



MINUTES OF HIGH HAM PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

HELD AT HIGH HAM VILLAGE HALL

ON TUESDAY 29th April 2025 at 7.30pm

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

Unitary Councillors: Richard Wilkins

Public approx: 4

Meeting opened at 7.30pm.

1) Apologies and declarations of interest: County Councillor Mike Stanton had sent apologies. There were no declarations of interest.

2) Public Session: Concern was raised with regards to the hedge cutting on High Ham Hill. It was hoped that the landowners could cut them to include more brush from higher up so that the larger vehicles and HGVs weren't forced into the middle of the road into oncoming traffic. An informal message was to be sent out in the first instance.

An enquiry was to be made to the MOD about the firing range and its use.

3) Planning applications for consideration

- A) 25/00881/S73A S73 application to remove condition 12 (Rural Business) of approval 22/00278/FUL for Erection of two self-build dwellings and store for gardening/landscape/fencing business.
Land Breach Furlong Lane North Of Four Chimneys High Ham Langport Somerset TA10 9BB
It was felt that the removal of the clause was dependant on the interpretation of the planning legislation that required the qualified planners at the unitary council to decide the application.
- B) 25/00828/HOU Proposed single storey rear extension and installation of additional dormer window to front elevation Valley View High Ham Langport Somerset TA10 9DB. The Parish Council were unanimous in raising no objections.

4) Planning applications decided

- B) Notification Only 25/00638/AGN Ark Farm New Manor House Road Low Ham Langport Somerset TA10
Notification of intent to erect No. 1 Agricultural storage building. - Planning permission not required.
- C) 25/00603/HOU Proposed annexe extension. Location: Laburnum Farm Low Ham Langport Somerset TA10 9DS -
Granted

5) Councillor Reports – There had been a lot of highways works in High Ham. Most of which had now been completed. There had been concern with some cattle and the resurfacing work, this had now been resolved. Countywide there had been some investment in Bridgwater and there was to be some over the summer at Junction 26 Wellington and the link road which would be closed for 3 months. It was noted that secondary school placed had been announced. An event for unpaid carers who need a little extra support from time to time had taken place and was very successful. These events were to continue and could be advertised in the Parish.

There was a query with regard to pothole reporting as the contact that had been used at Highways was retiring. There were concerns with Butleigh Drove Road which was closed for many months but was actually used by farmers and for access to Street. This was confirmed as Mendip area highways.

6) Approval of Previous minutes.

The minutes of the meeting held on 25th March 2025 were approved as a true record with minor amendment.



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7) Ongoing Action Points and Updates.

Lengthsman: Grass cutting is in full swing in both the Cemetery and in MW. We have also cut back the visibility splay at the top of Mildmays Road.

When the weather allows it, we have also been doing weed killing around the cemetery and village. The hard surfaces around the swings and other play equipment has been treated with moss killer in the play area. This will need further treatment (again, when the weather conditions are right)

We had a meeting with the ecologists in Millennium Wood (MW) to discuss wildlife surveying and they have agreed to conduct newt and dormice surveys. Members of the public may see the dormice tubes around MW throughout the year so please advise everyone to leave them in situ. The ecologists also discussed the possibility of other things we can do to increase wildlife and biodiversity, including leaving managed patches of bramble and installing bat roosts.

Also in MW we have checked the Lost Word signage (all still intact), removed sections of wood that have been repeatedly put into the pond, and replaced the geocache that was taken earlier last month.

Next month will be more of the same, ensuring that strategic patches of wildflower are left as previously discussed.

Highways/ Footpaths Highways Stout Hill drain damage Somerset Highways Report submitted. Highways were to be contacted with regard to if some 'jetting' had taken place. The safety barrier outside the school onto the highway had been damaged during the resurfacing work. Richard Wilkins will check the situation as the barrier is there to stop children running onto the road.

Footpaths 3 issue reports submitted to RoW Team - Fingerpost on Turnhill Rd, 2 rotten stile foot planks on footpath between Gappers Lane Track and Henley Chapel. Nick Fear and Mr Plant were to continue with the strimming work that they could do via the strimmer project.

Millennium Wood – Per lengthsman report. It was additionally agreed that Amanda Chuter should purchase replacement signs regards dogs on leads.

Parish Green – No new matters arising. It had had the first cut of the year.

Playing Fields - It was agreed in theory to spend some money on trees for a mini community orchard. However it was to be held over to a better time of year for planting. The first cut of the year should be done within the week.

Wessex Internet had been in touch requesting a cable to go through the east side of the playground. A price of £250 had been negotiated and should be received soon.

Cemetery – No issues reported.

Any other – inc School/Village Hall/ Website/Defibrillator – The noticeboard at Henley needed some repair work. Rob Rice offered to check what was required. The website was temporarily causing issues. Training was being offered if a date could be picked for volunteers to attend.

8) Correspondence/Meetings attended /LCN –

The LCN meetings of the Active Travel Group was discussed and the idea of joining up a long usable path from Fivehead. A meeting with Sarah Dyke at the Bath & West Showground and 'preparedness' had mainly been about flooding.

9) Financial

The following payments were authorised

Lengthsman - £758.34

Clerk's wages - £469.63

Cemetery management payment – £226.67

SALC annual membership - £442.66



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Village Hall rent invoice -£240.00
Village Hall and Lunch Club each £300
Clerk's computer - £420
Craig weedkiller etc - £92.38

10. Cemetery rates The list was reviewed and the rates set per the circulated rates (Per appendix). Proposed by Nancy Green, seconded Amanda Chuter and carried unanimously.

11) Date of next meeting - confirmed as 27th May 2025 to start at 7pm for the Annual Parish Meeting.

12) Items for next meeting. - annual accounts.

With no other business to discuss the meeting was closed at 9.00pm