

## **MINUTES OF THE HAMBLEDEN PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**

Held on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> April 2025, Skirmett Village Hall

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

Mrs L Coldwell – Clerk

2 members of the public (part)

Buckinghamshire Councillor Mark Turner

### **Minute 10140**

#### **Public Question Time**

- A resident of Pheasants Hill had provided before the meeting questions regarding the increase in the precept when there is a substantial amount of money being held in reserve, which were duly answered by the Chair and Councillors including pointing out earmarked reserves. A new page will be added to the website regarding the Film Fund account with a spreadsheet that shows the income and expenditure for that account, and an article placed in the Hambleden Valley magazine re-iterating that parishioners can apply for a grant for activities.

### **Minute 10141**

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

Cllr A Armstrong.

### **Minute 10142**

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

None declared.

### **Minute 10143**

#### **To confirm and approve the minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council meeting held 10<sup>th</sup> March 2025**

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

### **Minute 10144**

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

- Minute 10125 – Clerk signed and returned the Devolution paperwork to Buckinghamshire Highways, who have returned their signed copy.
- Minute 10127 – Clerk placed an item about the expansion of Frieth CEC School on the website, the Frieth newsletter and Facebook page as well as asking FVS for information.
- Minute 10128 – Clerk ordered the posters and is trying to organise for display cases to be made, the contractor has been away so has not yet replied. These will be displayed throughout the parish on a rotational basis.
- Minute 10129 – Clerk forwarded the schedule to FVS.
- Minute 10132 – the works to the car parking spaces took place on 17/03/25.
- Minute 10133 – Clerk has approached the Open Spaces Society and the Friends of Finings Wood group for help and forwarded the responses to Cllr Hussey.
- Minute 10134 – Cllr Armstrong advised the Chilterns Chalk Stream project that the PC were agreeable to match funding the works. The work has been completed, an invoice has not yet been received.
- Clerk continued to promote the elections taking place on 01/05/25 for parish and unitary Councillors. The election notices have been displayed as requested by Buckinghamshire Council.
- Clerk has begun the work for the AGAR and internal audit.
- The trees that were planted on the verge in Fingest will be removed by Buckinghamshire Highways.
- Clerk has confirmed the RoSPA inspection for the play area at Ellery Rise, Frieth.
- The contractor attended to finish the work on the War Memorial in Hambleden.
- AED machines have been checked and reported to The Circle.
- Road closures have been placed on the website and Facebook page.
- 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 10145**

#### **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:

12/03/25 – ONE Uniform Planning Update. It was noted that any comments from residents will no longer be visible on the Planning Portal, Buckinghamshire Council say this is to do with GDPR concerns.

19/03/25 – Cllr Hussey attended the West Buckinghamshire Planning Committee to speak on behalf of the

Parish Council in objection to planning application 24/06899/FUL, which was permitted by the Committee.

#### **Minute 10146**

##### **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 the group met last week and in a positive development, several churches within the parish have agreed to use areas of their churchyards to promote improved biodiversity.

#### **Minute 10147**

##### **To discuss Pheasants Hill Common and next steps including applying for an adverse possession order**

Cllr Hussey had previously circulated a very comprehensive paper regarding next steps. Cllr Jackson proposed seeking legal advice on gaining ownership through adverse possession, Cllr Hopkins seconded. All in agreement. Once it is known if that PC have a valid submission, various local groups such as BBOWT and the Chiltern Society will be approached regarding interest in managing the common. Clerk will forward details to Cllr Hussey about a solicitor and Cllr Webb will enquire with a local firm.

**Action: Cllr Hussey**

#### **Minute 10148**

##### **To discuss the 4 noticeboards in the parish and maintenance needed**

Clerk had circulated photographs showing each noticeboard. Most need some minor renovation work; the legs are all fine it is mainly cosmetic. Clerk to obtain quotations for the works, it may be more cost effective to purchase new.

**Action: Clerk**

#### **Minute 10149**

##### **To consider a grant application from Frieth CEC School PTA for £500**

Item deferred until the May meeting when financial records will be provided.

**Action: Clerk**

#### **Minute 10150**

##### **To consider moving the gate at the field in Ellery Rise higher up the boundary to allow better access**

Clerk attended a site visit and had provided photographs of the fences. It was agreed to move the fence, Clerk to obtain quotations.

The landowner has re-iterated in writing that the access owned via the track is permissive and is granted to enable the effective management of the PC's field and is not a right of way. They are happy for this arrangement to continue for access, but it does not constitute an easement and will be reviewed on an annual basis with the outcome confirmed to the PC. They will very kindly make good the boundary where the fence is moved from.

**Action: Clerk**

#### **Minute 10151**

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

All in agreement, Clerk to proceed with ordering 1 x bat box, 1 x tawny owl box, 2 x ordinary bird boxes. Cllr Webb will liaise with the Churchwarden.

**Action: Clerk/Cllr Webb**

#### **Minute 10152**

##### **To give an update on the Parish and Unitary elections taking place on 1<sup>st</sup> May 2025**

Clerk advised as has already been published, that the North Ward has a contested election, the South Ward is uncontested. Voting will take place from 7am to 10pm on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> May, and the results should be counted by Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> May. Current councillors retire from positions on 6<sup>th</sup> May, which is also when new councillors take office.

#### **Minute 10153**

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

The report is not yet available. Cllr Hopkins continues to chase for it.

#### **Minute 10154**

##### **To discuss the process for registering and declaring Members Interests**

It was noted that new Registers of Interests will be required for all Councillors following the upcoming elections, in accordance with the Code of Conduct adopted in January 2021. Declarations of interest should continue to be made at meetings as necessary.

#### **Minute 10155**

**Finance:****a) To approve the accounts for April 2025**

The payments were approved and the accounts noted.

Accounts to be paid in April 2025

Frieth Village Society – annual payment for field (cheque previously signed)	2000.00
SSE – lighting charges (cheque already signed and posted)	275.18
Mrs L Coldwell – salary (via standing order)	991.30
BC Pension Fund (via standing order)	306.31
Mrs L Coldwell – expenses	98.49
C G Balkwell and Son – hedge trimming at Ellery Rise, Frieth	120.00
C J Armstrong – Frieth parking spaces resurfacing	1320.00
Enerveo – lighting maintenance contract	309.85
Buckland Landscapes – grass maintenance	1387.50
Skirmett Village Hall – hire	35.00
Vision ICT – email hosting	144.00
BMKALC – subs	231.44
M Tuddenham – Hambleden toilet clean and open/close	159.05
Lloyds Bank – account charges	6.45
<b>Total</b>	<b>7384.57</b>
<b>Balance as 1<sup>st</sup> March 2025</b>	<b>62171.76</b>
Less March payments	(3370.34)
<b>Balance as of 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025</b>	<b>58801.42</b>
Of which CIL Funds	4973.95
Church Wall reserve	20000.00
Other Earmarked reserves	3250.00
Hambleden Parking fund	912.39
<b>Unrestricted Reserves</b>	<b>29665.08</b>

**Film Fund**

Total of all funds at 1 <sup>st</sup> March 2025	19275.87
Mr D House – replacement chains, Frieth crossroads	(148.32)
Lloyds – account charges	(4.25)
<b>Total of all funds at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025</b>	<b>19123.30</b>

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

Cllr Ashcroft checked and approved the March bank reconciliation.

**Minute 10156****Members questions: including any items for the next agenda**

- 1. **Cllr Hopkins** – raised damage to verges in Frieth by large vehicles, some are in a terrible state.
- 2. **Cllr Hussey** – a deer survey took place in February, the results are confidential and only available to landowners, however it has been confirmed that there are a lot of deer in the valley! When the summary is published he will share with the PC.
- 3. **Cllr Webb** – requested fellow councillors to think about any organisations within the parish that could be encouraged to apply for grant money from the Film Fund.
- 4. She noted that there was a wildlife crime spotted on a footpath in Hambleden, Clerk advised for it to be reported to Thames Valley Police.

**Minute 10157**

**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:**

[25/05407/FUL – Middle Cottage Frieth Hill Frieth](#) – Householder application for construction of outbuilding for home gym/office – **no objection, however we would like to see a condition applied to make sure it cannot be used for overnight accommodation**

[25/05371/FUL](#) & [25/07372/LBC](#) – Shoot Lodge Hollow Lane Rotten Row Hambleden – application for construction of two storey front extension, first floor rear extension, replacement glazed infill and window alterations – **no objection**

[25/05565/FUL](#) – Units 1 & 2 Rotten Row Farm Main Road Rotten Row Hambleden – Partial/total conversion of units 1 & 2 to create 1 x 2-bed dwelling with associated external alterations – **objection, we are against change of use, as commercial premises brings benefit to the community**

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

[24/06899/FUL – Hamberley House Rectory Hill Hambleden](#) – Householder application for extensions and alterations to dwelling and erection of new garage and bicycle store, swimming pool, landscaping, closing off existing access and relocation of vehicle access in connection with the formation of new parking area and new boundary treatment – **Application Permitted**. Cllr Hussey attended the West Buckinghamshire Planning Committee meeting and spoke on behalf of the Parish Council.

[24/07021/FUL – Copville Fingest Road Fingest](#) – Householder application for installation of 2 x air conditioning units – **Application Permitted**

#### **Minute 10158**

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

The date of the next meeting was confirmed as Monday 12<sup>th</sup> May – Hambleden Village Hall, following the Annual Parish and Annual Parish Council meetings.

The meeting was closed at 21.20.

Cllr Jackson will not be standing for re-election in May. He was elected to the Parish Council in May 1999, and was Chairman from 2014 until 2022. Thanks were given for his service, and he was presented with a gift from his colleagues.

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