resident has complained and contacted Buckinghamshire Councillor Turner. The vehicle has tax, an MOT and is insured, so it is not illegal.

**Minute 9944**

**To consider all recent applications received from Buckinghamshire Council and any other planning applications submitted and published on the Buckinghamshire Council Planning Portal between the circulation of the agenda and the meeting:**

[24/05075/TPO – Poynants Manor Skirmett Road Skirmett](#) – Remove as dead or dying x 1 Ash (2), x 7 (3-5, 7-8 & 12-13) Sycamore, x 1 Field Maple (6) and reduce by 2-3 metres as in poor state x 3 Sycamore (9-11) – **no objection**

[24/05054/FUL – Ashcroft Frieth Hill Frieth](#) – Householder application for demolition of existing garage and replacement with a carport and store – **no objection**

[23/08168/CTREE – Glebe Croft Chequers Lane Fingest](#) – Fell as roots growing under oil tank x 1 Pine – **no objection**

[24/05168/FUL – Evenlode House, Windrush House And Loddon House Greenlands Henley Road Hambleden](#) – Replacement of external windows, doors and timber cladding – **no objection**

**Planning Application Decisions made by Buckinghamshire Council since previous meeting**

[23/07859/ADRC - Land To Rear Of Hambleden Stores And Post Office 58 Hambleden Village Hambleden](#) – Application for approval of details subject to Condition 7 (Landscaping) of planning ref: 20/07687/FUL – **Permit - detail Reserved by Condition(PC not consulted)**

[23/08107/FUL – Sunnydale Spurgrove Lane Frieth](#) – Householder application for demolition of existing shed/outbuilding and construction of replacement outbuilding for use as home office and storage – **Application Permitted**

[28/06803/FUL](#) & [23/06804/LBC](#) – Burrow Farm Hollow Lane Rotten Row Hambleden – Demolition of mid-20th century extension, erection of a new extension, relocation of swimming pool and associated works – **Applications permitted**

**Minute 9945**

**To confirm the date for the next meeting as:**

The date of the next meeting was confirmed as Monday 18<sup>th</sup> March – Hambleden Village Hall.

The meeting was closed at 21.28.

Signed ..... Date .....