



MINUTES OF HIGH HAM PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD AT HIGH HAM VILLAGE HALL
ON TUESDAY 25th November 2025 at 7.30pm

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

V Young (Clerk).

Unitary Councillors: Richard Wilkins

Public approx: 5

Meeting opened at 7.30pm.

1) Apologies and declarations of interest: Catherine Robers and Unitary councillor Mike Stanton had sent apologies and these were accepted. 2 Parishioners from Picts Hill/Hamdown had sent apologies.

Declarations of Interest. Dave Vigar, Amanda Chuter and Nancy Green declared interest in the item regarding High Ham CLT.

2) Public Session – It was noted that the IDB had received a drought forecast for 2026. It was thought that sustained rainfall over winter would be needed to avoid drought conditions again next summer.

The raised ironwork on a bridge on Nythe Road was still causing issues and would be reported again.

3) Planning applications for consideration: None

4) Planning applications decided:

23/01590/OUT – for 5 dwellings on land adjoining Cobblers Barn – Granted

25/02398/PAMB Prior Approval Notification

Address : Barn At Land Off Henley Road Henley Langport Somerset TA10 9BG

Proposal: Prior Approval Notification for the conversion and change of use of the barn to form two dwellings, including partial demolition and the formation of doors and windows. - Granted

25/02522/DOC1 Discharge of Conditions No. 3 (Package Treatment Plant), No. 8 (EVCP's) and No. 11 (Water Usage) of Planning Application 22/00278/FUL. - Granted

25/02580/DOC1 Discharge of Conditions – 4 Chimneys - Granted

5) Unitary Councillor report The written report had been forwarded to councillors. The highways department was gearing up for winter and gritters were going out as required.

2 new gritters were being named by school children this year. It was noted that there would be four months of road works coming up in Street (on the A39) and Dunster.

It was noted that Stert Bridge on Somerton Moor over the River Carey had no side barriers and it was to be ascertained if the Unitary Council would put some in place.

6) Minutes of the last meetings The minutes of the meeting held on 28th October 2025 were approved as a true record with minor amendment and duly signed.



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7) Action Points

Lengthsmans Report

During November, we completed some drainage work in Low Ham and cleared the usual suspects of fallen leaves to improve water flow. We had site meetings at both the cemetery and MW with Nancy and Dave. We discussed the plan for the tree work at the cemetery as well as the safety issues such as unstable graves and the loose drain cover. In MW we looked at the tree damage and discussed potential options to prevent further damage.

On Monday 24th we started work on the planned tree work in the cemetery. The branches will be stacked to the sides until all the work is done, and then we'll hire in a tracked chipper to do it all in one go as that's more cost effective.

As the pond is low, we started work on clearing it of invasive pond weed.

Highways – Catherine being unable to attend had sent in the following report for highways.

1. Picts Hill. - Our site for a new SID on Picts Hill, opposite entrance to Kelways has been approved by Traffic Management, subject to final site visit by Rebecca Vaughan. The PC has requested that Highways site the new SID post. This will cost £350 and will be done in the next few months.

The Memorandum of Understanding, which is an agreement between the PC and Somerset Council, is in the process of being filled in. This form includes details of the sites of all of the four SID locations in our parish, plus photographs and location maps. It will be completed shortly and sent off to Highways.

2. Blocked drains/culverts at Field Road, High Ham, junction with Burrow Lane. This area of road regularly floods after heavy rain. This is a problem that the PC has been reporting for some time. We reported this again to Highways this week and also copied in Cllrs Mike Stanton and Richard Wilkins. Mike replied to say that the defect is not suitable for help from SRA as it does not meet their criteria, being a highway maintenance issue. Mike chased this up with John Nicholson at Highways and John replied to say that Highways will carry out a survey of the drainage infrastructure in this area. If works are found to be required, he advised that nothing can be done until the next financial year due to budget limits in his department at present. (Nevertheless the next financial year is only five months away, so not that long in the scheme of things!) (At the meeting Dave Vigar thought that it might be possible to get SRA small project grant funding if work was needed to complete a culvert. Dave Vigar would need information from a survey to take to SRA if this was the case.)

3. Fiddlers End - Beer Drove

Large hollow in the road on the first bend, coming from Charity Farm direction. This was first reported in June this year. Highways replied to say it had been fixed, but the hollow was still there. It was reported again last week, and has now been marked up again for repair. The neighbouring section of tarmac along the edge of the road, which is falling away towards the rhyne, I believe is related to a badger sett beneath. This is going to take longer for Highways to fix because of the presence of badgers underneath the road and measures need to be put in place before the works can be done.

4. Nythe Road - near Gypsy Corner

Cracks in the surface of the tarmac reported just south of Gypsy Corner. Inspected by Highways and found not to be a safety issue at present.

5. New Road Picts Hill, Junction with Wearne Lane



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Blocked drains at the bottom of the hill, causing flood across the road on blind corner and opposite Wearne Lane junction. Reported a few weeks ago with photographs of cars driving through the flood water. Seems to have been fixed now. Drains cleared and roadworks done opposite. It seems from Highways that the problem is partly to do with a blocked culvert on private land on the western side of the junction. highways is therefore going to contact the landowner to request that they clear their culvert.

Catherine was thanked for her work chasing up various highways matters.

Footpaths - No new matters to report.

Millennium Wood – There had been much squirrel damage to some of the trees in the Millennium Wood and it was recommended that humane traps be purchased as the damage was starting to become a public safety issue. It was felt that the trees needed looking after and protecting and it was proposed (Dave Vigar) and seconded (Amanda Chuter) and carried unanimously that 3 humane traps be ordered.

Parish Green – A hedge was causing concern with regards to sight lines from the highway. The clerk was to draft a letter and Chairman would deliver it. Dave Plant was thanked for his work over the year cutting the grass at The Green.

Playing Fields – It was confirmed that the cheque had been sent to Redlynch Leisure Installations shortly after the last meeting. The project for the community orchard in the playing fields was proceeding. There was a committee meeting arranged for 1st December. It was to be seen if the tree warden had any tree protectors. A cheque would likely be required on receipt of invoice to Pernovia Fruits for approximately £340.00 The Parish Council unanimously approved this in principle. Rob Rice held a fund raising meeting and the next fete was being planned for 11th July 2026. Volunteers to help would be more than welcome.

Cemetery – A meeting had been held with the lengthsman. This winter clearing, chipper hire would be required and cost in the region of £150.00. There was a problem with a drain cover in the garden of rest. Rob Rice would look at getting quotes for the work.

Defibrillators – The new defibrillator pads had been received.

Dennis Davis Award –Margaret Cox had been presented with the Dennis Davis award for this year. Recipients were to be given small permanent mementos.

Finger Posts – It was noted that a few needed a little bit of renovation. Roger Powell agreed to help with the project once the weather improved. Rob Rice agreed to look at the one on Picts Hill by Roman Way. It was hoped to renovate and put a finger post back on the village green.

Village Hall – A few spaces remained on the wreath making sessions

School – No matters arising

Website Training – This had taken place. The invoice for annual assistance plan had been received. It was decided to review this at a future meeting. It was thought that it might be required for the next year due to the updated legislature and changes that may need to be made to email addresses and a 'council' owned website with the dot gov domain.

Phone booths – Project continuing well.



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8) Correspondence and Meetings

High Ham CLT had sent a letter asking for assistance in funding to keep the CLT viable. The request was for £275 p.a. for two years. Dave Vigar, Amanda Chuter and Nancy Green declared an interest being members of the committee and took no part in the discussion. Rob Rice took the chair and the item was discussed. Rob Webb proposed and Nick Fear seconded that the funds be granted. This was carried unanimously by the voting councillors. (It was confirmed that the item was quorate).

Nancy Green returned to the chair at the conclusion of this item.

Carols around the Tree. - Amanda Chuter/Nancy Green would sort out refreshments. Dave Vigar would source a tree and liaise with John Vigar about putting the tree up.

9) Financial

The following payments were authorised

Lengthsman - £758.34

Clerk's wages - £469.6

Cemetery management payment – £226.67

Defibrillator pads reimbursement - £139.39

Carol Sheets - £20.94

RBL Wreath - £30.00

10) Date of next meeting - confirmed as 16th December 2025 at 7.30pm

11) Items for next meeting.

The Budget and Financial regulations were to be reviewed by the Finance working group in December/January.

With no other business to discuss the meeting was closed at 8.55pm