



Minutes of an ordinary meeting of the Parish Council held on Thursday 16th January 2025, at 7.30pm at Hamstead Marshall Village Hall.

Those present at the meeting:

Councillor Anne Budd (Chairperson)
Councillor David Hadnutt
Councillor Steve Masters (Vice Chairperson)
Camilla West – Parish Clerk

8 members of the public attended.

1.0 Welcome and Apologies

The chairperson welcomed everyone to the meeting. There were apologies from District Councillors Denise Gains, Tony Vickers & Dennis Benneyworth

2.0 Parish Council Governance

- 2.1 No Declarations of members' interest were declared.
2.2 Minutes of the ordinary meeting held on 21st November 2024 were approved and signed.

Proposed by Councillor Masters and seconded by Councillor Hadnutt.

- 2.3 No Matters arising from the minutes were received.
2.4 **Parish Council Vacancy's** – Councillor Budd has been speaking to two people in the Parish about becoming a Parish Councillor. No candidates so far.
2.5 **Update on Village Hall PLI** – Mrs Susan Watts (Chairperson, Village Hall Committee) Verbatim

'I can confirm the Public Liability cover is in place for the use of the playground equipment. It is the responsibility of the village hall committee to ensure the safety of the playground equipment of the playground equipment for its use by members of the public, to mitigate any potential risk which could result in an accident occurring, giving rise to a potential claim against the hall. Regular risk assessments are completed and documented, and that any issues with the equipment are rectified as soon as possible and, before allowing further use of the equipment.'

'In answer to the Chairperson of Hamstead Marshall Parish Council's query, as to whether Hamstead Marshall Parish Council should be included as the holding the title on the building and the land of the village hall: as the building is covered under the village hall policy, and as stated the Village Hall Committee are responsible for the day-to-day running and maintenance of the hall, then, there is no reason the parish council would need to be named.'

Despite, the parish council owning the village hall building and the land, the insurable interest of the hall lies with the Village Hall Committee as being the ones with the responsibility of the running and maintenance of the hall.

Being run by the committee or not.

The policy for the Hamstead Marshall Village Hall provides insurances cover for any incidents/claims arising due to the negligence of the hall, where there is responsibility to ensure the premises are safe for the use in which they are intended, for the community. Prior to any events being held at the hall, whether being run by the committee or not, a full risk assessment will be recorded/documentated with any issues noted and rectified. Any incident/loss/claims as a result of the hirer's activities/actions should be picked up by their own Public Liability Insurance'.

The Chairperson if the Village Hall Committee confirmed they have become members of CEBAS which gives full support to village hall committees in general, provides a range of templates for correspondence, gives full advice to all Trustees, and offers training courses for all members.

The Parish Council Chairman commented that the village hall committee has done excellent work, and went on to further comment that The Honorary Treasurer of the village hall committee had undertaken a review of all the public liability requirements and must be commended for a sterling job'

2.6 Heavy Goods Vehicles through the Village - Councillor Masters has been in contact with Miles Roberts from West Berkshire Council about the two bridges of concern at Marsh Benham. He confirmed there was no weight limit on the bridges & confirmed that the southern bridge was inspected by WBC on 21/08/2024. The other bridge is owned by the Canal & River Trust and no inspection date has been confirmed. The northern bridge is Grade II Listed. Councillor Masters has been in contact with the Canal & River Trust & is waiting to hear from them.

Chris Moss said there were people inspecting the bridge on the 16/01/2025 but he did not know what for as he was driving past.

Councillor Budd indicated she was still concerned about drivers and pedestrians using that specific road and could recommend that the parish council approach West Berkshire Council about putting some extra signage up. Councillor Masters will follow up with WBC.

3.0 Planning

3.1 No new applications. Councillor Budd reported that Elm View's change of use from Agricultural to Horticultural has been approved.

4.0 Reports

4.1 No District Councillor Reports

4.2 Village Meeting 16th January – Councillor Budd thanked interested parishioners for attending the village meeting. The parish council has good

relationships with West Berkshire Council and SSEN. The Parish should take advantage of the Community Fund offered by SSEN. This will be reviewed. Councillor Budd said it was important the Home Emergency Plan should be given to all residents in the village with contact details of the Parish Councillors.

Chris Moss suggested that we should do a Parish Newsletter once or twice a year which could contain this information. John Handy added that WBC used to do a card with Emergency Contacts as well and should this be sent to residents.

5.0 Potholes

5.1 Councillor Budd reported that potholes are getting worse due to the weather and that it is important that Parishioners keep reporting them to WBC via the online system. Chris Moss reported that ditching had been done on Watery Lane.

6.0 Speedwatch in Hamstead Marshall

6.1 No speedwatch sessions have taken place due to the weather. Hoping to start again in February.

7.0 Budget & Precept 2024-2025

There has been a slight increase from last year £5,350 to £5,643.00. No comments were received. The increases are reflected in services charges, fees, and the clerk's salary.

Proposed – Councillor Masters Seconded – Councillor Hadnutt

8.0 Finance

8.1 HMPC Lloyds Treasurer account - £14,127.28 as of 6th January 2025
8.2 HMPC Lloyds Instant Access account - £3,856.61 as of 6th January 2025

9.0 Invoice and Payments

Payment's report. The following payments were approved.

28/11/2024	Mrs Camilla West	Clerk's Salary	£365.10
02/12/2024	Red 76 Tax	Payroll Services	£9.60
20/12/2024	Mrs Camilla West	Clerk's Salary	£357.00
20/12/2024	Mrs Anne Budd (Parish Councillor)	Disbursement for floral tribute	£65.00
30/12/2024	Red Tax Ltd	Payroll Services	£9.60

Proposed by the Councillor Hadnutt, and seconded by Councillor Masters

10.0 Close of meeting

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 8.41pm

The next meeting will be Thursday 20th March at 7.30pm at Hamstead Marshall Village Hall

At the close of the meeting, a parishioner asked if there was any help the Parish Council could give on the bus services through the village with West Berkshire Council as over the last few months due to road closures many of the buses have been diverted and then not gone through the village when people are expecting the busses. There have been no updates on texts either reporting route changes or cancellations. Councillor Masters asked for the parishioner to email him dates and times when the buses did not arrive, and he will take up further with West Berkshire Council.

Date:

Signed:

Print name: