



HAMSTEAD MARSHALL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of an ordinary meeting of the Parish Council held on Thursday 17th September 2026 at 7.30pm at Hamstead Marshall Village Hall.

Those present at the meeting:

Councillor Anne Budd (Chairperson)
Councillor Chris Moss (Vice Chairperson)
Councillor Steve Masters
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 and Denise Gains and Parish Councillor David Hadnutt.

2.0 Parish Governance

- 2.1 Declarations of interest – None

- 2.2 Minutes from meeting on 16th July 2026, were approved and signed

Proposed: Councillor Moss Seconded: Councillor Masters

- 2.3 **Matters Arising not included in the agenda**

None

3.0 Planning

- 3.1 **26/01835/FUL – White Hart Inn** – Section 73 application to vary conditions 2 approved plans of Planning Permission 24/00582/FUL

Decision: No Objection.

Proposed: Councillor Masters

Seconded: Councillor Moss

4.0 **Members Bids 2026-2027 for discussion and decision SID – Speed indicator Device**

The Chairperson requested Councillor Moss to provide an update and based on his research of this matter, to provide the outcome of his findings, and to give an opinion. Councillor Moss commented that speeding through Hamstead Marshall continues to be a very clear problem. From previous evidence collected when the parish council was part of the Thames Valley Police Speedwatch programme, the village is used as a 'high-speed shortcut' between Newbury and Hungerford. Councillor Moss had circulated a draft discussion paper previously and provided a copy to Councillor Vickers who was in attendance.

It transpires that Hamstead Marshall Parish Council, although being allocated funds via the Members Bids 2026 – 2027 process, the SID signs which the parish council prefers are identified by West Berkshire Council's Traffic department as mobile devices. Consequently, these signs have to be moved every two weeks, according to the policies of West Berkshire Council. The reality is that it would be impossible for a small Parish to do that.

Councillor Moss commented that other Local Authorities in England are using SIDs, and in some counties the vast majority are permanent placements. West Berkshire Council has a ten-year contractual arrangement with a company who supplies static RT-MSID VAS/SID signs. The chairperson indicated it was counterintuitive to have only one road-sign when speeding vehicles have been logged from east to west and vis-versa, hence the parish council requirement for two signs to deter non-compliant speeding drivers.

Councillor Vickers suggested emailing West Berkshire Council requesting a face-to-face conversation. The Chairman indicated that the parish council consider two propositions, as follows:

Proposition 1

It was the decision to respectfully decline the invitation to install RT--MSID on the following grounds:

This device priced at £6,155 is very expensive and consequently, to make any positive difference in reducing speeding vehicular traffic, would require a minimum of two devices; this solution is beyond the financial circumstances of the parish council;

At Ash Tree Corner, Hamstead Marshall, there is a confluence of north, south, east and west traffic flows; having only one device would not meet the needs of protecting road safety measures for the parish and its parishioners.

Proposed: Councillor Moss

Seconded: Councillor Masters

Proposition 2

Following the decision above, the parish council wish to propose entering into discussion with West Berkshire Council's Senior Lead Officer of the Road Safety Team and Councillor Steve Gorley Portfolio Holder for Highways. To explore permanent signage options, and therefore, request a face-to-face meeting with the Road Safety Team including District Councillors, Gorley, Gaines, Vickers and Bennyworth.

Proposed: Councillor Masters

Seconded: Councillor Moss

5.0 Hamstead Marshall Village Hall

5.1 2026-2027 Annual Subscription for discussion.

The Chairperson recommended a donation of £160.00, as per the donation for 2025 – 2026.

Proposed: Councillor Masters

Seconded: Councillor Moss

6.0 Craven Arms, Enborne

6.1 The Chairperson reported that on the evening of August 22 2026, Craven Fest she had received two telephone calls from Parishioners at 9:00pm who were concerned about the loud music coming from 'Craven Fest' event. The Chairman commented that she too could hear the music from her home. The chairperson contacted the owner of the Craven Arms by messaging and requested that the live music be lessened. The music ceased at 10:15pm.

The Chairperson was contacted by the owner of the Craven Arms and suggested an impromptu meeting which took place August 28, 2026. The owner of the Craven Arms explained that no rules were broken and further, all requirements of the licensing regulations were met. Councillor Moss commented that parishioners need to support local rural pubs if they are to thrive and be an essential part of our community.

7.0 Dog Fouling

7.1 The Chairperson had received some complaints from parishioners that some dog walkers are not picking up when their dog defecates. The Chairperson contacted the West Berkshire Council Dog Warden to seek advice. In addition, the Chairperson had requested quotes for dog bins which ranged between £150.00 - £400.00. The Chairperson reminded councillors that there would be a charge to the parish council for emptying of bins.

It was all agreed that the parish council would not be purchasing a bin as parishioners should not be penalised for irresponsible dog owners who will not pick up their dog's messes.

Councillor Moss provided several signs, which he recommended could be put up around the village.

8.0 HMPC Emergency Plan Update for 2026 – 2027

- 8.1 The Chairperson enquired whether any new items should be added to the plan, commenting that the recent fires caused by the excessive heat during the summer should be added. Councillor Masters proposed asking the fire service for some advice on the procedures, should there be fires of properties and grass/field fires. The Chairperson reminded colleagues that no one should put themselves in harm's way in any such circumstances.

District Councillor Tony Vickers said that WBC was waiting for a briefing from Government following the heatwave and any recommendations they should follow.

9.0 Thames Vally Police Community Engagement with Hamstead Marshall

The Chairperson suggested that the parish council would like to organise a community morning for Thames Valley Police to meet parishioners.

It was agreed that this would be a good initiative and the Chairperson would liaise with the Thames Valley Police, Hungerford Downland team.

10.0 Number 3 Bus

The Chairperson commented that District Councillor Denise Gaines has made an intervention where the parish council is notified of any service disruption.

11.0 District Councillors and Parish Councillors Report

- 11.1 District Councillor Tony Vickers reported that the creation of Ridgeway Council was now on hold due to the Government instruction. A final decision by the Government will hopefully be made in October as to the next stage.

Planning permission for Benchmark is continuing, the location is not ideal even though it is on the A4. Long Copse Farm planning application is going before the Western Area Planning Committee. The Chairperson indicated that she requested some time ago, that she be allowed to speak at the meeting. As soon as the parish council is notified of the date, a follow up request will be made via District Councillor, Denise Gaines.

- 11.2 Councillor Moss confirmed that 'WordPress' emails for HMPC are free for the first three month, thereafter a charge of £207.90 per annum. This facility would enable parish councillors to have council emails. In addition, the website costs are £132 + VAT. There is a possibility to upgrade to a to a higher premium which would allow a backup for the website. It was agreed to change the account name to Hamstead Marshall Parish Council and all charges to be wholly funded by the parish council.

- 11.3 **Parish Conference** – For noting, October 13th at 18:30 WBC offices

12.0 Finance

- 12.1 Status of HMPC Lloyds Bank Treasurer (Community) Account of September 4, 2026,
£11,025.00

Status of HMPC Lloyds Business Instant Account of September 4, 2026
£3,895.86

13.0 Accounts

27/07/2026	Mrs Camilla West	Parish Clerk salary for the month of July, 2026	£399.70
28/07/2026	Lloyds Bank Ltd	Service Charge on Community account for the month of July, 2026	£4.25
19/08/2026	Red Tax Ltd	Payroll Service charge for the month of July, 2026	£12.00
27/08/2026	Mrs Camilla West	Parish Clerk Salary for the month of August, 2026	£397.00
28/08/2026	Lloyds Bank Ltd	Service Charge on Community account for the month of August, 2026	£4.45
01/09/2026	Red Tax Ltd	Payroll Service charge for the month of August, 2026	£12.00
03/09/2026	Red Cross Training	First Aid training scheduled for September 28, 2026, pre-approved by parish councillors 02/09/2026	£420.00

Proposed: Councillor Masters

Seconded: Councillor Moss

14.0 There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 9:03pm

No parishioners attended.

The next meeting will be Thursday, November 19th, 2026, at the village hall, Hamstead Marshall. Members of the public and Press are welcome

Date:

Signed:

Print name: