



MINUTES OF HIGH HAM PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

HELD AT HIGH HAM VILLAGE HALL

ON TUESDAY 28th JULY 2026 at 7.30pm

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

V Young (Clerk).

Unitary Councillors: Mike Stanton

Public approx: 4

Meeting opened at 7.30pm

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

Declarations of Interest. - None

2) Public Session – With 50,000 acres of productive farmland in the UK lost due to fires there was national concern with regard to food security. More locally as well as nationally concern raised with water supply for wildlife. People encouraged to put some water out in the evenings. The River Carey had become depleted and still with water rationing over the moor. This was leading to algae due to the heat and lack of water movement and there was a problem with large numbers of dead fish.

A big thank you went out to the playing fields committee for the work put into organising another successful fete.

3) Planning applications for consideration:

A) Ref. No: 26/01626/DOC1 Discharge of Condition number 4 (Access) of planning application 26/00531/FUL Land Adjacent To Broadham Henley Langport Somerset TA10 9BH – This application was notification only and had been granted.

B) Ref. No: 26/01413/PAMB (Notification Only) Prior Approval for the change of use of an existing agricultural barn to a dwelling. Broadham Henley Langport Somerset TA10 9BH, - This had gone through as class Q and was notification only. It had been granted.

4) Applications decided

25/03045/LBC – Listed Building Consent – Rebuilding of a storm damaged stone agricultural barn at Fir Tree Farm, Long Street – Granted.

26/00535/FUL – Rebuilding of a storm damaged stone agricultural barn at Fir Tree Farm, Long Street – Granted.

25/02992/FUL – Land North of Snowdrop Cottage, Union Drove. Proposed self-build dwelling and detached garage. – Granted.

26/01224/TCA – Trees in conservation area – Notification of intent to fell 2 Corsican Pine, and crown lift and remove heavy stems to 6 Holm Oaks to achieve statutory clearance over highway. – The Old Rectory, Stout Road. - This was adjusted before the works to fell one tree and works on the others. - The application was granted.

5) Unitary Councillor report - The Unitary Council had been allocated 50 million pounds in 2 years to pass on as part of a community fund to apply for local flood prevention schemes. The Childrens

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Services Scrutiny report had indicated that there were an extra 3.5 million children with special needs.

The bumps along Nythe Road had been spray painted up. Mike would ask Richard what the plans for it were. The Somerset Transport Strategy local plan was out for consultation.

Mike was asked about planning services. New legislation would mean that nearly all applications to be delegated and very few would go to the planning committees. It was noted that enforcement services were non-statutory.

6) Minutes of the last meetings The minutes of the meeting held on 23rd June 2026 were approved as a true record with minor amendment and duly signed.

7) Action Points

Lengthsmans Report (sent in from the lengthsmen)

Before the school holidays began we completed all the weed spraying in the play area and pulled some ragwort that had appeared there. We also cleared the hedges and verges on the outside of the play area to ensure the visibility splays were kept clear.

Moving on to MW, we spent some time clearing all the overhanging vegetation on the rides that was beginning to impede the walking areas. We also cleared the overgrown hedging around the gates and car park. All the cuttings were left on site underneath the hedges or in the sides for habitat and wildlife. We also pulled some ragwort that had appeared here too.

Future work includes continued maintenance of the rides and trees at MW as well as replacing the geocache again.

A vote took place with regard to removal of all ragwort from council-owned land. (proposed Dave Vigar, Seconded Rob Rice, and carried by 4:1)

Highways – The gateway quote of £1571 for the sign at Picts Hill was accepted. It was noticed that one of the relevant poles needed straightening. Rob Rice proposed, Nancy Green seconded the installation of the SID pole at Picts Hill. Highways had acknowledged that the refurbishment of the crossing at the top of Picts Hill would be undertaken.

There had been correspondence from a resident on Picts Hill at the junction to High Ham requesting 30mph repeater signs. It was noted that the Parish Council had no authority to install 30 mph repeater signs. However the matter had been raised with highways who would see what they could do to make it clearer that this road was still within the 30mph.

Footpaths - Nick Fear had affected a repair of the gate on the footpath by the churchyard. It may need further attention in due course.

Millennium Wood – per lengthsmen report. Mike Cox had cut the grass in the car park. Nancy to speak with Amanda Chuter about grass cutting in the Millennium wood with view of whether it was felt that the paths required it etc.

Parish Green – A bollard needed re-installing. The new barrier had been hit on the parish green. There was concern that the hedge trimming in the area had not been sufficient.

Playing Fields – All the playing field committee members were thanked. Rob Rice was thanked for co-ordinating the fete. It had taken a huge amount of effort and raised about £750. It appeared that some stall holders had not paid. The activity stalls seemed to do the best. The Village Hall had raised about £170 and the Church bric-a-brac £250. The evening event had been well attended. The committee were looking at if they should continue the event in the current format. The annual play inspection had gone well and highlighted work required to the zipwire, the spring 'hedgehog' and

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the pedestrian entrance gate. A quote of £594 had been received for a new gatepost for the vehicle entrance. The matter was to be put on hold and the committee to see if there was enough large vehicles requiring to turn around in the carpark to make the suggested work worthwhile. The safety matting had been lifted and reset. The idea of security cameras was raised with regard to the playing field and millennium wood. The next committee meeting for the playing field was 7th September 7.30pm at the Kings Head.

Cemetery – An issue with ground on the far left for the 1970s graves that were uneven (some headstones had been laid down), the suggestion was that 4-5 tonnes of top soil and grass seed could even it out but that the cost would have to be determined. A guestimate was £250 plus labour. The problem was that some had living relatives others had none. Also the difficulties with contacting them. It was agreed that it would be good to try and send letters to those living relatives that could be identified as they probably didn't know that it was the responsibility of the family. There was a drainage issue that was been looked into at the cemetery. There was one which did not do anything. Rob Rice agreed to take a look.

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

Village Hall – A thank you was given to all those who had supported them at the village fete.

School – A meeting had been arranged re parking with the Chair of the Parish Council the School and the police, on site to view the problem. This had been all arranged and then the police had said they couldn't come. The matter would have to wait for the new school year.

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 –

The bank issues and correspondence had been noted.

It was agreed that the councillors would meet up re the Somerset Transport Review.

At the LCN questions had been raised to the police commissioner with regard to fly tipping.

The road closures at Bow Street, Langport and also Burrowbridge were noted.

John Nicholson (Highways) had said at a meeting to let him know re additional gully cleaning in December. The consultation with regard to the merging of Langport and Huish Episcopi had been delayed. Correspondence had been received with regard to checking the levels of gritbins.

9) Financial

The following payments were authorised:

Lengthsman - £660.00

Clerk's wages - £469.6

Cemetery & Village Green Mowing Contract - £382.67

M Cox – re mowing playing fields - £ 540.00

Howe Tree surgery chipper hire - £ 239.76

N Green – reimburse re BigDug re tyres for stabilising playing field goal posts - £55.48

Somerset Council (Playing Fields dog waste bin for 3 months - £101.40

Nordic Play Inspection - £330.00

10) Date of next meeting - confirmed as 22nd September 2026 at 7.30pm, unless a meeting required in August for planning applications (25th August 2026).

11) Items for next meeting. CLT grant of £275

With no other business the meeting was closed at 9.45pm

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