



MINUTES OF HIGH HAM PARISH COUNCIL MEETING  
HELD ONLINE (UNDER EMERGENCY COVID 19 REGULATIONS)  
ON TUESDAY 24<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2020 at 7.00pm

Present: Dave Vigar (Chairman), Amanda Chuter, Chris Palmer, Rob Webb, Andrew Davidson, John Vigar  
Gerard Tucker (District Councillor), Clare Paul (County Councillor) V Young (Clerk).

Public approx: 8

Meeting opened at 7.05pm.

**1) Apologies & declarations of interest:-** Paul Brunsdon apologies were accepted. Declaration of interest received from John Vigar re 3a due to a grass keep arrangement in the vicinity.

**2. Approval of Previous minutes.**

Both the minutes of 25<sup>th</sup> February and 25<sup>th</sup> August were taken as a true record and unanimously approved that the Chair sign these when the council meet again in person.

**3. Planning applications for consideration**

**3a) 20/02278/OUT Land south of Poole Farm Long Street High Ham Outline application with all matters reserved apart from access, layout and scale for six dwellings and formation of new access.**

Before the meeting proceeded the Chairman informed the meeting how this was to be discussed as a precautionary measure to ensure that the meeting could proceed in an orderly and democratic manner.

The Parish Council listened to the speakers and the view points presented. In conclusion and inline with thoughts on other nearby similar applications the Parish Council voted unanimously to object to the application. (John Vigar abstained from leading any conversation on the issue and from the vote).

The Parish Council comments were to note that it had similarities with the Morganside application and that it was overdevelopment, loss of agricultural land without a proven local need. SSDC now had a 6 year land supply so the information that it should go ahead due to the shortfall in the 5 year land supply was not applicable. There was considerable drainage concerns where the drains and soak aways run under a neighbours house and out on their boundary or into their garden when the drains overload without the additional stress of this extra number of houses. It was also felt that the street scape was wrong, it was far too urban and overdeveloped. The reduced market price house was felt to be a red-herring as it still was not affordable. There were environmental concerns as well which would be detailed in the comments to the planning authority.

**b) 20/03094/HOU Kirk Hill High Street High Ham The erection of a first floor extension over existing garage, the erection a two storey side and rear extension and a front entrance porch**

There was no objection in principle to extension works being undertaken, however the Council were unanimous in their objections to this particular proposal. It was felt that it was particularly overbearing on certain neighbouring properties to the point that it would lead to light deprivation to Hamrood. It was felt that the extension could be built far more sympathetically if it were on the other side of the house.

**4) Planning applications decided.**

Details had been communicated between councillors in the interim and the details were available on the district council website. Since March there had been 20 applications. 13 approved, one withdrawn and re-submitted and 6 still outstanding (including the agricultural notices which the Parish Council are not consulted on).

It was noted with much relief that the appeal for Morganside had been turned down and that the planning inspector had agreed with the view held by the Parish regarding the detriment to the countryside and heritage assets.

**5) County/District Councillor reports**

Clare Paul gave a brief update regarding Somerset County Council issues, which had been dominated by Covid 19. The Climate Emergency Strategy had been passed by both the District Council and the County Council.

The Climate Emergency Grant would open again for grant applications on 1 December.



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**6) Matters for consideration and Items for Discussion.**

SIDS – (Speed Indicator Devices)

These had now been up and running successfully for 3 months. When located near Hamdown, it was reported that the traffic was slowing but still the majority of traffic was over 40 mph. 2 more brackets had been ordered so that it could be resited within the Parish.

The HGV route through the parish was discussed. It was felt that there was a more reasonable route which would help prevent lorries in both directions using the same section of road when there was no need to. Unanimously agreed that the Chairman write to various relevant authorities with the view to asking for the route to be reviewed.

BT Phone boxes – These had now been purchased. Parish council were covered for public liability but the insurance company were to be informed of revised asset register and confirm that we were adequately insured

Bollards – The Green and St Andrew's Close – It was unanimously agreed to replace the damaged bollard on the green with two. Reflectors on bollards were also to be replaced.

St Andrews Close – bollards- Currently cars consistently park on the walkway and block not only the pavement/pedestrian right of way but also block the visibility splay for traffic. This together with cars parked across the road made it very dangerous. An idea to apply for bollards was aired, but there were concerns as to where the parking would displace. Yarlinton to be written to again with photographs of the problem.

Parking at the School – This ongoing issue was again discussed. Some suggestions were made and contact was to be made with the school to see how viable these options might be. The presence of the PCSO to the site was to be suggested. The wig wag flashing signs were up and running and making some difference.

Churchyard Maintenance – This was discussed. The berries would be swept off the path and the health of a few of the trees causing concern was to be checked. Roger Powell was thanked for his offer to power wash the path if needed. There had also been an email regarding the cemetery which was thought to be questioning who was responsible for maintaining the grave. The clerk would reply accordingly.

Christmas tree/carols around the tree. - The arrangements were not to be confirmed until it was clearer with the ever changing covid situation as to whether this could go ahead. Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> December was to be the date at 4pm should this be able to go ahead. With a bring your own torch etc.

**7) Correspondence and Items of report.**

Parish Council resume- of main tasks since last meeting

1. Once Government COVID advice was published, the PC posted flyers on noticeboards, the Community website, HH Facebook. During the first Lockdown, notices were displayed at entrances to the Playing Field regarding use of the equipment, and play equipment was taped off.

2. Following unusual helicopter movements 3rd, 7th and 8th July, the PC received concerns from 21 residents who had experienced repeated low level flights over their homes between midnight and 2am. The PC reported the concerns to Yeovilton Public Relations Officer, and to the organisation responsible for the management of The Langport Firing Ranges and Dry Training Area. A meeting was held in High Ham with Robert Braydon, Yeovilton Press Officer and Lt Cdr Lee Kennington - Air Department, Yeovilton. They explained the cause of the unusual disruption, and that they will improve communications between the various users of the ranges and our community, and adopt a variation of flight path approaches in order to spread future potential impacts across the community. No similar disruption has been experienced since.

3. Nick Fear took on the role of Volunteer Parish Footpath Strimmer, taking over from Tony Whitford. Nick has the necessary training and experience, and has SCC Strimming equipment. The most-used footpaths have been strimmed - all reported on Footpaths page of Community website, and HH Facebook.



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4. Lengthsman Craig Howe, continued vegetation clearance in MW, Cemetery, verges, splays etc. Cemetery fencing along main road cleared of bramble, scrub growth. Remaining boundary fence to be cleared later.

5. 3 BT boxes adopted by PC - cost £3

Lengthsman Report Oct-Nov'20

1. MW/Cemetery: final grass cut of the year completed
2. The Green: trees pollarded by Craig Howe and 2 assistants. Due to a delay in the power shutdown, 2 trees on the boundary of the Old Rectory will be pollarded February half-term. Planning App for tree work in Conservation Area has been applied for. Power shut-down by Western Electric, will be applied for.
3. Playing Field: fence repairs in the play area/car park/bmx track.
4. Various locations in parish: drainage work - clearing grids and grips

Millennium Wood

1. Last grass cut completed.

Future work to include:

Tree thinning, crown lifting, coppicing of hazel trees  
Removal of invasive Parrot Feather Weed

Rob Webb highlighted the upcoming events planned in a covid secure manner by the village hall committee. A grant had been received for the covid disruption.

Playing Fields – reported that matters were still ongoing re pavilion. There had been a quote for work to the zip wire which had been accepted .

Other – A new resident had written in regarding traffic and the speed of traffic on Picts Hill. Dave Vigar would reply. Correspondence relating to planning department issues was raised.

The Finance Committee all agreed to meet short notice, online at some point with regard to putting forward a recommended budget for the next financial year.

Risk assessments or council volunteers that had been sent in template form from the insurance company regarding bt box volunteers was to be discussed at a future meeting.

An informal Christmas light 'switch-on' was to be suggested for those keen to put up outside Christmas lights.

It was unanimously agreed that with much more 'climate' and 'environmental' issues which were now feeding through to the Parish Council to have some input on that Robert Webb would act as the guiding councillor in those matters.

The Mortons Lane caravans had arrived and been reported to planners and also on a piece of land on the border with Pitney. John Vigar to look and see if it was to do with seasonal workers.

Another caravan/mobile home had been put in at the bottom of Stout Hill and one at Furlong Farm.

It was agreed that all should be reported to confirm if they needed planning permission. It was thought that there was covid related reasoning to some/all. The clerk confirmed that clearer details would be required as current details were inadequate to report these issues should the council wish to do so.

**8) Financial**



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The following payments were authorised

Clerk wages (gross) and expenses – £330.54

Parish Lengthsman - £511.88

D Vigar – RBL Wreath and SID padlock – 57.20 (£30 wreath)

SSDC Premises Licence - £70.00

Westcotec – SID brackets - £129.00

O Howley – Millennium Wood hedge trimming - £228.00

PKF –Audit - £240.00

Play UK Ltd (playground zip wire maintenance) - £102.00

Date of next meeting: December 15<sup>th</sup> 7.30pm online

Meeting closed at 9.50pm