



MINUTES OF HIGH HAM PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

HELD AT HIGH HAM VILLAGE HALL

ON TUESDAY 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2025 at 7.30pm

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

V Young (Clerk).

Unitary Councillors: Richard Wilkins

Public approx: 7

Meeting opened at 7.30pm.

**1) Apologies and declarations of interest:** Rob Webb and unitary councillor Mike Stanton had sent apologies and these were accepted.

There were no declarations of interest.

**2) Public Session** – The tragic death by Paradise was mentioned and condolences given to the family. It was noted that sheep had been stolen from Somerton Moor.

**3) Planning applications for consideration** - None

**4) Planning applications decided**

25/01814/PAMB Prior Approval Notification for Change of use of agricultural building to dwelling together with building operations reasonably necessary to convert and extend the building at land adjacent to Henley Farm, Henley Road, High Ham, Langport, Somerset (grid ref 342963, 132268)

25/01433/LBC 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 - Granted

**5) Unitary Councillor report** The Council was congratulated for the speed of the work in Langport and the use of lights at the Hanging Chapel and also the early completion of the work at the Wellington M5 junction. Field Road was due to be resurfaced sometime this month. There were also evening closures noted for the Dunball roundabout onto the M5. The Councillors written report had been forwarded. Difficulty parking in Langport was noted and the town council was looking for more parking areas. There would be a merger of Langport and Huish Episcopi town councils. County wide there was a Sunday parking consultation.

**6) Minutes of the last meetings** The minutes of the July and August 2025 minutes were approved with minor amendment.

**7) Action Points**

**Lengthsmans Report**

August '25 was a busy month despite the lack of grass growing! Below is a list of the things we have completed since the beginning of August up until this week. Some items are mentioned more than once as we have completed the task more than once -

August

cemetery: Finished tree report for cemetery

Weeded around garden of rest

Cut back bramble around lychgate

Dealt with fallen limb from plum tree at the cemetery and cleared fallen fruit.



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Raked fallen plums around the lychgate to avoid slip hazard.  
Cut back growth around fence line in cemetery

MW: Mowing in MW, cutting back overgrown edges on rides.  
Dealt with fallen branches over pathways near pond.  
Cut back overhanging willow on pond path.  
Removed rotten logs at woodhenge play area.  
Replaced geocache (again!)  
Dealt with fallen limbs on squirrel damaged tree near pond at MW.  
Cut brambles around gates and rides

Other: Spraying in HH village centre  
Mapping for tree survey  
Started severing ivy on trees  
Cut around MW sign on Stout Road opposite Cooks Lane  
Checked noticeboards for need of staining

September  
Sent updated tree report with tree plan  
Sprayed weeds in Play Area  
Grass cutting Cemetery/MW as we actually had growing conditions again!  
Weeding Garden of Rest of rest

### Highways

Henley Chapel – sign on wall saying 'slow' and a small sign put out on the green at service times were both acceptable to highways. It was confirmed that there was no issue with the railing on the left but not the right and they were also unable to paint 'Slow' on the road.  
Fiddlers End – Catherine was chasing up repairs that were marked up in June and waiting to hear back. A photo was to be sent to highways for the section that they thought they had done but in fact hasn't been touched.  
Nythe Bridge – The sharp 'jutter' change in surface had been deemed by highways as not severe enough to fix.  
Wearne Junction – blocked drain – highways saying not a safety issue.  
Stone wall by Fountain – noted that stone was falling onto the road. This had not been inspected by highways yet.  
Church View, Low Ham – Some works had been completed.  
Noted that the bumps between High Ham and Pedwell always seem to be an issue and seem to move.

**Footpaths** - Some strimming work around styles in Low Ham had been completed. Harry had trimmed some of the enclosed section on Pipers Ash.

**Millennium Wood** – reported in Lengthsmans report.

**Parish Green** – Amanda Chuter would speak to Hilary to try and find out about a section of wall.

**Playing Fields** – 2026 Fete planning had started. Date agreed as 11<sup>th</sup> July 2026. 24<sup>th</sup> November – a meeting would take place about the fete etc. It was noted that the swings had been repaired.



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**Cemetery** – A recent internment of ashes had taken place. The precarious old graves had been made safe and layed flat and readable. Tim Lawton thanked for his work.

**Tree Survey** – Work had taken place in the cemetery today and the team would be back in a fortnight. It had taken quite a bit of work and still not sure how long the whole project will take. More work to be done later in the year.

**Defibrillators** – All was OK. The 'Circuit' (online resource for defibrillator location) would be updated again at the end of the month.

**Dennis Davis Award** – Nominations were still being finalised.

**Village Hall** – A quiz was to take place on 10<sup>th</sup> October (teams of 6).

**School** – Richard thanked for liaising with highways and sorting out the rail by the school. There had been a change of school care taker (now Jackie Vigar).

**Website Training** – to organise with Cosmic

**Phone booths** – project was still working well

**Carols around the tree** – the usual Saturday before Christmas was chosen – Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> December. A churchwarden present raised no objections. The time was set for 6pm. John to be asked if he could be master of ceremonies. Dave Vigar would start making enquiries regarding a suitable tree. It was noted that Nancy had the lights in storage. The Dorset and Somerset Air Ambulance was chosen as the charity.

**Low Ham Church** – harvest service on 5<sup>th</sup> October and small topical display arranged regarding the local historic agriculture.

**High Ham Church** - harvest service the following week to Low Ham. On 30<sup>th</sup> November the village hall was booked for a fayre.

## **8) Correspondence and Meetings**

**Parrett IDB** – Roadworks would take place for the repair of culverts and key structures. Located Fiddlers End, Bere Drove for a maximum of two weeks and Nythe Road will be traffic controlled whilst works are completed.

**Audit Closure** - It was noted that the auditors had charged for a late response to a 'silly' question, when the internal auditor was away on holiday and their question had been addressed to the internal auditor. It was noted that this was not satisfactory and the survey was to be returned to the auditor saying as much. The audit for the year ending 31 March 2025 was complete and there were no matters arising to report to the council.

**Picts Hill** – Concern had been raised with regards to Picts Hill pavement. Highways were to be contacted in writing covering concerns of the encroaching vegetation and the overhanging vegetation, state of pavement. Questions were to be asked to Highways with regards to a speed indicator device site on this part of Picts Hill. It was to be asked if 30 repeater signs could be placed somewhere.



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**9) Financial**

The following payments were authorised

Lengthsman - £758.34

Clerk's wages - £469.63

Cemetery management payment – £226.67

Somerset Landscapes - £150.94 (? pending invoice)

PKF Audit - £378.00

**10) Date of next meeting** - confirmed as 28<sup>th</sup> October 2025 at 7.30pm

**11) Items for next meeting.** No additional items requested

With no other business to discuss the meeting was closed at 8.50pm