



MINUTES OF HIGH HAM PARISH COUNCIL MEETING  
HELD AT HIGH HAM VILLAGE HALL  
ON TUESDAY 28<sup>th</sup> April 2026 at 7.30pm

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

V Young (Clerk).

Unitary Councillors: Mike Stanton

Public approx: 11

Meeting opened at 7.30pm.

**1) Apologies and declarations of interest:** Amanda Chuter had sent apologies and these were accepted. Richard Wilkins (Unitary Councillor) had also sent apologies

Declarations of Interest. - None

**2) Public Session –** It was noted that someone had dumped 2 boars at a pig farm in the parish. These did not have tags and posed a significant health risk to the livestock on site. They had been taken in, the police had been informed but were not interested. The pigs would be dispatched unless a home was found within a day or so for them. It was urged that the action of dumping them and potentially infected a farmer's entire 'livestock' was not a humane way to get rid of unwanted pets.

It was also noted that the British Horse Society had put in to try and get 'Blacken Lane' turned into a biway. There was some concern that this would cause the tractor access to block individuals from their homes. Mike Stanton would have a look at the matter.

Concern had been raised and it had been reported that the recycling collections on windy days left recycling blowing around particularly in the recycling trucks.

**3) Planning applications for consideration:**

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

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

Somerset. It was felt that this development was still too large and that the building would be too prominent. It was however noted that the neighbours had not objected and that it already had change of use on the site. The Parish Council voted to object to the application with 3 votes for objection, 2 in favour and one abstention.

B) 26/00531/FUL Proposal: Formation of vehicular access (retrospective)

Location: Land Adjacent To Broadham Henley Langport Somerset TA10 9BH. This application unanimously met with a vote of no objections providing a compensating length of hedge is planted.

C) 26/00829/COL Proposal: Application for a Lawful Development Certificate for the existing use of part of an agricultural barn as a self contained dwelling Location: Bare Bones Farm Shed Land At Smiths Lane Long Street High Ham. The applicant was at the meeting and explained the purpose of the application. It was noted that this was a notification application only but with the Parish Council being offered an opportunity to comment if it was believed that details of the application were incorrect. The Parish Council had no details to say the application was incorrect and unanimously agreed that this being the case, there was no need to comment.

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**Applications decided** The Caravan Henley Langport Somerset TA10 9BA  
Proposal Certificate of Lawfulness for existing use of land as a Gypsy and Traveller pitch.  
Application Permitted

**5) Unitary Councillor report**

A bus route to Castle Cary had been put in. It was confirmed that the large pothole in Henley had been reported and Richard knew about it.

At the end of this item Mike Stanton left the meeting.

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

**7) Action Points**

**Lengthsmans Report**

Since our last report we have completed the last cut at the cemetery, and we have also completed a grass cut at MW. We have checked for any further damage to trees in MW, and did our routine check the pond for anything that may have been thrown in. The Geocache has gone missing again, so I need to find a more subtle hiding spot.

Future plans include the work in The Pound, and the chipping in the cemetery.

Craig has been asked if he can clear the fallen branch that partially impeded walkers at the start of the footpath opp bottom of Fountain.

**Highways** – Various options for the Picts Hill ‘gateway’ were being investigated. Glaston had put in quotes for varying option ranging in price. With installation and the cost of the signage and gateways the cost for one large one was approximately £3000 and £6000 for two slightly smaller ones.

Highways had mentioned an option of steel posts being installed by highways and a sign being fixed that would be in the region of £900 for one sign and £1800 for two.

Painting on the road could be done by highways for approximately £500 and future maintenance paid for by highways.

Permission for any of the gateway options would be needed from the landowners.

As the costs for the project were increasing it was suggested that another option that would need to be investigated again is whether it would be better value to purchase a speed indicator device that the parish could also rotate between sites when the shared SID was not available. It was mentioned that there had been an offer at one stage for some funds from a planning application sometime ago that funding may be available for a SID. The situation was to be checked.

It was thought a further site meeting would be needed, to take the project further and ascertain the exact siting etc of any of the gateway options.

**Footpaths** - Nick Fear had undertaken the annual ‘strimmer’ course and he would also take another look at the gateway on the footpath by the churchyard to see what could be done.

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**Parish Green** – It was noted that the troublesome pot hole had been filled in.

**Playing Fields** – A proposal came from the playing field committee to transfer some of the funds in the pavilion set aside to general funds in order that new play equipment could be purchased to enhance and broaden the appeal of the playing fields. The equipment being sought was callisthenic exercise equipment. One option was budgeted at about £8000 in total and the other was just under £12000 in total. This would update the playing field to have exercise equipment for a wide range of ages.

There was some discussion about a toilet block on site even if the entire pavilion project was too costly for the time being. It was noted that options for this were being investigated but these too remained very costly and the committee thought that it would be better to have to be exercise equipment. After some discussion Dave Vigar proposed that the Parish Council authorise that the Playing Field Committee could pursue the quotation for up £12,000. This would mean a transfer within the playing fields own reserves of approximately £3,000. Nick Fear seconded the proposal and it was carried unanimously.

It was mentioned that a public works loan might be an option with regard to funding a toilet block on the site.

It was noted that the first cut of the season of the grass at the playing field was good.

It was unanimously agreed to accept the revised quote for one dog waste bin for the year going forward.

**Cemetery** – The new contract was working well. There was some concern with regard to the drain that needed better weather to fix properly. In the meantime it would be made safe with a ply covering.

**Defibrillators** – Two of the defibrillators would require new batteries before October. They were all up and running and on the 'circuit'.

**Village Hall** – The village hall had held an open meeting to gather ideas etc about the hall and how to maintain it for the future. After receiving information that showed the hall was breaking even on bookings and general expenses but just struggling with 'extras' of maintaining an elderly building the parish council agreed that it could grant some funds to it using its granting abilities under S137. It was explained that these were of a limited amount per elector head for the total of grants in that category for an entire year. Therefore it was proposed by Rob Rice, and seconded by Catherine Roberts to grant £1000 at the next months meeting, with the possibilities of extending this amount depending on other grants throughout the year. This was carried unanimously.

**School** – Nancy Green and Dave Vigar had met with the head teacher and police. After witnessing 4 cars trying to park on the junction the police said they would come out again from 'time to time'. It was also arranged that the 'children' shaped signs would be coming to High Ham for a bit. It was noted that the zig-zags could not be enforced without the matching highways signs that make them enforceable. The signs have been requested but would take some time as the parking order has to be advertised first etc.

**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. Another session of website training was to be arranged.

Finger posts – The team would be starting up again as and when the weather was suitable.

**8) Correspondence and Meetings** – A letter had been received from the bank which the chairman and clerk would look into, with regard to confirming signatories.

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A meeting had been attended with regard to flooding and another with regard to the campaign for a station for Somerton/Langport.

**9) Financial**

The following payments were authorised

Play Equipment for playing field in principle only per resolution above

Village Hall Maintenance grant in principle only if resolved above. - £1000.00

Lengthsman - £660.00

Clerk's wages - £469.6

Cemetery & Village Green Mowing Contract - £382.67

Cosmic – website domain renewal - £48.00

SALC/NALC - £439.49

R Webb - £28.00 (Playing Field Orchard tree expenses)

**10) Date of next meeting** - confirmed as 26<sup>th</sup> May 2026 at 7.30pm for the Annual Parish Meeting followed by the Annual Parish Council meeting.

**11) Items for next meeting.**

With no other business the meeting was closed at 9.26 pm