

MINUTES OF THE HAMBLEDEN PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Held on Monday 10th February 2025, Hambleden Village Hall

PRESENT: Cllr Armstrong – Chair, Cllr S Webb, 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

4 members of the public (all part)

Buckinghamshire Councillor Mark Turner

Minute 10105

Public Question Time

None.

Minute 10106

To receive any apologies for absence

None received.

Minute 10107

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

None declared.

Minute 10108

To confirm and approve the minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council meeting held 13th January 2025

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

The Chairman brought forward agenda item 15, Planning. .

Minute 10109

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:

[24/07498/FUL – Rotten Row Farmhouse Main Road Rotten Row Hambleden](#) – Householder application for construction of detached garage (Amended Plans) – **no objection**

[24/08066/FUL – Owlets Barn Rockwell End Lane Rockwell End](#) – Householder application for construction of detached garage with first floor ancillary room – **no objection**

[25/05072/FUL – Eagles Crag Barn Spurgrove Lane Frieth](#) – Householder application for construction of single storey rear extension – **no objection**

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

[24/07289/FUL – Greyholme Spurgrove Lane Frieth](#) – Householder application for construction of external walls to infill existing garage outbuilding, fenestration and external alterations including insertion of window to front, 2 x dormer windows to side to create first floor living accommodation for use ancillary to main dwellinghouse – **Application Permitted**

[24/07866/CTREE – Cobblers Cottage Skirmett Road Skirmett](#) – Reduce crown roughly 4-5m x 1 Beech (T1), reduce crown roughly 3m x 1 Yew (T2), reduce crown roughly 3m x 1 Cherry (T3) and reduce crown roughly 1.5m x 1 Maple (T4) – **Split Tree Decision**

[24/07632/AGD – Mill End Farm Henley Road](#) – Application for approval of character and external appearance for construction of agricultural grain store granted under planning reference: 24/06012/PNP6A – **Details Approved**

[24/07104/FUL](#) & [24/07105/LBC](#) – Lace Cottage Frieth Hill Frieth – applications for installation of 4 x replacement windows to south west elevation and 2 x replacement windows to north east elevation (6 in total) – **Applications Refused**

[24/06253/FUL – Henley Business School Greenlands Henley Road Hambleden](#) – Installation of pontoon system, gate and fence – **Application Permitted**

[24/06616/FUL](#) & [24/06617/LBC](#) – Flint Hall Skirmett Road Hambleden – application for partial demolition of Flint Hall and construction of single storey extension on the eastern elevation of main dwelling, single storey front porch, 3 x front and 3 x rear dormer windows and internal remodelling of main dwelling. Demolition of existing garage, construction of replacement garage with attached kitchen/breakfast room and conversion of

existing Parlour and Dispersal Barn to create additional ancillary accommodation for Flint Hall (amended scheme to pp 19/07769/LBC) – **Applications Permitted**

[25/05008/CTREE – St Marys Church Hambleden Village Hambleden](#) – Reduce height by approx 2m at previous pruning points x 12 Yew – **Not to Make a Tree Preservation Order**

[25/05009/CTREE – St Marys Church Hambleden Village Hambleden](#) – Raise canopies by up to 1m above and away from Lych gate root, to reduce moss growth on roof tiles x 2 Holly – **Not to Make a Tree Preservation Order**

The Chairman brought forward agenda item 9.

Minute 10110

To consider maintenance and any other items for the fields at Ellery Rise

FVS attended to discuss maintenance at the field in Ellery Rise. They plan to lay hedges in a manner that matches the neighbouring field. Horses were placed in there over the winter, which did not need stock fencing and it is now in a healthier state. It was confirmed that the budget for the field is £2000 which will be transferred to the Village Society for them to use as they see fit, as per the Management Plan. Cllr Hussey will forward details of the Chilterns National Landscapes Farming in Protected Landscape grant funding. They also provided a schedule of responsibilities for various items in the village – Clerk to check some verge related queries, to be confirmed at the next meeting.

Action: Clerk

Minute 10111

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

- Minute 10097 – Clerk has on behalf of the PC joined the Open Spaces Society and asked for assistance with the unknown ownership of Pheasants Hill Common. The Case Officer has not yet been in touch.
- Minute 10098 – Clerk placed the “thank you” message on the website, social media and the Hambleden Valley magazine along with a link to a summary of the questionnaire results on the website.
- Minute 10101 – Clerk forwarded the precept demand to Buckinghamshire Council.
- Minute 10102.3 – The LAT confirmed that all the mentioned areas with poor drainage in the parish are with the Capital Drainage team for long term solutions.
- The car parking agreement for parking above the Dene in Hambleden has been renewed and signed.
- The yew trees in Hambleden churchyard have been tied back. The holly trees at the lychgate in Hambleden are awaiting a planning application decision and will be cut back before nesting bird season begins.
- The cleaning of the war memorial will take place in early February, following a successful patch test area.
- The churchyard footpaths are still to be measured.
- Clerk has organised for a reduction in the frequency of delivery and the amount of toilet rolls for the public toilet in Hambleden due to an excessive amount being held.
- Clerk has circulated information about the digital switchover of telephone lines.
- AED machines have been checked and reported to The Circle.
- Clerk has reported vehicles blocking a footpath in Frieth and fallen trees blocking a footpath.
- An order for gulley to be jetted has been placed for the corner of Fingest Lane.
- Elections are taking place in May; further information can be found at:
- [Buckinghamshire Council unitary and parish elections](#)
- Frieth CEC School have requested permission for cars to park on the Common Land outside the school in April for their annual Easter Egg hunt. All in agreement.
- Clerk has received a complaint about cones being placed on the highway in Frieth, she has referred them to Thames Valley Police.
- 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 10112

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

Clerk has attended:

- 20/01/25 – Clerks Meeting
- 22/01/25 – Digital Telephone Switchover webinar
- 28/01/25 – Scribe AI Webinar
- 31/01/25 – Elections Briefing

Any slides have been shared with Councillors.

Minute 10113**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 Working Group met today and have several initiatives underway, focusing on steps towards establishing a parish-wide wildlife corridor. Cllr Hussey has written to the Natural Environment Partnership and is awaiting a response. The Working Party is focusing currently on three key actions:

- Community Guidance: Cllr Hussey proposed creating a PDF document, "Give Nature a Helping Hand", to be published on the parish website. This resource will outline practical ways residents can support nature in their own gardens and be distributed to other parishes in the Chilterns.
- Family Engagement: an activity sheet will be developed for children to complete over the Easter holidays, helping to increase knowledge of local wildlife.
- Church Involvement: liaise with local churchwardens and the vicar to encourage participation in the God's Acre programme, which promotes biodiversity in churchyards.

Cllrs agreed for the Working Group to proceed.

Action: Climate Change Working Group

Minute 10114**To discuss Pheasants Hill Common; any maintenance needed; any response from the Open Spaces Society regarding ascertaining ownership; any update regarding outside bodies taking responsibility**

Clerk is waiting for information from the OSS. A case officer has been assigned but not yet been in touch.

Action: Clerk

Minute 10115**To discuss Buckinghamshire Council and their intention to erect bollards in Hambleden village**

All in agreement that the proposed bollards are unacceptable in the conservation area and Chilterns National Landscape, and unlikely to be agreed by the National Trust. Clerk to advise the LAT that the drain opposite the location is still sunken, and this possibly contributed to the incident.

Action: Clerk

Minute 10116**To consider the Frieth Village traffic concerns report from Buckinghamshire Council Network Safety Team (if available)**

The report is still unavailable. Cllr Hopkins continues to forward the results from Speedwatch to the Officer. Clerk to chase. A discussion was had about speeding in Frieth and the high cost and difficulty involved with reducing a speed limit.

Action: Clerk

Minute 10117**To consider installing self binding gravel at Frieth Village Hall in the parking spaces at a cost of £3700 +VAT; to consider pothole filling in the car park in front of Frieth CEC School**

All in agreement not to proceed with this quotation. Clerk to find alternative cheaper options. Filling in the potholes will be revisited when the weather improves.

Action: Clerk

Minute 10118**Finance:****a) to approve the accounts for February 2025**

The payments were approved and the accounts noted.

Accounts to be paid in February 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	257.04
Hambleden Valley Magazine subs	30.00
Staples – stamps	47.49
ET Sheppard – Hambleden War Memorial clean	1974.00
Hambleden Village Hall – hire	36.00
Vision ICT – website hosting and support	360.00
Buckland Landscapes – grass maintenance	1321.44
M Tuddenham - Hambleden toilet clean and open/close	120.00
Total	5748.24

Balance as 1st January 2025	73940.59
Less January payments	(6020.59)
Balance as of 31st January 2025	67920.00
Of which CIL Funds	6618.95
Church Wall reserve	20000.00
Other Earmarked reserves	3250.00
Hambleden Parking fund	912.39
Unrestricted Reserves	37138.66

Film Fund

Total of all funds at 1 st January 2025	19275.87
Total of all funds at 31st January 2025	19275.87

b) To nominate a Councillor to check and approve the bank reconciliation for November, December, and January

Cllr Ashcroft checked and approved the January bank reconciliation; an error was made in opening balance for November which carried through to the December reconciliation. Clerk will amend for March meeting.

Minute 10119

Members questions: including any items for the next agenda

- 1. **Cllr Hopkins** – was approached by a resident asking if village wide renewable energy source has ever been considered? She advised the resident to find out more details and return to the PC.
- 2. **Cllr Webb** – the war memorial is still to be repointed which is weather dependent.
- 3. Wild Church was held in Hambleden at the weekend, volunteers removed ivy from the church wall. The Parish Council thanks all those involved.
- The church paths in Hambleden churchyard will be measured by Cllrs Webb and Armstrong for the widening works to be put out for tender.
- She wondered if owl boxes could be placed in Hambleden churchyard.
- **Action:Clerk – Future Agenda Item**
- The noticeboard in Hambleden is looking very tired. Clerk said that ones in other villages are too.
Action:Clerk – Future Agenda Item

Minute 10120

To confirm the date for the next meeting as:

The date of the next meeting was confirmed as Monday 10th March – Frieth Village Hall.

The meeting was closed at 21.17.

Signed Date