



MINUTES OF HIGH HAM PARISH COUNCIL MEETING  
HELD AT HIGH HAM VILLAGE HALL  
ON TUESDAY 25<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2022 at 7.30pm

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

Pubic approx: 2  
Meeting opened at 7.05pm.

**1) Apologies & declarations of interest:-** Paul Brunsdon and Rob Webbs apologies were accepted. There were no declarations of interest.

**2) Public Session:** Issues whereby householder applications being granted on officers delegated powers without being brought to the attention of area north despite significant local concern was noted as an area wide issue. It was hoped that this situation would not continue. It remained that a ward member could ask for the application to go to area north, however that still needed the district councillor to be informed of the application before a decision via delegated powers had been made. The District Councillor for High Ham had previously informed the District Council in no uncertain terms of the flaws in the system which had been used to catch up from the covid and phosphate issues. The issues with the District Council (in general at higher executive level) had been well reported in 'The Leveller'.

It was noted that the school had had several covid cases and the school staff were thanked for their continuing efforts to keep as many of the children as possible going into school.

The work for the Bridgwater Barrier (re flooding) had been given the go ahead.

**3) Planning applications for consideration - None**

**4) Planning applications decided.**

**21/03482/HOU** Cider Cottage Ham Hill High Ham Langport TA10 9BD

Proposed single storey replacement outbuilding (gym and indoor swimming pool) for the sole enjoyment of the main residence known as Cider Cottage. LOCATION: Cider Cottage Ham Hill High Ham Langport TA10 9BD –APPROVED

Disappointment was noted with regard to the building applications at Southend House. The Parish Council had been led to believe that these were being retained by the owner and the documents in the planning statement were indicative of it being a self-build, however it was now on the open market. This was not contrary to the conditions of the planning consent.

**5) Approval of Previous minutes.**

The minutes of 21 December 2021 were approved as a true record.

**6) County/District Councillor reports**

County Councillor – Clare's written report had been forwarded. It was noted that several primary schools in the area had been severely affected with covid. The County Council was going through its own budget setting process. With regard to the County Council responsibility for signs it was noted that the chevron sign at the bottom of High Ham hill had been knocked down. Additionally the dazzle from the road sign at the top of Culver Hill was noted, when it reflected headlights. The issue with regard to enforcement and or removal of the Freedom Farm sign on the public highway without planning consent was again raised. A retrospective application for the sign had been put into the District Council but then withdrawn. Thereby no consent existed and no consent was expected to be given as there would be no outcome for the withdrawn application.

The 'Heart of the Levels' local community network grouping was to have a further meeting in February. There was some concern for smaller parishes within the grouping.

Parliamentary and additionally County Council divisions were both subject to a boundary review.



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District Councillor – It was reported that the Somerset Waste Partnership was working well. Sedgemoor was about to go onto the 3 weekly refuse collection with the additional 'blue bag' recycling. The District Council policies were all being aligned to make the transition into the unitary council smoother.

With a depleted workforce planning would be affected. Applications for small grants could be made to Adrian Moore where appropriate. It had been thought that the Bridgwater Barrier would only be used 6 times a year. It was now thought that it would be used 30 times per year. County farm estates would be managed by the new unitary council. There was discussion who would own the District Council assets such as Eastfield Reserve.

#### **7) Matters for consideration and Items for Discussion.**

**Phone box booths & additional Defibrillator(s)** - The defibrillators had been delivered. It was noted that the defibrillator at High Ham had been taken as advised by ambulance service in case it was required in a recent incident and then put back. Quotes were to be sought for the electrical work and permission sought for the placement of a defibrillator on the outside wall of Low Ham Chapel. Defibrillator signs for the phonebox at Henley were to be ordered.

**Future work at Cemetery/Green** – The benches on the green had been painted. Roger Powell had volunteered to paint the doors and guttering at the cemetery in the coming season when the weather allowed.

**Millennium Wood** – Hazel had been coppiced by the lengthsman. Ongoing management was taking place with brambles cut back and so on.

**Other – Village Hall/Playing Field** – Various highway issues were noted including potholes and the access of 'Fountain'. There were no items regarding the Village Hall. The Playing Field Committee had been advised to put in application to SSDC for work towards the play equipment required rather than the pavilion. The revised application was pending. The preferred replacement equipment cost approximately £30,000 with installation. Further discussion to take place at a future meeting. Mr Rainsford was still investigated options for obtaining funding and grants for the Playing Fields.

**Jubilee** – volunteers were being sought to run an afternoon tea. An evening event was being organised by the Village Hall Committee. An exhibition may run of the coronation at the Church.

**Dennis Davis Award** – Chris Palmer had the certification in progress for presentation in due course.

#### **8) Correspondence and Items of report.**

**A response was still awaited from the planning department regarding Long Street Barn admit concerns brought by several parishioners and the Parish Council that work was still continuing.** Further representations were to be made.

Concern was raised re trees overhanging the road from the Eastfield reserve.

Concern was also raised regarding the repair of some gates and styles on the footpaths within the Parish.

The Somerset Wildlife Trust manager for the area had been in contact with Amanda Chuter with a copy of the management plan for the turnhill area should the council have had comments on it. It was noted that quite a bit of felling was recommended. Should concerns arise about this matters could be reported to Mr Green, the manager.

**Finger posts** – no update for this meeting.

#### **9) Financial**

**Set the Budget:** The finance committee had held a meeting and looked at a variety of options. The precept had been kept the same for three years. The council were now at the point there was significant uncertainty with regards to prices and also the expectation of additional work that would fall to the Parish Council due to the unitary change over. It was therefore recommended that the precept be increased to £23,660 as set out in the appendix. This would appear as an 8.59% increase on the parish council element of council tax, but this equated to £4.58 increase per annum on a band D property. The budget was proposed by John Vigar, seconded by Amanda Chuter and unanimously agreed.



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The following payments were authorised

Lengthsman - £773.51

Clerk's wages - £326.94

Information Commissioners Office - £40.00

Andrew Rainsford - £250.00

Hamar Fencing – BMX track (from playing field funds) – 919.60

Weovo Fencing – playing field fencing bmx track - £1158.80

Lengthsman- Chipper Hire - £60.00

Ashcott Parish Council – reimburse share SLCC subscription - £40.00

Phone box paint etc - £15.79

D Plant – mowing the green - £650.00

**10) Summary of meetings attended and Date of next meetings**

The Lengthsman contract was to go on the next agenda.

It was noted that the Christmas Crew had collected approximately £3000 for charity.

Dave Vigar and Rob Webb had attended a virtual playing fields committee meeting.

Date of next meeting: 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2022 at 7.30pm at the Village Hall.

Meeting closed at 9.25pm

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APPENDIX 1

mowing play field				1215
mowing green				1350
mtce other (est)				
lengthsman general				9600
less vat on above				-1600
village hall rent				240
water rates				50
loan				550
pps				50
it/website				350
elections				500
other memberships/ins				1245
other				500
clerk wages				3960
Millenium wood				
		clearing ditch on border		200
		hedge trimming		200
		additional mtc/improvements		750
parish assets				
	green	unseen expe		250
	cemetery	- craig extra day if required		400
	cemetery	re shed etc		500
	highways			500
	noticeboards			50
	phone boxes			100
	defibs/first aid training			300
	church wall			200
	church yard mtce			200
	village hall			200
	playing fields	pavillion project		1000
		towards climbing frame		800
		budget rounding		41.34
				23660