



HAMSTEAD MARSHALL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of an ordinary meeting of the Parish Council held on Thursday 28th May 2026 at 7.30pm at Hamstead Marshall Village Hall.

Those present at the meeting:

Councillor Anne Budd
Councillor Steve Masters
Councillor David Hadnutt
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 and Susan Watts.

2.0 Election of Hamstead Marshall Parish Council Chairman

2.1 Councillor Anne Budd polled all parish councillors if they wished to be nominated as Chairman of the Parish Council. Parish councillors declined to take on the role. Councillor Budd indicated she would be willing to accept the Chairmanship for 2026 – 2027. Councillor Masters thanked Councillor Budd for all her hard work and commitment to the parish council as Chairman last year and proposed her for re-election for the forthcoming year. Councillor Budd accepted the nomination and was declared Chairperson. Acceptance of office was duly signed by Councillor Budd and the Parish Clerk.

Proposed: Councillor Masters Seconded: Councillor Hadnutt

3.0 Election of Vice Chairperson

Chairperson Anne Budd indicated that having a Vice Chairman of the Parish Council is needed. Councillor Masters proposed Councillor Moss as Vice Chairman for the forthcoming year. Councillor Moss accepted the nomination and was declared Vice Chairman. Acceptance of office was duly signed by Councillor Moss and the Parish Clerk.

4.0 Parish Council Governance

4.1 No declarations of Members interest

4.2 Minutes from meeting on 26th March 2026, were approved and signed

Proposed: Councillor Masters Seconded – Councillor Hadnutt

5.0 2025-2026 Year End Financial Report

5.1 The Chairman reported that the Internal Auditor had completed the audit and the Chairperson requested that the Parish Clerk read out the Auditor's report as follows:

'I am satisfied that the Parish Council has put in place, safe and efficient arrangements and maintains robust controls on payment as an integrated part of the overall financial control system. I am pleased to report that no matter has come to my attention that requires further investigation and report to the parish council or, that gives me reasonable cause to believe that the requirements for adequate control and monitoring as outlined in the regulations have not been met. In addition, there are no matters that have come to my attention, concerning the effectiveness of the system of internal control, to which members; attention should be drawn.

In conclusion, I consider that within the Parish Council, the management of processes by the Clerk and Councillors continues to be well controlled and monitored'. Judith Self, Internal Auditor, May 21st, 2026

The Chairperson requested that the item on the closure of St Mary's church be brought forward from item 7.0 'Parish Councillors Report' to this part of the agenda.

Proposed: Chris Moss

Seconded: David Hadnutt

The Chairperson introduced Mr Stevenson and Mr Bates and welcomed them to the meeting.

Mr John Stevenson and Mr Martin Bates gave an updated presentation to the parish council and the attending parishioners, that the Church of England looks favourably with the vesting of St Mary's Church to the Church Conservation Trust. There have been two objections to the scheme and comments were made that perhaps the objectors (names withheld) had misunderstood the state of the church and what the Conservation Trust is prepared to conserve and preserve. Without the vesting, it is possible the church could fall into disrepair. Concerns were raised concerning what would be the implications on the vesting process. Mr Stevenson indicated that the process could be delayed and possibly hinder any funds being released. An important deadline has been missed. Both Mr Stevenson and Mr Bates requested that parishioners should send letters of their support to the Church of England for the vesting process to be successful.

The Chairperson suggested that a Parish Council Notice be written, notifying parishioners of the proposed vesting. A parishioner enquired if the notice could be put on the parish council website? The Chairperson indicated in the affirmative.

The parish council thanked Mr Stevenson, Mr Bates and parishioners for attending the meeting.

6.0 Planning

6.1 26/0080/COND – Fishery Cottage

Approval of details reserved by Condition 4. Tree Protection of planning permission pertaining to 25/00812/FULMAJ

6.2 26/00881/COND – Fishery Cottage

Approval of details reserved by Condition 6 LEMP (Landscape and Ecological Management Plan) pertaining to planning permission (2500812/FULMAJ) Demolition of a fishpond

7.0 Reports

7.1 District Councillor Reports

None

7.0 Parish Councillors Reports

7.1 Vesting of St Mary's church (please refer to page two of these minutes).

7.2 The Chairman reported that the last first aid course run by the Red Cross was a success, so another will be organised. Councillor Budd will contact Red Cross Training for some dates.

7.3 Speeding – Councillor Moss reported that initially, the average speed of people driving through the village was 50-60mph, however the sign has been a success at getting drivers to slow down before Chapel Corner. Parishioners present agreed that vehicles

were slowing down before the 'pinch point' in the village by Chapel Corner. A parishioner suggested that a chicane could be installed to prevent speeding. The Chairperson commented that this had been investigated previously. However, West Berkshire Council's regulations insist that a chicane would have to have lights. The narrowing of Enborne road approaching from the easterly direction is a cause for concerns by the parish council.

8.0 Members Bids for 2026/2027

A submission has been sent to West Berkshire Council for an electronic signage to be installed at Ash Tree Corner.

9.0 MP Surgery in Hamstead Marshall

The Chairman suggested that it would be good to get the local MP to come to talk to Parishioners about the future of rural communities. The Chairperson will write to the MP to inviting him to a meeting at the village hall.

Councillor Masters also said that with the big shake up of the planning system where senior planning officers have greater decision-making powers over planning committees. It would be interesting to ask the salient questions to the MP.

10.0 Finance

10.1 Receipt of funds from West Berkshire Council for the half yearly Precept, in the amount of **£2,821.50** into the Community Account.

10.2 Status of HMPC Lloyds Bank Community Account of 18th May 2026 **£14,360.39**

10.3 Status of HMPC Lloyds Business Instant Account of 18th May 2026 **£3,895.86**

10.4 Accounts

30/03/2026	Lloyds Bank	Service Charge for March 2026	£4.25
21/04/2026	Mrs Camilla West	Clerk's salary for April 2026, including pay rise	£459.70
23/04/2026	HMRC	Addition of NIC for parish clerks earnings	£3.45
28/04/2026	Lloyds Bank	Service Charge for April 2026	£4.25
01/05/2026	Red Tax Ltd	Payroll services for April	£12.00
05/05/2026	HALC	Annual fee 2026/2027	£69.95
14/05/2026	Zurich Insurance	Public Liability Insurance Cover for 2026/2027	£279.42

Proposed: Councillor Masters

Seconded: Councillor Hadnutt

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 8.26pm
Ten parishioners attended.

Date:

Signed:

Print Name: