



MINUTES OF HIGH HAM PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD AT HIGH HAM VILLAGE HALL
ON TUESDAY 24th March 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: Richard Wilkins

Public approx: 9

Meeting opened at 7.30pm.

1) Apologies and declarations of interest: Mike Stanton (Unitary Councillor) had sent apologies)

Declarations of Interest. - None

2) Public Session – It was noted that the potholes on Ham Hill had been filled in. Richard Wilkins would chase up the outstanding pothole that still needed filling on the same stretch if sent the reference number.

3) Planning applications for consideration:

A) 26/00441/COL - Proposal: Certificate of Lawfulness for existing use of land as a Gypsy and Traveller pitch. Location: The Caravan Henley Langport Somerset TA10 9BA Certificate of Lawful Use or Development The Parish Council would contact the planning department as it was believed that this prior notification and certificate of lawfulness application was not correct.

It was felt that it should be a full application. It had never been a Romany or traveller site with the previous occupants being there for well over 50 years. There were also concerns about the lack of detail concerning waste water and sewage disposal. There does not appear to be a waste treatment unit, also the site is not large enough for a soakaway. The drain inspection pits are adjacent to a field ditch. In the past the roadside gully was used to dispose waste water. (Given highways flooding this no longer seems appropriate.)

B) 26/0213/FUL Formation of vehicular access and erection of gate and fence (retrospective application) Location: Land At Windmill Road High Ham Langport Somerset. Full Application. The Parish Council offered no objections to this application.

Applications decided:

26/00305 – The Withies – Demolition work - Granted

26/00291/COL – Wearne Winch – swimming pool – Granted.

It appeared that the solar farm would be on the April planning committee meeting. It was noted that these fields had been underwater over the winter.

5) Unitary Councillor report

The boundary review for the unitary councillor wards had been completed by the Boundary Commission. Both High Ham and Pitney would be in the 'Langport' division. After the next elections in May the number of councillors would change from 110 to 96 with only a few having 2 councillors per ward. The budget had gone through. It was hoped that there would be more planning officers and enforcement officers.

6) Minutes of the last meetings The minutes of the meeting held on 24th February 2026 were approved as a true record with minor amendment and duly signed.

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7) Action Points

Lengthsmans Report - Craig and Rachael Howe-March 2026

This month we have been busy with the first cut of the grass at the cemetery and continuing with the tree work as per the survey. We also cleared more squirrel damaged branches in MW and restocked and checked the traps. We have decided on some new locations so we can maximise their effectiveness.

Highways – The hazard markings and zigzag on the road by the school would be renewed soon. It was also confirmed that highways would repaint the 'Slow' on Field Road and by The Green. Work was continuing with investigated a possible 'gateway' from the Somerton direction towards Picts Hill. The Parish Council were waiting for information from highways.

Several gullies had been jetted on Burrow Lane.

Footpaths - Dave Vigar and Nick Fear to check what could be done with regard to a gate on a footpath by the churchyard.

Millennium Wood – per lengthsmans report

Parish Green – There was still one pothole on the edge of The Green. Rob Rice will check what could be done.

Playing Fields – Quotes were being sought for play equipment. The correspondence/quote for the dog-bins were reviewed again and it was to be asked that the one by the gateway be removed and ask if the other one could be replaced with a larger bin. The quote for the dog bins for the year finishing was to be replied to again since it had now been established what year it was actually for. Since the Parish had only become aware that they would be paying for these bins by a quote arriving in December for work already done, it was still being queried. The fete was planned for 11th July.

Cemetery – No issues reported

Defibrillators – No issues reported.

Village Hall – There had been an open meeting hosted by the village hall at the weekend. The Parish Council would look into the possibility of a maintenance grant. The next 'Big Breakfast' was to be this Saturday coming.

School – Nancy and Amanda had a meeting at the school, the police did not attend after all as they were on a 'rest day'. Nancy and Amanda would chase up again when the police can make a meeting on site after Easter. It was noted that parents could park in the village hall car park or the playing field car park.

Phone booths – Working well. Books that weren't taken were redistributed where possible. The project continued to work well.

Church – No matters arising

Other – website – becoming easier. The facebook advert pop-ups were of some annoyance.

8) Correspondence and Meetings – A parishioner had put in planning enforcement complaint with regard to a number of buildings being built a long a track with concern about the size of the building and what appeared to be a new access through. The original building was a small building which had

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come under 'permitted development'. It was mentioned how difficult and time consuming the enforcement website was for people to use, and that it could choose not to work at all. The stability of the whole planning website was mentioned.

There was to be a LCN meeting on Thursday 26th March.

9) Financial

The following payments were authorised

Lengthsman - £758.34

Clerk's wages - £469.6

Cemetery management payment – £226.67

10) Date of next meeting - confirmed as 28th April 2026 at 7.30pm

The meeting was then closed to the public at 9.03 to discuss contracts for the next financial year for the Lengthsman, Cemetery, Green, Playing Field mowing etc.

The quotes sought at the last meeting were discussed and chosen for the coming year. Mike Cox & Co quote mow the playing fields was unanimously accepted, the Plants had quoted for mowing the cemetery and 'The Green', this was unanimously accepted. Howe Tree Surgery would still act as Parish Lengthsman and also would continue the work on the cemetery trees as needed. It was unanimously agreed that the Lengthsmans contract would have a small rise, and the reduced hours were accepted, however, it would be arranged that someone else would mow the rides in the wood. The meeting re-opened to the public.

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 9.30 pm