



MINUTES OF HIGH HAM PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD AT HIGH HAM VILLAGE HALL
ON TUESDAY 27th January 2026 at 7.30pm

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

V Young (Clerk).

Unitary Councillors: Mike Stanton

Public approx: 5

Meeting opened at 7.30pm.

- 1) Apologies and declarations of interest:** Rob Webb had sent apologies and these were accepted. Apologies had been sent from 2 parishioners. Richard Wilkins (Unitary Councillor had also sent apologies)

Declarations of Interest. - There were no declarations of interest

- 2) Public Session –** Issues caused by the weather and flooding were discussed. It was noted that the large pothole in Picts Hill had not been repaired well and would be reported again. Also pothole on Stout Road and condition of verge on the edge of The Green. A drain near telegraph pole by cattle grid by Manor Farm needed jetting (as did many drains).

It appeared that the hedge that had been causing issues overhanging the pavement had now been cut back.

Henley had suffered a lot of flooding. Dave Vigar has cleared some gullies within the parish and was thanked for this.

3) Planning applications for consideration:

A) 25/02992/FUL Proposed self-build dwelling and detached garage.

Location: Land North Of Snowdrop Cottage Union Drove Huish Episcopi Langport Somerset

The Parish Council objected to the change of use and thereby the whole application due to the size and scale and dominance of the building in countryside and its imposing nature on the surroundings. (unanimous with one abstention.)

- 4) Planning applications decided:** The reply from the planning officer with regard to general class Q queries had been received and circulated and was discussed.

25/02833/HOU – Brookside, Cooks Lane – Granted

25/02864/AGN – Land adjacent to Tibbs Barn - Not permitted as Agricultural Notice, Full planning application required.

25/02756/HOU – Hamdown Court – Granted

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

The budget was being set. Council tax would likely rise by the maximum allowed increase.

Children's placements were costly with the numbers with SENs rising. Budget setting was still ongoing. At the conclusion of this item Mike Stanton left the meeting.

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6) Minutes of the last meetings The minutes of the meeting held on 16th December 2025 were approved as a true record with minor amendment and duly signed.

7) Action Points

Lengthsmans Report - Craig and Rachael Howe

This month the weather has made it difficult to complete the amount of tree work we would have liked to do in the cemetery but we have done what we can so far. We have also cleared storm/ squirrel damaged branches from the rides around MW.

We have also cleared around the grit bins and checked the contents as well as completed extensive drainage inspection and clearing around the parish.

Highways – Several matters had been reported. The concrete bar on the verge by Sam's Cross had been reported. A 'hollow' at Fiddler's End had been reported to highways and highways had said it was fixed. It was clear that it hadn't so would be reported again.

Several more pot holes had been reported. A new speed indicator device site on Picts Hill was in the process of going through approval with highways. There was a query with regard to the colour that it flashed when traffic was between the speed of 30 and 40 mph. Information provided from 11 days had a total of 29000 movements with the average speed being 39.4 mph the fastest recorded was 70 mph at 3.55pm (this may however be emergency vehicle).

It was noted that a drain by Tufnel House, Broadacre Lane appeared partially collapsed.

It was noted that it was possible to hire a crew with hand tools at a day cost of £700 per day but could also contact Fry Hire for a quote. It was thought that this might be a project for the spring.

Picts Hill – further work by highways authority on scraping back footpath etc should be undertaken shortly.

Fountain House area – Highways were to be asked if they could contact necessary landowners with regard to trimming back overhanging hedges etc that went too far out into the road.

Footpaths - No new matters to report.

Millennium Wood – per lengthsmans report

Parish Green – £240 had been raised by the carol singing. Volunteers were thanked.

Playing Fields – Derek Deighton from playing Field committee was in attendance. The wassail for the new orchard trees was to be this Saturday at 4pm. A thank you was given to the volunteers. The summer fete was being planned and may be something in May. A longer view plan was been taken with a view to adding new equipment and upgrading the equipment.

Cemetery – A builder will need to sort out a drain in Spring.

Defibrillators – No issues reported

Village Hall – No issues reported. Repairs to be starting soon

School – Parking - The Chairman had contacted the PCSO and would also speak with the head teacher.

Phone booths – No matters arising

Church – No matters arising

Other – website – was proving difficult to use. It could do with up to date content but this needed to be sent in in order to put it on the website.

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8) Correspondence and Meetings – correspondence had been received with regard to icy roads, particularly the main hill through the parish. It was noted that the reply from highways indicated that it was not on the gritting network and listed the requirements for it to be on the network. It was thought that as this was the only road available to get children in the Parish to Huish Episcopi it might be possible to ask that it be added. Correspondence had been received from a resident in Picts Hill. Matters were ongoing and a few of the councillors needed to meet again with highways. The abattoir liaison working group had the lorry route on the agenda. The matter was ongoing but so far had not found a positive answer to preventing lorries driving twice passed the school.

The Ellis Pottery were thanked for the mugs for a permanent memento of receiving the D Davis award.

9) Financial

Following a meeting of the Finance Group, the Budget for the year ending 31/3/27 - this was set as £42,950 as last year. Proposed by Nancy Green Seconded by Amanda Chuter and carried unanimously. It was also proposed that at the end of this current financial year £8000 funds should be transferred from general funds to the playing field. (Proposed by Nancy Green and Seconded by Rob Rice and carried unanimously).

The following payments were authorised
Dorset & Somerset Air Ambulance - £240 (from Carols around the tree)
Lengthsman - £758.34
Clerk's wages - £469.6
Cemetery management payment – £226.67
N Green - Carols around tree expenses - £11.99
Ashcott Parish Council £70 (approved last meeting) – £70.00
Information Commissioners Office - £52.00

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

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 9.30pm