



MINUTES OF HIGH HAM PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD AT HIGH HAM VILLAGE HALL
ON TUESDAY 24th February 2026 at 7.30pm

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

V Young (Clerk).

Unitary Councillors: Mike Stanton

Public approx: 15

Meeting opened at 7.30pm.

1) Apologies and declarations of interest: Richard Wilkins (Unitary Councillor) had sent apologies)

Declarations of Interest. - Rob Rice declared an interest in application 26/00291/COL However this application was notification only. Should any discussion arise he would leave the room. Nick Fear declared an interest in application 3A and would leave the room whilst the application was discussed.

2) Public Session – The Village Hall Treasurer requested to speak. It was noted that there was to be a meeting with regards to the future of the Village Hall on how to preserve the past and protect its future on March 21st. It was an open meeting anyone welcome to attend. The next big breakfast was on March 29th and Easter Basket making sessions where places filled up quickly was mentioned. It was noted that it would very shortly be Auntie Ethel's 100th birthday and the church bells would be rung.

The potholes on the road by Nenmead Farm were mentioned.

The parking issues around the school was mentioned. It was noted that the Chairman had met with the PCSO who had been out to observe what happened. PCSO was concerned re parents parked in the middle of the green. The PCSO observed a milk tanker getting stuck en-route due to road blockages from the school traffic. The staff have been out and given out dangerous parking notices but these have been ignored. It was a perennial problem due to the school intake years but seemed to worsen year on year. There were issues with having more signage about parking due to it being a conservation area. Limited action seemed to be being taken by the authorities due to it not being an 'A' road. The only way the police had taken any action at all was due to a formal complaint made by the Chairman of the Parish Council due to the lack of response from them initially.

The school had been reminded that there was parking both at the playing fields and the village hall both near-by. It was thought that it might be possible to again raise the matter at the next LCN meeting on 26th March where the Police and Crime Commissioner should be attending.

A question about dog bins was answered. No more were being provided.

3) Planning applications for consideration:

A) 26/00196/FUL Erection of two detached dwellinghouses each with a detached garage with office space above and associated access on land to the rear of Linden Lea

Location: Linden Lea Stout Road High Ham Langport Somerset

(Nick Fear left the room whilst the application was discussed)

There was much public interest in the application. The application was discussed.

The parish councillors unanimously voted to object to the application.

The following comments were to be made to the planning officer.

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Firstly the land is agricultural land and the application conveniently neglects to mention this.

It was also felt to be far larger houses than needed for the Parish.

The Parish are short of genuine family homes and do not need these 'huge' types. These also grossly overlooks to the point of overshadowing neighbours with the upstairs being within 6-7m of the neighbours boundary.

There is a lack of need for such large houses and there is no public support for it. Drainage and flooding is also an issue with the way the water will run off and go downstream to a house which has issues with a stream which will be added to by the run off from here.

There are huge issues for the parish council with the principle of building these two properties on agricultural land with no change of use and issues with the fall in productivity of agricultural land in general by developing genuine agricultural land.

Additionally it has been demonstrated clearly at the meeting that the visibility splays for the access cannot be met. Currently it says that it is 43m one way and 23m the other. This is not enough when near to the school considering the 8 additional vehicles that will be using the access. The issue demonstrated with the visibility splays is that in practice these cannot be met as the boundary shown for the visibility splay is the neighbours boundary wall. This is taller and of brick/stone, so therefore the visibility splay stated in the plans cannot be made/met.

The Parish Council therefore object with regards to:

The use of agricultural land to residential (which this is-even if it does not say),
drainage/flooding, with excess water adversely impacting properties down-stream,

the gross overlooking/overshadowing of one of the neighbours,

the development of huge un-needed houses, when family homes and starter homes are required.

No proven need for the conversion of agricultural land for this house when the parish housing needs survey indicated smaller homes were required.

Visual impact of such dominating buildings which are huge compared to others in the locality is out of keeping and not limited to the gross over -development of the site.

On an additional note, one of the boundaries shown is actually a wall with a central heating boiler sticking over.

B)26/00305/DEM

Proposal: Prior Notification of Proposed Demolition of one building.

Location: Withies Henley Langport Somerset TA10 9BG

Application Type : Demolition of Bldg(s) not in Cons. Area

Nick Fear returned to the room at the start of this item. This was a notification only application. It was not felt that any matters need be brought to the attention of the planning department and therefore no comments would be made.

26/00291/COL Application for a Lawful Development Certificate for the proposed erection of 1no. new pool house with gym and associated landscape works

Location: Wearne Wyche Picts Hill Huish Episcopi Langport Somerset TA10 9AA - This application was also notification only. It was not felt that there were any matters to be brought to the attention of the planning officer and therefore no comments would be made.

4) Planning applications decided: None. It was noted that there was still no determination on the application for the solar farm at Nythe.

5) Unitary Councillor report The written report had been forwarded to councillors.

Mike Stanton reported on the stage of the budget and financing agreements that had been made with central government. Due to the loss of rural funding areas grant £21 Million would be lost but

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government had agreed to Somerset releasing £30 Million capital. It was thought that the 27-28 financial year would be extremely challenging

Over 10 Thousand potholes across Somerset had been reported in the last month. The Unitary Council were working hard and had doubled the 'pothole' fixing team.

Mike Stanton re-iterated that parishioners needed to put planning objections in that were made on valid and coherent planning objections.

6) Minutes of the last meetings The minutes of the meeting held on 27th January 2026 were approved as a true record with minor amendment and duly signed.

7) Action Points

Lengthsmans Report - Craig and Rachael Howe

We have had a slight respite with the weather and have been able to make more progress with the tree work at the cemetery.

One tree (prunus sp. to the right of the gate) that was identified on the survey as needing a prune (as a result of dropping a limb over the summer) now needs to be removed. When Craig climbed it there was evidence of decay high in the tree and it is likely to drop more limbs in the summer months when fully loaded with fruit. That will be our focus on our next visit hopefully. This tree will be replaced in situ of the tree that will have to come out.

We have also checked on 'wildlife activity' in MW

And of course the usual drainage work around the parish.

Highways – Pothole in Field Road by Nenmead is marked up. The blocked drain by Manor Farm has been reported and is marked up. The blocked culvert in Henley along Broadacre Lane has been reported. The blocked drain on the green by the telegraph pole has not been marked up.

With regard to traffic on Picts Hill, there had been an online meeting with highways following on from parishioner concern and reports from the Parish Council. Highways had re-iterated that 30 mph repeater signs and 30 roundels were not feasible due to strict government rules and regulations. It was however hopeful that the pedestrian crossing marking would be redone and some anti-slip surface used and junction warning signs will be checked and "SLOW" in capitals and yellow bars should be installed by the crossing. It may be possible to install 'gateway' features on the entrance to the village from the Somerton direction. However this would be at the expense of the Parish Council and quotes would have to be ascertained.

At Bere the blocked drain and potholes/road-edge loss at the top of Bere Lane had been reported well over 2 years ago. Jetting had taken place in 2024 and will now be done again but not until the next financial year end. It was thought that there may be an issue with a main drainpipe in the area and a highways engineer would have to go and inspect it.

With regard to the speed indicator device for Picts Hill. Catherine Roberts had undertaken the Chapter 8 roadworking training. Nick Fear and Catherine Roberts would now be able to operate/move the SID in the parish. It was thought that once SID quotes had been obtained and the additional post put in place it might be possible to purchase a second SID. Dave Vigar to look into the prices of SIDs (Speed Indicator Devices)

Footpaths - A timber pedestrian gate and gatepost from the churchyard to Turnhill Road was causing issues with loose parts etc. Nick Rob Rice and Dave Vigar would go to have a look to see what solutions there were and if the whole gate needed replacing.

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Millennium Wood – per lengthsman report

Parish Green – Area outside St Andrews (owned by PC) The grassed area adjacent to gate is now churned up, and some areas of gravel now worn. In term-time this area is used for parking by school traffic - reversing/turning vehicles have, over the years, worn the gravelled surface. Quotes were to be sought in the near future.

Playing Fields – Ten fruit trees had been planted and ten more were expected. The recent wassail had been very successful and raised £277.20. All the volunteers were thanked. A date had been set as 16th January for next year's wassail. The committee thanked the parish council for the transfer in the current year accounts agreed for £8000 at the January meeting. The summer fete was scheduled for Saturday 11th July – volunteers were sought. More immediately it was hoped to hold some May day celebrations for the parish jointly with the village hall.

With regard to recent correspondence from the unitary council it was agreed to just keep one dog waste bin operational. The one by the gate would be taken away. The council was to be asked if they would provide a slightly bigger bin than the current one. (proposed by Nancy Green, seconded by Dave Vigar and carried unanimously re the use of one bin only.

Cemetery – Work was ongoing. A tree was to come out but would be replaced.

Defibrillators – No issues reported. It was additionally noted that there was a bleed pack at the village hall.

Village Hall – This had been discussed in the open forum earlier in meeting.

School – Parking issues discussed in open forum earlier in meeting.

Phone booths – The Green: glass panes cleaned with algae cleaner

Large donation of books last week. Books in poor condition/on shelves for some months - removed.

Church – No matters arising

Other – website – The website needed new content. Derek volunteered to write up some information about the playing field.

The notice board at Henley required a new hinge. Rob Rice volunteered to check what had happened to the board.

Dennis Davis Award – The Ellis Potters were at the meeting and thanked. 2 more tankards were to be made.

Eastfield Nature Reserve – Rob Webb would forward Eastfield Nature Reserve contact at the Unitary Council to the clerk with regard to a query from someone volunteering to assist in work there.

8) Correspondence and Meetings – Dave Vigar had attended an abattoir liaison committee meeting with regard to any progress on changing the HGV route so that it did not send lorries twice by the school and Picts Hill.

9) Financial

The following payments were authorised

Lengthsman - £758.34

Clerk's wages - £469.6

Cemetery management payment – £226.67

Corum Construction Training - £360.00

D Deighton – re playing field orchard opening exp - £153.08

N Green – D Davis award – touch of glass engraving - £30.00

Receipt - Playing Field orchard opening ceremony - £277.30

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10) Date of next meeting - confirmed as 24th March 2026 at 7.30pm

The meeting was then closed to the public at 9.30 to discuss contracts for the next financial year for the Lengthsman, Cemetery, Green, Playing Field mowing etc.

Various additional quotes were to be sought and reviewed at the next meeting.

11) Items for next meeting.

The Financial regulations were to be reviewed at a future meeting.

With no other business the meeting was closed at 9.57pm