



MINUTES OF HIGH HAM PARISH COUNCIL MEETING  
HELD AT HIGH HAM VILLAGE HALL  
ON TUESDAY 27<sup>th</sup> February 2024 at 7.30pm

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

Unitary Councillors : Richard Wilkins

Pubic approx: 9

Meeting opened at 7.40pm.

**1) Apologies & declarations of interest:-** Mike Stanton (Unitary Councillor) had sent apologies. There were no declarations of interest.

**2) Public Session** - Concern was raised with regards to traffic where the 30 mph changes to 60 mph and a van had pulled out of a very dangerous field gateway. It was queried whether planning and enforcement was required for change of use as this was being used as a new back access for a property. It was also queried whether the 30 mph limit could be moved a little further out of the village. Dave Vigar would contact Richard Wilkins by email regarding the gateway and he would pass the message on.

**3) Planning applications for consideration**

A) 23/03090/HOU - Proposal: Forward two storey extension and creation of new access and parking .

Location: 2 Hillside Long Street High Ham Langport Somerset TA10 9DN -after discussion a vote was taken (2 – support, 5 objections) to object to the application. Whilst several concerns were addressed it was sill felt that the extension would become the dominant feature and the original cottage would be lost. It was felt that the extensions was not in proportion with what was already an overdeveloped site.

B) 24/00332/HOU - Proposal: Proposed single storey rear extension

Location: 2 Jubilee Cottage Lower Street Low Ham Langport Somerset TA10 9DR – This application met unanimously with no objections and it was felt that it was modest and in keeping with the existing.

C) 24/00240/TCA - Proposal: Notification of intent to fell No.01 trees within a Conservation Area

Location: High Ham Church Of England Primary School Burrow Lane High Ham. No objections were raised.

**4) Planning applications decided**

The retrospective application at Moor View, Henley had been approved. This caused much concern not just for this instance but others. No ecological report had been required and it was felt that retrospective applications should not be easier to obtain than initial planning applications. The clerk was asked to take the matter of this principle to the MP.

Stamford, Picts Hill – replacement of garage. This had been approved for domestic use and it was not to be converted to habitable accommodation.

**5) Unitary Councillor report** – An update was given. The 54 bus route had been ‘saved’ for this year. The train station for Somerton/Langport idea appeared to have been put on hold. There was currently other saving ideas re the recycling centres that may prevent 5 of them being permanently closed.

**6) Approval of Previous minutes.**

The minutes of 30<sup>th</sup> January 2024 were approved with minor amendment as a true record.



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**7) Ongoing Action Points and Updates.**

**Lengthsman**

This month the Lengthsman team focussed on re-pollarding the trees clear of power lines on The Green. Craig has contacted National Grid and their contractor HiLine - they have agreed to repollard the remaining trees. They plan to do this late March. Craig and Rachael have continued work on with drainage in between deluges of rain.

Further thinning in Millennium Wood.

Next month they plan to:

- \*do further thinning in Millennium Wood,
- \*make a start on the vegetation management
- \*start Cemetery vegetation plan

**Highways/Footpaths** – all areas of concern that had been raised had already been reported. It was noted that the 20 flashing lights by the school were not working. A big tree was leaning over Stembridge Road from Eastfield Nature Reserve. Catherine would contact Highways. A drain issue by Old Manor Farm was to be reported to highways again as it was blocked. The footpath officer had been informed by the unitary that the problem stile reported last month can now be repaired.

**Millennium Wood** – see lengthsman report.

**Parish Green** - None

**Playing Fields** – Arrangements were being made for a Summer fete on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> July. A meeting was to take place on 18<sup>th</sup> March for all interested parties. A new bench was to be purchased in the next financial year.

**Refurbishment of noticeboards** - The new one had been made and was being oiled. They would not be able to install them until April and the old one would be taken down and examined to see if it could be made good to use elsewhere.

**Cemetery** – The amended cemetery regulations/rules document was unanimously approved. This was to adjust the text with regards to reserving a double once the first had been purchased where due to ground conditions they could only go side by side.

**Village Hall** – A calendar of events was being put together including coffee morning – Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> March, Supper evening Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> March and Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> June – mid summer party.

**School** – Concern was raised with regards to speeding parents on the way to school and the ‘water splash’ on pedestrians. Dave Vigar would contact the PCSO and see if they could attend from time to time and advise of the problem times.

**Other** – Website work was ongoing. Amanda Chuter thanked for the amount of work she did on keeping the events up to date and the uploading of other parish information. It was noted that the defibrillators had been checked. Staging to enable sign language for some hymns around the Christmas tree was to be considered later in the year.

**8) Correspondence and meetings attended** – Most correspondence had been dealt with in the relevant sections above. Fortnightly online meetings between Parishes and the Unitary Council continued. There was still no definitive information on the effects of budgetary cuts on High Ham Parish. The Moors and Levels LCN meeting had been postponed. The cemetery rates return form had been received and was extremely poorly written for a small cemetery such as High Ham, with acreage requirements estimates required for various periods of time in the future. Dave Vigar had attended a data protection salc course on zoom. It may be necessary to have the councillors parish council email addresses changed over to .gov.uk email addresses. - The clerk was to find out more.



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**9) Financial**

The following payments were authorised

Lengthsman - £891.86

Clerk's wages - £437.13

Freewheelers EVS - £271.00

Christmas tree expenses re the green - J Vigar – approx £100

**10) Contracts** - The lengthsman's contract and cemetery contract drafts were approved and the corresponding payment schedule for these. Proposed by Nancy Green, Seconded Rob Webb and carried unanimously.

**11) Date of next meeting** - 26<sup>th</sup> March 2024 was confirmed as the date of the next meeting.

**12) Items for future meetings** . Protocol for parish councillors with regard to difficult individuals and also the complaints procedure were to be discussed.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.15pm