



MINUTES OF HIGH HAM PARISH COUNCIL MEETING  
HELD AT HIGH HAM VILLAGE HALL  
ON TUESDAY 12<sup>th</sup> August 2025 at 7.30pm

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

Unitary Councillors: None

Public approx: 7

Meeting opened at 7.30pm.

**1) Apologies and declarations of interest:** Nick Fear, Rob Rice and Rob Webb had sent apologies and these were accepted. 2 members of the public had also sent apologies.

Unitary Councillors Richard Wilkins and Mike Stanton had sent apologies. There were no declarations of interest.

**2) Planning applications for consideration**

2025/1289/FUL (NOTE FOR PARISHIONERS COMMENTING THIS IS THE OLD MENDIP AREA OR EAST AREA) Proposed ground mounted solar photovoltaic park, underground cable route and ancillary development  
Land at 342774 135299 Nythe Road, Walton, Street, Somerset. This is a FULL application

The Parish Council listened to the speakers. After discussion it was voted unanimously to object to the application since there had been no significant changes to the application since the last one and the concerns had not been addressed.

The following comments were to be made to the planning department;

The planning grounds for objection (being of similar nature to the last application where little acceptable improvements have been made) being the following

The size of the development is out of keeping and too big for the location and too big for the rural landscape and represents industrialisation of it. This is not a brown field development but agricultural land. It is felt that brownfield developments need to be used before we lose this productive land. This is grade 2 and 3A farmland, which is more precious than ever, and will be lost for 40 years at least.

A considerable area of land will be taken out of productive use for either animal fodder or human food. It is strongly felt that the country needs to be producing more food for itself and this ties up the land.

In short this site will create a visual dominance in the area that is unacceptable with no benefit to the locality or the local people whilst contributing to loss of genuine agricultural land and short falls in the country's self sufficiency and sustainability.

The enjoyment of the countryside and footpaths will be lost. A building on the site goes right up to the edge of the footpath and blocks the view. The planting scheme is unacceptable and does not hide the views of the site from the locality.

The area of the site is of a special nature being peat land. The solar panels will over shadow the ground and plants will not grow. Sheep will not graze under them due to the sourness and poor growth so it will not even remain in genuine agricultural use.

The statements from the applicant relate to other solar farms and not this one and therefore as last time, it does not seem that a genuine assessment of the site has been undertaken.

It was felt that there has been no genuine community engagement. There has been no efforts to contact the parishes most effected. There have been no offers of community benefit. Some should be forthcoming to all effected parishes if the application does proceed.



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Concerns were raised with regards to the access for this site being on the A361 outside of the 30 mph limit. This road is a fast road with a history of accidents and speeding traffic. With regards to access the amounts of hardstanding to put in the site and roadways within the site was also deemed problematic in the quantities of materials required to withstand being laid on peat land.

**4) Planning applications decided**

**25/00681/S73A – with regard to removal of a condition - granted**

S73A application to remove condition 12 (Rural Business) of approval 24/00834/S73 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

**5) Financial**

A) Resolution to transfer a percentage of reserves to a 1 year bond for higher interest.

Amanda Chuter Proposed and Dave Vigar seconded that the council should go ahead and investigate putting £50,000 reserves into a 1 year bond with higher interest than the 'club saving account'

B) The following payments were authorised

Lengthsman - £758.34

Clerk's wages - £469.63

Cemetery management payment – £226.67

Somerset Landscapes pending invoice – re mowing playing fields

**6) Date of next meeting - confirmed as 23<sup>rd</sup> September at 7.30pm**

**7) Items for next meeting.**

Carols around the tree were to go on a future agenda

With no other business to discuss the meeting was closed at 8.20pm