



MINUTES OF HIGH HAM PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

HELD AT HIGH HAM VILLAGE HALL

ON TUESDAY 23rd June 2026 at 7.30pm

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

V Young (Clerk).

Unitary Councillors: Richard Wilkins

Public approx: 11

Meeting opened at 7.30pm.

1) Apologies and declarations of interest: Rob Rice had sent apologies and these were accepted. Mike Stanton (Unitary Councillor) had also sent apologies. Apologies were also received from one parishioner.

Declarations of Interest. - None

2) Public Session – A severe weather protocol had been put in place across the county starting tomorrow with regard to the heat. Please look out for neighbours. There was also some discussion about an informal/unofficial meeting at 'Eli's' with regard to Langport carpark, prior to consultation going forward (presumably regarding countywide charges!).

3) Planning applications for consideration:

A) 26/01167/FUL at Longridge, Main Road, High Ham - Erection of dwelling and associated works. After discussion the application was unanimously supported. There had been some concerns that it was rather close to 'The Pound'.

B) 26/01254/HOU at Rosemary Cottage Cookes Lane Henley and 26/01255/LBC (Listed building consent) Proposal: Retention of a conservatory and garden building (Retrospective). After discussion these two applications were unanimously supported.

It was also noted that since the date of the agenda a further notification only application had been received. 26/01224/TCA – to remove limbs from trees at the Old Rectory, Stout Road. The parish council offered no comments.

Nythe Solar Farm – It was notice that since the last meeting some information had been put into the planners regarding environmental mitigation. It was noted that much of the information was incorrect. The parish council would send in a statement stating the inconsistencies etc to the planning officer in charge of the deciding the application.

4) Applications decided

26/01066/AGN – Notification of intent to erect an agricultural storage barn – Tibbs Barn – No Objections.

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 – Granted. The Parish Council would write to the Unitary Council for an explanation as to why no-ones concerns (including legitimate planning ones), seemed to have been taken into account.

26/00829/COL – Application for a Lawful Development Certificate for the existing use of part of an agricultural barn as a self contained dwelling – Bare Bones Farm - Granted

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It was noted that a 'prior approval' application for Broadham, Henley, which was notification only had been received since the agenda date.

5) Unitary Councillor report

Councillor Richard Wilkins reported that fifty million pounds had been secured for Somerset for local schemes relating to resilience from flooding. Some money had been put into schemes to clear drains more often. Meetings had been attended between the Unitary Council highways and National Highways and the police regarding M5 closures and why the road was closed for so long at a time for a problem created by one person. The increasing frequency and length of time of the closures was causing widespread countywide issues for Somerset, Dorset, Devon and Cornwall.

6) Minutes of the last meetings The minutes of the meeting held on 26th May 2026 were approved as a true record with minor amendment and duly signed.

7) Action Points

Lengthsmans Report (sent in from the lengthsmen)

"We have completed the work in the pound- trimmed the epicormic around tree, cleared leaves and removed ivy from the wall. We have done minimal work to the tree itself as it is a conservation area so any further works, if required, will need to be applied for.

Weed spraying around village centre and guess hill.

Strimmed the visibility splays around junctions and play area.

Hedge trimming and branch removal over footpath at end of Fountain.

Strimming and hedge cutting in MW.

Strimming verge on Union Drove/ Pict's hill.

The Prunus with cushion fungus in the cemetery which had a branch snapped out when loaded with fruit was dealt with. Initially we removed the sail area and then on a separate day (today) we removed the bigger branches down to 2m (crown break). Remaining stump is veteranised for screening and to maximise benefit to wildlife habitat. All chippings were left on site to provide natural weed suppressant and to reduce carbon footprint. "

Highways – Bere – Blocked drains that had caused damage to road – it looked like a whole series of drains had been cleared. The crevasse at the edge of the road had been filled in.

The zig zags at the school had been redone and the Parish Council had confirmed support for mandatory 'keep clear' signage.

Further to an extra site meeting to confirm measurements etc it was unanimously agreed that Catherine Roberts could order work from highways/glasdon as necessary for £1400 with £1600 top end limit for any small adjustments to the preliminary prices suggested to the Parish Council. (proposed by Amanda Chuter, seconded by Dave Vigar and carried unanimously).

Footpaths - Churchyard footpath gate still required attention.

Millennium Wood – per lengthsmen report

Parish Green – None

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Playing Fields – Final arrangements were being made for the fete. Two trees from the recent planting had perished and it was unanimously agreed that these could be replaced. The lengthsman would clear some of the tree/bramble by the BMX track.
Mike Cox had quoted £595 for a new 12 ft gate. The plan was for one additional gate.
It was unanimously agreed that the clerk could sign off with the unitary council the agreement for only the one dog waste bin in the playing fields for the current financial year.

Cemetery – The parish council had been advised that a different plan regarding the problematic drain would need to be investigated. The contractor had raised concern about the un-evenness of some of the graves. Some councillors would undertake a site visit to confirm what was occurring.

Defibrillators – New pads for one of the defibrillators would be required in October.

Village Hall – A successful fundraiser had raised approximately £500

School – It was noted that the 'parking buddies' had arrived outside the school.

Phone booths – No matters arising

Church – No matters arising

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

8) Correspondence and Meetings – It was unanimously agreed that the wedge shaped memorial proposed for one grave at the cemetery was allowable and should not be an issue.

Dave Vigar would attend the next LCN highways meeting.

9) Financial

The following payments were authorised

Lengthsman - £660.00

Clerk's wages - £469.60

Cemetery & Village Green Mowing Contract - £382.67

M Cox – re mowing playing fields - £ 180.00

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

11) Items for next meeting.

With no other business the meeting was closed at 9.20pm