



MINUTES OF HIGH HAM PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

HELD AT HIGH HAM VILLAGE HALL

ON TUESDAY 24th June 2025 at 7.30pm

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

Unitary Councillors: Richard Wilkins

Public approx: 4

Meeting opened at 7.30pm.

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

2) Public Session: Concern ongoing re the low height of hedge cutting on Ham Hill, between Brow Down to above first house, Ivy Cottage. Richard was to be sent photos of the work/hedge cutting. There was a lack of certainty as to whom had cut the hedge – it was thought that it was probably highways contractors. The surface issues of the road there had already been reported.

3) Planning applications for consideration

A) Proposal: Notification of intent to carry out Tree Surgery Works to No. 1 Group of trees (G1 - Laurel hedge - Reduce height by approximately 1M) and No. 1 Tree (T2 – Holm Oak - reduce the canopy by approximately 2 meters and shape) within a Conservation Area. Location: Spindle Cottage Main Road High Ham Langport Somerset TA10 9DA Application Number: 25/01306/TCA (notification only) - This was a notification only application. No comments from the Parish Council.

B) Proposal: Increase the height of two chimneys from 1.3 metres above the ridge to 1.83 metres for insurance purposes. Location: Sweet Briar Cottage Henley Langport Somerset TA10 9BH Application Number: 25/01433/LBC (listed building consent) The Parish Council unanimously supported the application.

4) Planning applications decided

It was noted that 25/00792/DPO for Bramley Cottage (application to discharge planning obligation relating to planning application 20/00185/FUL proposing instead a suitably worded planning condition to restrict the use of Bramley Cottage to holiday/annexe accommodation) had said that the planning obligation could be discharged. The decision notice was worded as 'This decision letter is solely the Council's agreement in principle to discharge the S106 Agreement as requested by the applicant. Such discharge should not be considered to have taken place until confirmation has been received from the Council's legal department.

25/00736/S73A Bramley Cottage Orchard Home Henley Langport Somerset TA10 9BG ProposalApplication to secure planning condition in relation to use of building as holiday accommodation/ancillary accommodation to the main dwellinghouse. In relation to approval 20/00185/FUL for The change of use of a modern agricultural building and associated operational development to provide a single unit of holiday accommodation/ancillary accommodation to the main dwellinghouse – Granted

5) Councillor Reports – Richard Wilkins updated the meeting with regards to matters affecting the Unitary Council. It was additionally noted that the road in Langport would be shut in August by the railway bridge, work was also starting soon on the link road to J26 of the M5 which would close the junction. The school safety barrier had been marked for repair.

6) Approval of Previous minutes.

The minutes of the meeting held on 27th May 2025 were approved as a true record with minor amendment.



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7) Ongoing Action Points and Updates.

Lengthsman: Main task for Craig and Rachael this month has been grass cutting: cemetery, Millennium Wood and before recent verge cutting, junction splays. They have also done some hedge trimming and hogweed bashing in MW, and some weed spraying in the centre of the village. They have also removed some trees alongside rides in MW that were showing signs of decline.

Highways/ Footpaths - The railings outside Henley Chapel were discussed. Highways were reluctant that they could be reinstated on both sides of the entrance. It was noted that the road used to have painted across 'SLOW'. Highways were to be asked if they could reinstate this given that children did visit the chapel and the entrance was right on the roadside and the barrier which had been there before had prevented them running straight out into the road. It was also suggested that cones or an A board could be put out when there is a service.

The footpath along Breech Furlong had been strimmed but it needed more severe cutting back of the hedge than possible with the strimmer project. Cradle Bridge footpath – Brambles to be cut back.

Charity Farm road works not completed but marked up.

Cradle Bridge bumps had been repaired but Nythe Bridge still to be repaired.

Millennium Wood – Per lengthsman report.

Parish Green – No new matters arising.

Playing Fields - arrangements for fete – progressing. Wessex Internet had left the playing field rather messy after the cable installation through the field. All help with the setting up of the fete would be gratefully accepted.

Cemetery – There was a leaning memorial that would be reviewed to see if it could be laid down flat. There was also a concern about the ground dropping over some graves. It was noted that these were up to the family to make good.

Defibrillators – no matters arising

Any other – inc School/Village Hall/ Website– No issues reported. Website training to be organised for x 2 places. Noticeboard -Henley – Rob Rice thanked for the repair. Village Hall 100th anniversary teas being arranged for July and history display. Phone booths working well in repurposed use. The Church were advertising they were looking for cleaners, anyone interested should contact Mary Madgwick who was sorting out the rota.

8) Correspondence/Meetings attended /LCN – Nancy and David had attended LCN meeting. The LCN subgroups were doing well. September 18th meeting should have police attendance to ask questions on rural policing. The planners had also been asked but were reluctant to attend LCN meetings. The LCNs would ideally like them to attend after September given the state of enforcement and staffing issues in general in the planning department.

9) Financial

The following payments were authorised

Lengthsman - £758.34

Clerk's wages - £469.63

Cemetery management payment – £226.67

David Plant- mowing/caretaking The Green - £800.00

Somerset Landscapes - £150.94

CPRE (donation from £5 per month) – £60.00



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11) Date of next meeting - confirmed as 22nd July 2025 at 7.30pm

12) Items for next meeting.

It was noted that the open gardens hosted by Mary and John Vigar had raised over £900 for charity for which they were thanked for their efforts.

It was also noted that Huish and Langport Parish Councils may be amalgamating. There was a consultation starting to which parishioners in the local area could take part in if they wished to do so.

Dennis Davis award nominations to be sent to Nancy.

With no other business to discuss the meeting was closed at 8.40pm