

MINUTES OF THE HAMBLEDEN PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Held on Monday 10th March 2025, Frieth Village Hall

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

Mrs L Coldwell – Clerk

3 members of the public (part)

Buckinghamshire Councillor Mark Turner

Minute 10121

Public Question Time

- A resident of Frieth attended to discuss agenda item 7, the expansion of Frieth CEC School.
- A resident of Frieth attended to discuss agenda item 8, the Frieth Village Society schedule. He also gave thanks to the PC for the support given recently and asked for clarity for expected timetable of works throughout the year. Clerk will email this information to him.

Action: Clerk

- A resident of Frieth attended to discuss agenda item 10, the sponsorship of speed awareness posters.

Minute 10122

To receive any apologies for absence

Cllr S Webb.

Minute 10123

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

None declared.

Minute 10124

To confirm and approve the minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council meeting held 10th February 2025

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

Minute 10125

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

- Minute 10114 – the Open Spaces Society responded to the request for advice on Pheasants Hill Common (agenda item).
- Minute 10115 – Clerk advised the LAT that the PC did not agree with the type of bollards suggested.
- Minute 10116 – Clerk chased the Network Safety Officer regarding the traffic concerns report.
- Clerk has inspected the noticeboards in the parish – some need maintenance. Future agenda item.

Action: Clerk

- Clerk has signed and renewed the lease agreement for the shed holding the sandbags in Hambleden.
- Clerk continues to share on social media and the website information relating to the upcoming elections.
- AED machines have been checked and reported to The Circle.
- Road closures have been placed on the website and Facebook page.
- Clerk arranged for a left “road closed” sign to be removed in Fingest.
- Clerk arranged for ditches by the crossroads in Frieth to be cleared which would hopefully have a positive effect on the standing water. Also reported the blocked drain here to Buckinghamshire Highways.
- Clerk will sign and send back the Devolved Services agreement to Buckinghamshire Council.

Action: Clerk

- 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](#).

Minute 10126

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

Any slides have been circulated to the Councillors, Clerk has attended:

10/02/25 – Climate Change meeting

13/02/25 – Parish Liaison meeting

26/02/25 – Risk Management webinar

03/03/25 – Planning Liaison meeting

04/03/25 – SLCC Branch meeting

05/03/25 – South West Chilterns Community Board meeting

07/03/25 – Elections Briefing

06/03/25 – Cllr Hussey attended the Rural Forum.

07/03/25 – Cllr Armstrong attended a meeting with the Environment Agency, the River Officer from the

Chilterns National Landscape and some local landowners (agenda item).

Minute 10127

To discuss the expansion of Frieth CEC School and concerns from a resident

A paper had been provided by the resident, a lengthy discussion ensued. It was agreed to ask Frieth Village Society what their understanding of residents' views are and add to the Frieth Village newsletter asking opinions from Frieth residents. Clerk to put an item on the PC website and Facebook page. Clerk to approach Buckinghamshire Council again about transport for out of catchment children.

Action: Clerk

Minute 10128

To consider a request to sponsor and display speed awareness posters throughout the parish at an approximate cost of £100

A Frieth resident had provided a paper and detailed what she was proposing, which would be the PC to pay for and arrange installing posters around the villages to get people to slow down when driving. All in agreement to proceed. Cllrs have volunteered to install the posters in their villages.

Action: Clerk/Cllrs

Minute 10129

To confirm the schedule drawn up by Frieth Village Society regarding item ownership and maintenance

All in agreement with the schedule detailing responsibilities. There have been additional verges devolved from Buckinghamshire Council to the PC which will need to be included on the grass maintenance schedule. Clerk to advise FVS, along with a timeline of when various works occur.

Action: Clerk

Minute 10130

To receive any updates from the Climate Change Working Party; to discuss what if any actions the Parish Council can do to respond to the Climate Change emergency

Cllr Hopkins reported that one meeting had been held this month to develop a biodiversity-focused PDF for residents, which remains a work in progress. Cllr Hussey has engaged with various organisations, noting that the document could be applicable to other parishes. He has discussed it with the CEO of the Chilterns National Landscape, who has agreed to the inclusion of their logo. Additionally, he attended a Wild Oxfordshire lecture, establishing connections with their Nature Recovery Lead. He also received a response from the Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes Natural Environment Partnership, which is developing the Buckinghamshire Local Nature Recovery Strategy and will provide valuable support in promoting wildlife corridors within the parish. Cllr Hopkins has also engaged with local Churchwardens regarding biodiversity management in churchyards and hopes to arrange a meeting to explore ways to enhance wildlife conservation in these spaces.

Action: Climate Change Working Party

Minute 10131

To consider if available the Frieth Village traffic concerns report from Buckinghamshire Council Network Safety Team

The report is not yet available, despite assurances from the Officer it would be by this meeting. Cllr Hopkins will continue to chase for it.

Minute 10132

To discuss infilling the parking spaces at Frieth Village Hall and the best way to do so; to consider a quotation for £1100 +VAT for shingle dressing, topping up with scalpings and compacted where necessary

All in agreement to proceed with the quotation, Clerk to advise.

Action: Clerk

Minute 10133

To discuss Pheasants Hill Common; advice received from the Open Spaces Society; any maintenance needed; any update regarding outside bodies taking responsibility

The response from the OSS had been circulated to all. Cllr Hussey suggested proceeding down the route of adverse possession. He will forward to all guidance notes about this; if the PC can demonstrate possession of the Common for 12 years this should be sufficient evidence to obtain ownership, with the help of a solicitor for the paperwork. The plan would then be for an outside body to take on the active management. Cllr Ashcroft pointed out that legally owning the Common could lead to large financial responsibility and liabilities. Clerk will ask the OSS and a local group about responsibilities of woodland/commons ownership.

Action: Clerk/Cllr Hussey

Minute 10134

March 2025

To consider match funding the Environment Agency to jet the concrete hollows of the Hamble Brook to allow further diversion of water at an approximate cost of £750 +VAT

Cllr Armstrong attended an emergency meeting with local farm tenants, the Environment Agency, and a representative from the Chilterns Chalk Stream Project. The EA have agreed that the stream can be officially diverted but will not fund the works. The Chilterns Chalk Stream Project can fund half, if matched with the PC. All in agreement, to be paid via the Film Fund. Clerk to liaise with the Chilterns Chalk Stream representative.

Action: Clerk

Minute 10135

To consider purchasing owl boxes to be erected in Hambleden Churchyard at a cost of £70 per box

Item deferred until April meeting.

Action: Clerk

Minute 10136

Finance:

a) to approve the accounts for March 2025

The payments were approved and the accounts noted.

Accounts to be paid in March 2025

SSE – lighting charges (cheque already signed and posted)	304.66
Mrs L Coldwell – salary (via standing order)	991.30
BC Pension Fund (via standing order)	306.31
Mrs L Coldwell – expenses	42.90
Buckland Landscapes – grass maintenance	1321.44
Frieth Village Hall – hire	37.50
Sean Farrelly – Frieth playground hedge cut	240.00
M Tuddenham – Hambleden toilet clean and open/close (invoice expected)	120.00
Lloyds Bank – account charges	6.23
Total	3370.34
Balance as 1st February 2025	67920.00
Less February payments	(5748.24)
Balance as of 28th February 2025	62171.76
Of which CIL Funds	4973.95
Church Wall reserve	20000.00
Other Earmarked reserves	3250.00
Hambleden Parking fund	912.39
Unrestricted Reserves	33035.42

Cheque to be paid from the Film Fund:

Mr David House – replacement chains for around the pond at Frieth crossroads on behalf of Frieth Village Society – **£148.32**

Film Fund

Total of all funds at 1 st February 2025	19275.87
Total of all funds at 28th February 2025	19275.87

b) To nominate a Councillor to check and approve the bank reconciliation for February

Cllr Ashcroft checked and approved the February bank reconciliation. The previous months reconciliations had been corrected and were signed off.

Minute 10137

Members questions: including any items for the next agenda

- 1. **Cllr Hopkins** – mentioned she has noticed an increase in the number of verges that have destroyed by large vehicles driving over them. Cllrs to think about any solutions to the problem, with a look to include on a future agenda.
- 2. **Cllr Ashcroft** – there are “unsuitable for heavy goods vehicles” signs located at various points throughout the Hambleden Valley, but these appear to be ignored, particularly when there has been an accident on the motorway. The signs are advisory and unfortunately often ignored.

Minute 10138

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

[25/05174/CTREE – Walnut Tree Cottage Skirmett Road Skirmett](#) – Fell to ground level as leaning and suppressed x 1 Wild Cherry (T001) – **already determined Not to Make a Tree Preservation Order**

Planning Application Decisions made since the date of the last Parish Council meeting – for information only:

[23/07094/FUL – Office Lower Woodend Barns Roundhouse Lane Fawley](#) – Change of use of existing building used as offices (use class E) to create 4-bed holiday let accommodation – **Application Refused**

[24/07755/FUL – Swallows Barn Rockwell End Lane Rockwell End](#) – Householder application for construction of porch, alterations to rear first floor balcony, additional fenestration, together with 2 bay car port – **Application Permitted**

[24/08116/CTREE – Hillswood Frieth Hill Frieth](#) – Remove as damaged by recent storm x 1 unknown tree (A) and remove x 1 Pittosporum (B) – **Not to Make a Tree Preservation Order**

[24/07997/FUL – Inkerman House Shogmoor Lane Skirmett](#) – Householder application for replacement fixed timber doors to garage, replacement rear door, installation of side door and installation of canopies over front and rear doors (part retrospective) – **Application Permitted**

[24/07498/FUL – Rotten Row Farmhouse Main Road Rotten Row Hambleden](#) – Householder application for construction of detached garage – **Application Permitted**

[25/05027/CTREE – Wharf Cottage Henley Road Hambleden](#) – Fell due to chalara dieback and other decay issues x 1 Ash (T211), fell due to moderate / advanced dieback from Chalara x 5 Ash (T212), fell as dead x 6 Elm and as diseased x 1 Ash (T213) – **Not to Make a Tree Preservation Order**

[25/05028/CTREE – Car Park Adjacent The Stag And Huntsman Rectory Hill Hambleden](#) – Fell x 2 Ash (59 & 60), x 2 Elm (63) and x 6 Hawthorn and x 1 Sycamore (64) – **Not to Make a Tree Preservation Order**

[24/07959/TPO – Flint Cottage Frieth Hill Frieth](#) – Fell as will be seriously unbalanced/compromised in a westerly wind due to Douglas Fir Felling x 1 Grand Fir (T2) and fell as dead/dying x 1 Douglas Fir (T1) – **Application Permitted**

[24/07913/LBC](#) & [24/07912/FUL – The Yard Hambleden Village Hambleden](#) – Householder application for installation of 10 x roof mounted solar panels to the rear garage roof of The Yard – **Applications Refused**

[24/06658/CTREE – 67 Hambleden Village Hambleden](#) – Crown reduce by 1.5 metres and reduce away from house by 1.5 metres x 1 Walnut (T1) – **Not to Make a Tree Preservation Order**

[24/07244/FUL – Long Hanger Fingest Lane Fingest](#) – Householder application for construction of dormer window extension at the rear of the existing house – **Application Refused**

[24/07232/FUL](#) & [24/07233/LBC](#) – Keepers Cottage Hollow Lane Rotten Row Hambleden – Householder application and consent for construction of two storey side extension – **Applications Permitted**

[24/07448/VCDN – The Stones Spurgrove Lane Frieth](#) – Variation of condition 2 (plan numbers) attached to 21/08699/FUL (Demolition of existing dwelling and garage and erection of replacement dwelling, creation of swimming pool to rear and widening of the existing vehicular access with associated works) to allow for amendments to the external appearance of the approved dwellinghouse – **Application Permitted**

[24/07498/FUL – Rotten Row Farmhouse Main Road Rotten Row Hambleden](#) – Householder application for construction of detached garage – **Application Permitted**

[24/07606/CTREE – The Barn Hambleden Village Hambleden](#) – Remove smallest one nearest to Village Hall to prevent any damage to the roof of the village hall x 1 Walnut (G1) and take down to ground level as is leaning towards hall and concerned that it could damage the roof of the village hall x 1 Walnut (T1) – **Not to Make a Tree Preservation Order**

[25/05174/CTREE – Walnut Tree Cottage Skirmett Road Skirmett](#) – Fell to ground level as leaning and suppressed x 1 Wild Cherry (T001) – **Not to Make a Tree Preservation Order**

[25/05072/FUL – Eagles Crag Barn Spurgrove Lane Frieth](#) – Householder application for construction of single storey rear extension – **Application Refused**

[24/08066/FUL – Owlets Barn Rockwell End Lane Rockwell End](#) – Householder application for construction of detached garage with first floor ancillary room – **Application Permitted**

[24/06585/VCDN – The Bungalow Scotchy Lane Skirmett](#) – Variation of condition 2 (plan numbers) attached to pp 22/06920/FUL (construction of 1 x 4-bed replacement dwelling, detached double garage and associated alterations) to allow changes to design and materials – **Application Permitted**

[24/06899/FUL – Hamberley House Rectory Hill Hambleden](#) following a “call in” by the Parish Council this application will be determined by the West Buckinghamshire Planning Committee on Wednesday 19th March. Cllr Armstrong will speak on behalf of the PC if he is available.

Minute 10139

To confirm the date for the next meeting as:

The date of the next meeting was confirmed as Monday 14th April – Skirmett Village Hall.

The meeting was closed at 21.36.

Signed Date