



MINUTES OF HIGH HAM PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD AT HIGH HAM VILLAGE HALL
ON TUESDAY 24th September 2024 7.30pm

Present: Dave Vigar (Chairman), Nick Fear, Nancy Green, Rob Webb, Rob Rice, Rob Webb. V Young (Clerk).

Unitary Councillors: Richard Wilkins

Public approx: 5

Meeting opened at 7.30pm.

1) Apologies and declarations of interest Apologies were received and accepted from Amanda Chuter and Catherine Roberts. County Councillor Mike Stanton had sent apologies. There were no declarations of interest on the agenda items.

2) Public Session: The 'stone' in the Church carpark would shortly be re-secured. The National Trust had informed Amanda Chuter that the section of wall which belonged to them with which there was an issue would be sorted out by the end of the year. Three village plaques required some work that Jeff Webb had agreed to do. The Church flower arrangers had asked if they could have a small compost area in the churchyard. Everyone was in agreement that this was OK.

3) Planning applications for consideration

A) 24/01673/S73 - Proposal: S73 application to vary condition 2 (approved plans) to allow changes to fenestration and orientation and material of the roof. In relation to planning approval 23/00531/HOU for Erection of a link extension between bungalow & garage, part conversion of existing garage to provide additional bedroom in the roof space, relocation of existing site access with parking and turning area Location: The Dairy Henley Road High Ham Langport Somerset TA10 9BG Application Type : Section 73 Determination – The application to raise no objections was unanimous as it was thought that this was more practical use of the space.

B) 24/01802/FUL - Proposal: Demolition of three storage sheds for the erection of a new veterinary practice 10m x 4m modular pod on site at Rushton Dog Rescue. Location: Rushton Dog Rescue Freedom Farm West Henley Road High Ham Langport Somerset Application Type : Full Application – There was much discussion as it wasn't clear as to how the waste drain-off etc was treated. The statements indicated it connected to a main sewer. It was thought that there was not a main sewer in that part of Henley. After discussion of this and other details it was voted to unanimously support the application but only if it was clear that the sewage issue was sorted out and that it was proven that issues with clinical waste and veterinary washes etc were being disposed of correctly.

4) Planning applications decided

23/02875/LBC – Wheelrights - Approved

20/01027/FUL – Long Street Farm – conversion of a barn – Permitted with conditions concerning bats.

24/01920/NMA – Bat room to above – did not require permission

24/00834/S73 Land North of 4 Chimneys to vary conditions of previous application – Permitted

23/03485/FUL – Lower Broadacre Farm – Granted with conditions



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5) Councillor Reports – Richard Wilkins reported that this financial year was an underspend on the previous year but that there was still likely to be an overspend on the budget. Fostering and childrens social care was proving to be particularly difficult to budget for. Route 1 advocacy was also mentioned. There was some discussion on whether Somerset Council was a good example for other Councils in similar situations to follow since it had still had to cut services and make redundancies etc. However, it was thought that by the actions it was taking now, would save it from greater and more severe cuts later on.

6) Approval of Previous minutes.

The minutes of the meeting held on 23rd July 2024 were approved as a true record with minor amendment only.

7) Ongoing Action Points and Updates.

Lengthsman: Since Start of August, we have been continuing with the grass cutting in the Cemetery and in Millennium Wood, as well as cutting back visibility splays and around signs throughout the parish. We have been trimming back encroaching vegetation in MW, including bramble and hedges. We are also in the process of conducting a tree survey in the Cemetery to determine what tree works are needed there.

Highways/ Footpaths

Highways – The signpost advertising businesses that was on the highway had been subject to vandalism. The signs were still there and the Unitary Councillor was asked to chase the matter up.

Footpaths – The footpath strimming project continued. Nick and Harry were thanked for the work they did to keep the footpaths clear.

Millennium Wood – Per lengthsman report.

Parish Green – No new matters arising

Playing Fields - On 12th October there would be a working party to work on some of the trees around the edge of the field and also to work on some of the feedback from the play inspection report.

Refurbishment of Noticeboards – continuing. There was a small problem with the back at the one at Henley leaking. The board for the cemetery was still to be placed. Rob Rice and Nancy to liaise re precise location.

Cemetery – Per lengthsman report. There had been another internment. The grass was due to be cut again soon.

CIL Funds – Discussed- Confirmed that the playing field would be requesting CIL funds for an imminent purchase of some capital equipment.

Audit – The external audit for the year was complete. The comparative figures in next year's return would need to be adjusted for some cheques which should have been written off but appeared as outstanding. This was a minor adjustment only.

Any other – inc School/Village Hall/ Website/Defibrillator – It was agreed to purchase new defibrillator pads for the defibrillator in High Ham where the pads time expired at the end of October.

The Village Hall committee were thanked for hosting a very successful produce show. A quiz night was being arranged. School – Building work had been completed over the summer holiday. The car parking was a perennial issue. Nick Fear would mention concerns and information about the parking would go out to all parents.



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8) Correspondence/Meetings attended /LCN – most matters already covered earlier in the meeting

It was confirmed that there was 1 dog waste bin on windmill road (public highway), and 3 normal bins 1 at Playing Fields, 1 at The Green and 1 in The Pound. The cemetery bin was collected on the domestic recycling rounds. The emptying frequency of the 3 bins that we knew of was possibly 3 weekly.

It had become evident from a meeting with the LCN that the Environment Agency was only being given 60% of the budget it had asked for by central government. The MP was to be contacted and asked for an explanation of why this was such a large cut back on an area which the government had said it was fully supportive of. In 2014 the government had said that money was no object when it came to protection against flooding.

Highways were to be asked if it was possible to come and have a look at a flooding issue and may be jet the drains on the highway in the area of the Cemetery and the Windmill.

9) Financial

The following payments were authorised

Lengthsman - £758.34 x 2 months

Clerk's wages - £437.13 x 2 months

Cemetery management payment – 226.67 x 2 months

Somerset Landscapes – mowing playing field - £144.43 and £72.22 (aug/sep bills)

SALC - £277.85 affiliation fee this year + training playground insp seminar £50.00

SALC – replacement of lost/out of date payments now re-invoiced for training on invoices

1981/2002/2038/2069/2084/2291 - £190.00 (training from the 2023 and 2024 year ends)

PKF Littlejohn Auditors - £252.00

Cosmic - £360.00

10) Date of next meeting - confirmed as 22nd October 2024 at 7.30pm

11) Items for next meeting.

With no other business to discuss the meeting was closed at 9.12pm