



MINUTES OF HIGH HAM PARISH COUNCIL MEETING  
HELD AT HIGH HAM VILLAGE HALL  
ON TUESDAY 28<sup>th</sup> March 2023 at 7.30pm

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

County Councillors: Richard Wilkins  
District Councillor: Gerard Tucker

Public approx: 2

Meeting opened at 7.30pm.

**1) Apologies** County Councillor Mike Stanton had sent apologies. Apologies were received from Amanda Chuter and Catherine Roberts and these were accepted.

**2) Declarations of interest:** There were no declarations of interest on the agenda

**3) Public Session:** A letter of condolence was to be sent to the school with regard to the passing of the Head Teacher of the school.

Thefts were noted in the Henley area where smallish items had been taken in an opportunistic manner. Illegal hare coursing had also been reported in the area.

The History Group still had some books available which would be made available for sale and advertised on the Facebook page. The history group were closing their bank account to work on a cash basis going forward. The group kindly offered £186.20 to the Parish Council towards the toposcope at The Pound and would like a plaque about the history of The Pound available on site as well. The Parish Council accepted this offer and thanked the history group.

Nythe Road litter had been reported and it was noted that the Internal Drainage Board were responsible for clearing the rhynes. It was noted that flytipping could be reported by the Council (going forward this would be the Unitary Council) app.

Rain water in a gully by Manor Farm was reported as needing attention and was to be reported to Highways.

There had been a letter from a resident at Picts Hill with regards to some highways issue. Dave Vigar was to speak to the resident who had reported the issues for clarification.

There had been a complaint about ivy being pulled off from behind the phone box at Low Ham. It was noted that the Parish Council did not know who this was.

#### **4 ) Planning applications for consideration**

23/00413/S73A Ashbrook Lodge Long Street High Ham Langport

Proposal: Proposed change of use of land from agricultural to residential, the erection of a new dwelling, triple garage with bat loft and conversion of an existing outbuilding into an annex (S73A application to vary conditions 2 and 19, alterations to landscaping plan, of approval 19/02843/FUL, as varied by 21/01442/S73 and 21/02636/S73) – The Parish Council unanimously agreed to stand by the comments made previously. This was not what they had originally applied for and there was no green area inside the fence. It was noted that the work had already started on erecting the fence before the end of the consultation period. The Parish Council would at the very least like to see a hedge inside the fence.



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**5) Planning applications decided.**

Kingsmoor House – Change of Use – Approved

Moreton Dairy – Pool Room – Refused

Bere Farmhouse – Garden studio building – Granted.

Rushton Dog Rescue – An enforcement request had gone in to ask that the matter be investigated with regard to the withdrawal of the retrospective application for the large private sign obscuring highways visibility on public property.

**6) District Councillor Report/County Councillor Report**

Gerard Tucker reported that over the 49 years of the District Council being in place that High Ham had benefited from various grants and projects to assist with providing vibrant facilities such as the hall, playing field and Millennium Wood. It was noted that there had been some difficult planning applications. Gerard noted that he would assist the county councillors in any matters as necessary with regard to the hand over and noted that he was keen to work with the Parish Council with regards to LCNs in his capacity as chairman of Aller Parish Council.

The Parish Council extended their thanks to Gerard for being their councillor for the last seven years and for not shying away from any issues that had been controversial.

Richard Wilkins gave the County Councillor report. A few issues had arisen with regard to the change over to the 'unitary' authority, but these issues were being resolved. It was noted that the 'Levels' LCN seemed a suitable mix of towns and parishes which had much common interest. Richard thanked Gerard for his work as District Council and offer to assist with any handover issues that he may be able to assist with.

With regards to Local Community Networks (LCN) – Dave Vigar would write to find a venue and a date for a first get together of Parishes within the LCN. -Noted since the meeting this had been superseded.

**7) Approval of Previous minutes.**

The minutes of 28<sup>th</sup> February 2023 were approved as a true record with minor amendment.

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

**Phone box booths & Defibrillators** - Ongoing. The defibrillators had all been checked and were working.

**Future Work at Cemetery and Green** –ongoing. Cemetery weed clearance and mowing had started for the year. 3 bollards had been replaced at the green. There was to be a site visit there after Easter with the lengthsmen and the Chairman with regard to additional bollards to prevent on-grass and dangerous parking on the main road-side through The Green.

Mike Cox was to have a look at the work required to the wall at the cemetery and the state of the wall/guttering/lychgate were all under review.

**Lych gate roof**- Ongoing. Some matching tiles had now been obtained.

**Millennium Wood**-see lengthsmen report.

**Lengthsmen:** Craig and Rachael had carried out further felling of diseased ash trees. Some of the broken stepping stumps had been replaced and the broken sign for the outdoor classroom had been reset. Progress was being made on the replacement of the 20 lost word discs and mowing of paths and rides had restarted.

**Highways/ Footpaths** – Harry and Nick would be able to start strimming again soon. There had been an enquiry about a footpath that was quite wet which had been forwarded as necessary.

**Playing Fields** – There had been some vandalism at a lunchtime that had been caught by neighbours and reported to the police along with photos. These individuals had also been seen causing issues in other parts of the parish. It was frustrating that although it had been reported with photos there had been no action taken. There had been a working party at the playing fields which had got quite a lot of work done. It was noted that there seemed to be an issue with dogs on the field which was being monitored. The AGM was set as Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> May at the School Community



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Room. There was also an issue that the car park of the playing field was being used excessively by contractors work vans, which limited remaining space and it appeared that permission had not been sought.

**Refurbishment of Noticeboards** – Rob Rice would continue to look at finding some suitable options for the various locations. There was still the wish to refurbish some if possible rather than buy new. As well as reviewing the crack in The Pound wall Rob Rice would start with the Henley Board first to see if it was possible to easily replace the glass/perspex front.

**Local Community Networks** – It was noted that the for ‘planning applications’ the areas were staying the same. It was noted that planning comments were encouraged to contain material planning considerations.

**Any other – inc School/Village Hall/Website–**

The invoice for 4 hours website support in advance was not to be paid. The Parish Council had not used this in the last year and it did not prevent it from using website support in the future. It just meant that they would not get 4 hours at a slightly discounted rate, but that it would be at full rate if required. Amanda Chuter was thanked for her work and regular updating of the website.

**Kings Coronation**

**6-8 May**

13 parish organisations and groups contacted sharing the PC plans for Coronation weekend and asking that any other plans to be shared to avoid clashes.

events so far -

Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> – Tree planting – High Ham Ladies at Millennium Wood after a meeting in the village hall.

Friday 5th: Cider & Cheese supper, the History Hut

Teddy Bears’ Picnic, Playing Field – High Ham School PTA

Saturday 6th: Party Night, Village Hall Committee

Sunday 7th: Teas 2.30 ,Songs of Praise 4.00 Margaret Porter and Barrie Bryer

Monday 8th: High Ham PC Dave/Amanda - Parish Walk

Toposcope; the meeting was updated on the project progress and there had been a meeting with the engraver. It looked as if the costs for the project were about £600 plus an additional £100 for a stone plinth. The total cost would not be known though until the stone was cut. The designer of the plaque had volunteered his time free of charge and was thanked. The Parish Council unanimously agreed a budget of £700 for the project.

**9) Correspondence** There had been some correspondence with regard to a memorial in the cemetery which had a slightly different design to normal. It would be within the sizes of the other headstones. No objections were raised to the design.

There was a vacancy of a residence with the Hext Almshouse Trust. Jane Vigar was the representative for High Ham. Should there be any interest Jane could be contacted before 30<sup>th</sup> April. The vacancy had been widely advertised locally.

**10) Summary of meetings attended.**

Dave Vigar and Vicky Young continued to attend the fortnightly online meetings with regards to LCNs and the unitary change over. Dave Vigar was to be booked on the SALC refresher training course on 15<sup>th</sup> May.

There had been a meeting regarding ‘adopting to climate change on the Somerset Levels’ hosted in the Red Brick Building, Glastonbury. The purpose of this was to prepare people for flooding.

There had been a meeting at the cemetery ahead of an interment with the grave digger as there had been some queries with the soil and spacing and so on.



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**11) Financial**

Bank Signatories – Nearing completion.

The following payments were authorised

Lengthsman - £853.13

Clerk's wages - £437.13

SALC – training courses –£125.00

J Vigar – (Parish Christmas Tree) - £148.00

L Timewell - £133.20 – Hedge Trimming

N Green – Padlock playing fields - £24.99

Cosmic Invoice – 4 hours web support for next year? – currently being queried. - £480.00 - not approved – would pay adhoc

**12) Items for next meeting.** There were no new items arising not already discussed.

**13) Date of next meeting** – 25<sup>th</sup> April 2023

With no other business to discuss the meeting was closed at 10.14pm.