



HAMSTEAD MARSHALL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of an ordinary meeting of the Parish Council held on Thursday 26th March 2026 at 7.30pm at Hamstead Marshall Village Hall.

Those present at the meeting:

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

1.0 Welcome and Apologies

1.1 The chairperson welcomed everyone to the meeting. There were apologies from District Councillors Dennis Benneyworth, Tony Vickers and Denise Gains, Mrs Susan Watts.

2.0 Parish Council Governance

2.1 No declarations of members interest declared

2.2 Minutes from meeting on the 15th, January, were approved and signed

Proposer: Councillor Masters Seconder: Councillor Moss

2.3 Minutes from Extraordinary meeting on 26th January 2026, were approved and signed

Proposer: Councillor Masters Seconder: Councillor Moss

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2.4 Matters arising from the Minutes

No matters arising

3.0 Planning

3.1 No active applications, currently

4.0 2025-2026 Year End Financial Report

4.1 Update by the Chairman and Parish Clerk

The funds of the parish council are healthy, and it was suggested to look at 'ring fencing' some of the funds for road signage. The Chairman and Parish Clerk have received notification from PFK Littlejohn, External Auditors regarding the 2025 – 2026 audit. The deadline for submission is June 30th, 2026. Work has already commenced in collating all the financial data required. The parish council's internal auditor will receive all the documentation by the end of April.

5.0 Parish Clerk Annual Appraisal

The Chairperson conducted the Parish Clerk's annual appraisal and indicated that their conversation was good. The Chairperson commented that the parish clerk, Mrs Camilla West, they had a good conversation, and she is always supportive of what the parish council and the councillors. Mrs West is always

available if help is needed.

The Chairperson recommended a £1/hr increase for the Clerk, backdated to January 2026, on the basis of continued good performance.

Proposed: Councillor Hadnutt

Seconded: Councillor Masters

6.0 Vehicular Accidents in the Village

- 6.1 The Chairperson has sent the email received from Mr Gareth Dowding, Principal Engineer, Traffic Road Safety, Environment, West Berkshire Council. The Chairperson commented that Thames Valley Police on this occasion, did not appear to communicate with West Berkshire Council over the road closing/opening on Park Lane following the vehicular fire. Councillor Moss said that there must have been some communication as there were 'road closed' signs up quickly after the fire but that possibly it was not communicated once the vehicle had been removed by Thames Valley Police. The Chairperson has written to Mr Gareth Dowding, Principal Engineer, West Berkshire Council requesting to be informed of any vehicle incidents in the village in future.

A parishioner commented that some time ago, when they had an incident at their property, the car stayed at their property for one week before they asked Thames Valley Police for it to be moved. It is probably more the system than the powers that police and West Berkshire Council have, as these authorities can remove vehicles anywhere. Although if the systems do not work then nothing happens. It was agreed by parish councillors that the Chairperson contact West Berkshire Council requesting clarity on the procedure of removing vehicles after incidents.

The Chairperson asked for comments on the video she had circulated to the parish councillors. Councillor Moss indicated that it was probably 'joy riders' and nothing can be done. Unfortunately, Hamstead Marshall has 'good roads' especially at the entry and exit points to the village, to drive on. The Chairperson asked if the video could be put on the parish council website? Councillor Moss agreed to investigate this. The Chairperson raised her concerns again, concerning the habitual speeding through the village, possibly endangering parishioners lives. There is no evidence that speeding drivers are residents from within the village.

7.0 Reports

7.1 District Councillor Reports

No reports

7.2 Parish Councillors Reports

Councillor Moss has checked the defibrillator and its battery power; it is functioning normally, even after the winter months.

Councillor Moss recommended that we purchase four electronic speed signs for the village; two for Ash tree Corner (east and west bound and two for Chapel

Corner (east and west bound). Having a sign at Chapel Corner has worked at reducing people's speed before the corner.

The signs will cost £4,500 + VAT for two signs. Councillor Moss suggested we put in a Members Bid (match funding) for the monies and also look at Community Grants from Greenham Common Trust. The Chairperson agreed that she and Councillor Moss to meet and prepare a project plan for this scheme. Further, she suggested that the draft plan will be circulated to parish councillors for their input and recommendations.

The Chairperson Budd has contacted the Red Cross for a General First Aid seminar and will collate a few dates for June- July. Once a date has been established, a notice on WhatsApp, village notice boards and the parish council website will be done to determine interest. The previous seminar was successful.

8.0 Finance

8.1 Status of HMPC Lloyds Bank Community Account of 16th March 2026
£11,371.61

8.3 Status of HMPC Lloyds Business Instant Account of 16th March 2026
£3,892.50

8.4 Accounts

23/01/2026	Mrs Camilla West	Parish Clerk's salary for the month of January 2026	£385.10	
30/01/2026	Lloyds Bank	Service charge for the month of January 2026	£4.25	
02/02/2026	Red Tax Ltd	Payroll Services for the month of January 2026	£12.00	
24/02/2026	Mrs Camilla West	Parish Clerk's salary for the month of February 2026	£377.00	
02/03/2026	Red Tax Ltd	Payroll Services for the month of February 2026	£12.00	
02/03/2026	Lloyds Bank	Service charge for the month of February 2026	£4.25	
16/03/2026	Mrs Camilla West	Parish Clerk's salary for the month of March, 2026	£377.00	
16/03/2026	Red Tax Ltd	Payroll Services for the month of March, 2026	£12.00	

Proposer: Councillor Masters **Seconded:** Councillor Hadnutt

10.0 Close of meeting

One parishioner attended.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 8.02pm

The Annual Parish Assembly will take place on Thursday, May 21st, 2026, at 7:00pm in the village hall. The ordinary meeting of the parish council will immediately follow on from the Parish Assembly.

Date:

Signed:

Print name:

