



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

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

Unitary Councillors: Richard Wilkins

Public approx: 5

Meeting opened at 7.30pm.

**1) Apologies & declarations of interest** Unitary Councillor Mike Stanton had sent apologies. Rob Webb declared an interest in application 3a on the agenda it being his home address.

**2) Public Session:** Chris Rawlins introduced himself to the meeting as the new resident of Stembridge Tower Cottage. He and his wife would be key holders to the Mill. It should be opened officially for three weekends a year.

A resident queried some road repair fencing clutter that had fallen on the road around where highways had yet to repair an exposed man-hole. Catherine would report to highways that the fencing needed to be collected and the repair was required urgently.

**3) Planning applications for consideration**

a) 23/02578/FUL -Full application - The erection of a roof over existing cattle feeding area to reduce pollution  
Location: Poplar Farm Henley Road High Ham Langport Somerset TA10 9BH - Rob Webb left the room. The application was then discussed. It was unanimously supported on the basis that it was helpful for the environment.  
Rob Webb returned to the room at the conclusion of discussion and the vote on this application.

b) 23/02660/HOU – Householder application - Erection of a detached single garage.  
Location: Cherry Trees Mill Road High Ham Langport Somerset TA10 9DJ – after discussion the application was unanimously supported as it was felt that it was in keeping but it was hoped that the trees would not be damaged.

c) 23/02631/Doc1 – Discharge of Condition - Land OS 4374 Part Field Road High Ham Langport Somerset TA10 9BZ  
Discharge of Condition No. 8 (External Lighting) of Planning Application 22/01477/S73. The application was discussed and it was felt that the lighting was excessive for such a rural location (6 led up/down lighters and 20 downlighters). There was unanimous objection to this.

d) 23/02816/TPO - Tree preservation order - Application to carry out tree surgery works to No.01 tree included within South Somerset District Council Tree Preservation Order (HIH1) 1993  
Location: Land Rear Of 11 Hamdown Court Huish Episcopi Langport Somerset – This application was for notification only. No concerns were known about to bring to the attention of the planning officer.

e) 23/02875/LBC – Listed Building Consent - Replacement windows: 4 x 1st Floor dormers (front, east-facing) and 2 x ground-floor rear windows  
Location: Wheelwrights Rectory Triangle High Ham Langport Somerset TA10 9BZ. It was noted that the windows would look as much as possible like the old single glazed ones. The Parish Council was unanimous in raising no objection and felt that it would help reduce heating and therefore reduce harmful environmental factors.



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f) 23/02973/TCA -Tree in conservation area: Notification of intent to carry out Tree Surgery Works to No. 11 Trees within a Conservation Area.

Location: Village Green Rectory Triangle High Ham Langport Somerset TA10 9BZ. This was for notification only and for works at The Green.

**4) Planning applications decided.**

23/02232/COL Old Orchard, Mortons Lane – Cert of existing use re an agricultural occupancy condition. The application had been allowed but the original condition of the original agreement would apply to any new occupants. If the S106 is to be discharged then an application must be put in, in the future to discharge it.

22/02950/HOU – Charity House – Approved

22/00278/FUL – Land North of Four Chimneys – Approved

23/00216/AG – Agricultural store , Old sewage works. - Refused. A full planning application would need to be submitted for consideration.

23/02084/DOC – Picts Hill – This was with regard to the discharge of a condition regarding hedgerow protection and was allowed.

It was noted that there was work on a house in Henley of 2 storeys that did not have planning permission. The Parish Council had now heard that the resident had now appointed an agent and that an application would be submitted.

Richard Wilkins was thanked for his assistance.

**5) Unitary Councillor Report** The written report had been circulated.

It was noted that the unitary council budgetary position was an ever changing situation and that it would ultimately lead to a slimmed down council with some services not provided.

The financial burden of adult social care was discussed.

The Parish Council finance group would meet to discuss the parish council budget for the year ending 31 March 2025 before it would be presented to the full parish council for approval and was encouraged to add on services that would be listed out. For some parishes there might be no services that this would apply to.

**6) Approval of Previous minutes**

The minutes of 24<sup>th</sup> October 2023 were approved as a true record.

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

**Lengthsmans report**

Grass Cutting: Now completed for the year in MW and Cemetery.

Drainage: Craig and Rachael have cleared the grids and grips in Low Ham and Long Street and inspected the drainage throughout the parish during periods of rainfall and cleared where they could see a need. This is very much the usual situation of the inlets getting blocked quicker than they can clear them! They plan to continue this over the winter season.

The Green: Craig has submitted the application to Somerset Council to carry out tree works in the conservation area for completing the pollarding of trees. It is hoped to have permission by the 4<sup>th</sup> of January. 'Keep off the Grass' signs removed.

Millennium Wood: Recent work has included hedge trimming and reinstatement of rotted sections of Woodhenge, the repair of a broken bench in the 'outdoor classroom' area.



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Plans for further works at Millennium Wood include bramble bashing, pond clearance and thinning.

Other: Craig is now qualified to do tree surveys, which might be a useful exercise to do for the trees owned by the parish to establish the overall condition of them on the various sites such as The Green, cemetery, playing field and The Pound.

It was agreed that Craig should ask about the filling of gritbins.

**Highways/footpaths:**

County highways had replied that one of the flood areas reported had been inspected and action was not required. The Long Street drain will be jetted and there was a concern with water still streaming down the road which gets icy. It was noted that the drains that had been jetted were still blocking 3-4 weeks after being jetted. The pipework is going to be replaced where the tree roots have grown into it. In Low Ham, Mary Cox Hill was reported. There was a problematic tree hanging over the road along Stembridge Hill. - This would be reported if it had not already been removed.

Footpaths – outstanding defects were noted. The path from the Village Hall to Turnhill had a dangerous stile that had been reported last January. It was a very well used path and needed a gate urgently. Nick was to update the priority of the report as it was becoming more dangerous. He would liaise with Richard Wilkins with regard to upgrading the priority to 'high'. The footpath strimming had now finished for the winter. Both the volunteers were thanked.

**Millennium Wood**-see lengthsman report. Luke Timewell had volunteered to trim hedges around Millennium Wood and the playing field. The offer was to be accepted.

**Parish Green** – see lengthsman report.

**Playing Fields** – The next meeting was 13<sup>th</sup> December. A broken bench was being replaced – yet to be chosen.

**Refurbishment of Noticeboards** – progressing. The board at Henley had now been repaired barring a hole at the back of the board which required a small repair. The board on The Green was to be repaired/replaced next. Rob Rice would investigate alternatives suitable for a conservation zone. Rob Rice was thanked for his work on the project so far.

**Any other** – inc School/Village Hall/Website – None A few upcoming diary dates were mentioned. The PCSO had been out once with regard to the school parking issue and the school bulletin had mentioned the parking access available in the locality. The church bells had been rung and a card sent on behalf of the parish council for a parishioner who had celebrated their 100<sup>th</sup> birthday.

It was noted that the phonebox on The Green had its selection updated regularly and was receiving some high quality second hand books.

**Toposcope** – The toposcope unveiling ceremony had been a successful morning with a good turnout. The parish council was very pleased with the plaque. The location had been added to google maps. Rob Webb was thanked for his work on the project.

**Dog waste bins** - It was decided to put out polite reminders that the general waste bins at certain locations were just that and that dog waste should not be put in them. Particularly the one by the seat. The locations of the official dog bins would be highlighted and it would be noted that the general waste bins would be removed should they continue to be used for dog waste.

**8) Correspondence** - Most of the correspondence had already been covered in the meeting. Further correspondence had been received and was ongoing from the unitary council and SALC with regards to budgets and Parish Council budgets. There was to be a further online meeting on Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> November online, with the unitary council and clerks and representatives from Parish Councils.

**9) Summary of meetings attended.** Fortnightly online meetings hosted by the unitary council with regards to the changes etc continued to be attended when possible.



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**10) Financial**

The following payments were authorised

Lengthsman - £891.86

Clerk's wages - £437.13

Somerset Landscapes – playing field grass cut x2 October - £138.89

D Vigar – wreath – Remembrance Sunday – RBL - £25.00

Parsigns - £534.00 (inc VAT)

**11) Items for next meeting.** The budget was to be discussed before the deadline given by the unitary council.

**12) Date of next meeting** – 19<sup>th</sup> December 2023 at 7.30pm

With no other business to discuss the meeting was closed at 9.20pm