



MINUTES OF HIGH HAM PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD AT HIGH HAM VILLAGE HALL
ON TUESDAY 22nd NOVEMBER 2022 at 7.30pm

Present: Dave Vigar (Chairman), Amanda Chuter, Catherine Roberts, Nick Fear, Nancy Green, Rob Webb, V Young (Clerk).

County Councillors: Apologies were received from Mike Stanton and Richard Wilkins

District Councillor: Gerard Tucker

Pubic approx: 4

Meeting opened at 7.30pm.

1) Apologies & declarations of interest:- County Councillor apologies noted above. There were no declarations of interest on the agenda items.

2)Public Session: A Low Ham parishioner had been asking about the piping of an entire ditch. It was noted that this was not work the Parish Council undertook. Parishioners had riparian responsibilities for ditches on their properties. Other flooding issues were noted and would be reported onwards as appropriate.

3) Parish Council Vacancy/Co-option - The post had been publicly advertised and Robert Rice was in attendance at the meeting with an interest to be co-opted onto the Parish Council. No other volunteers had come forward. It was agreed that he should sit in as audience at this meeting to pick up on current issues with the view to being formally co-opted onto the Council at the next meeting.

4)Planning applications for consideration

A) Ref. No: 22/03039/LBC King Moor House Beer Road Aller Langport Somerset TA10 0QX - Change of use of 2 no. annexes to mixed residential annexe use and holiday lets

B) Ref. No: 22/01807/COU King Moor House Beer Road High Ham Langport Somerset TA10 0QX-Change of use of 2 no. annexes to mixed residential annexe use and holiday lets - The two applications were considered together as the content and the work was exactly the same but one was for the Listed Building Consent and one for the actual changes. The Parish Council raised no objections (unanimous), but confirmed that they would like conditions put on to tie the application to the main residence and additionally request that a set of house rules be included as part of the planning conditions to ensure matters such as lighting and noise would not be a disturbance to the neighbours. Discrete lighting and maintaining access to the agricultural rights of way were concerns to be noted.

5) Planning applications decided.

22/02365/FUL Land Opposite Keepers Cottage Church View Low Ham Langport - Change of use to private equestrian and construction of a timber stable block and area of turnout, partially retrospective. - Granted

6) Approval of Previous minutes.

The minutes of 25th October 2022 were approved as a true record.

7) County/District Councillor reports – The County Councillors written report for the month had been forwarded to the councillors. Gerard Tucker updated the meeting with regards to District Council matters. It was noted that next year's precept would come from the County Council rather than the District Council. There was some discussion as to how the hand over/change over might work between the current system and becoming a unitary council. It was thought that planning services would still be dealt with in the same area system.



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8) Ongoing Action Points and Updates.

Phone box booths & Defibrillators - Ongoing. Karen Cooke had volunteered to oversee the stocking of the Low Ham box.

Future Work at Cemetery and Green –ongoing. Mr Powell volunteered to check a section of guttering to see if it was re-usable. Matters considering reservations of plots was to go on a future agenda.

Lynch gate roof- Ongoing.

Millennium Wood-see lengthsman report. Volunteers Roger Powell and Nick Fear were thanked for their work.

Lengthsman: On 14th November, volunteers Nick, Roger, Dave and Amanda worked with Co-Lengthsman Rachael Howe to clear bullrushes that were occupying most of the pond. All the rushes that were removed were left on the banks to allow wildlife to return to the water. Craig has continued the planned programme of removing dead, diseased and overcrowded trees. In December, Simon Grinrod will, with help from Craig, be planting the native trees to the value of £1000. The trees will be monitored and watered if necessary.

Craig H has repaired swing in Playing Field

Rachael H has cleared banks of bramble in MW - remaining vole bramble left as wildlife habitat.

Highways/ Footpaths – Noted that the temporary barrier on Nythe Road where the road had collapsed was now back in place. The long term plans for the road repair were to be ascertained. Some concerns regarding footpaths had been reported directly to the County Council. The strimmer was booked in for servicing.

With regard to highways a notice of how to report blocked drains directly to the County Council would be put on the website.

Noted that a further parishioner had reported an issue with a stile. This matter was being dealt with by the County Council.

Refurbishment of Noticeboards – To resume in better weather.

Any other – Playing Fields – some fencing quotes were discussed with reference to the need for replacing fencing. Quotes had been sought and the favoured quote was approximately £1280 inclusive of any VAT.

It may be necessary for the committee to continue work between the Parish Council meeting. It was therefore authorised that the Parish Council accept this quote (proposed – Nancy Green, seconded – Amanda Chuter and carried unanimously. It was unanimously agreed to accept a hedge trimming that had been offered for the Millennium Wood and the Playing Field, where the playing field would be trimmed for free as a community service by the contractor.

Local Community Networks – half hour fortnightly meetings were continuing with regard to unitary change over and the role of LCNs. No definite information was yet forthcoming. It was not known how this would affect the precept or the level of services provided.

Carols around the Tree – discussed. Unanimously agreed an amount up to £300 should additional lights be required. Dave Vigar would also look at a different supplier for the tree if required. Agreed that funds raised this year would go to the Air Ambulance.

9) Correspondence/Courses attended

It was noted that the SALC courses had been useful and well received by the councillors attending.

10) Financial

Bank Signatories – The update form was unanimously authorised to include all councillors who wished to be signatories. Signatories would be Dave Vigar, Amanda Chuter, Catherine Roberts, Nancy Green, Nick Fear, Vicky Young once the forms were complete. The clerk was not a cheque signatory but was included as this enabled the online banking.

A meeting of the finance group was to be arranged for December/January to set the precept.

The following payments were authorised



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Lengthsman - £853.13

Clerk's wages revised nalc rate new scp 15 - £437.13

Playing Fields quotes fencing- as above

Village Hall Hire 4/10/22 - £20.00

Somerset Landscapes - £66.13 (1 x cut October)

11) Summary of meetings attended , any other business and Date of next meetings

SALC training meetings 3 places had been attended (2 on responding to planning applications and one on roles and responsibilities) and a climate-change rewilding meeting had been attended which had been on the subject of the carbon tax debate.

With no other business to discuss the meeting was closed at 9.50pm