



MINUTES OF HIGH HAM PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

HELD on ZOOM

ON TUESDAY 23RD MARCH 2021

Present: David Vigar (Chairman), Chris Palmer, Amanda Chuter, John Vigar, Rob Webb, Andy Davidson, Gerard Tucker, V Young (Clerk).

Approx: 2 parishioners

Meeting opened at 7.30pm.

1) Apologies & Declarations of Interest: Clare Paul (County Councillor), Paul Brunsdon. There were no declarations of interest.

2) Approval of Minutes - The minutes of the meeting held on 23rd February 2021 were approved as a true record.

3) Planning Applications for Consideration

21/00591/AGN – Notification of intent to erect an agricultural building for the storage of fodder. Land North of Mildmays Road, High Ham. This application was for notification only.

21/00241/FUL – Proposed conversion of farm buildings to a dwelling. Land OS 4374 Part barns opposite Southend House, Field Road, High Ham. - Some aspects of this application drew much discussion as considered in the points below;

- The impact on heritage assets; The contemporary design proposed being in close proximity to a Grade II Listed asset and nearby conservation area and the potential impact on the distinctiveness of the surrounding area and preservation of the setting; Some questioned the appropriateness of the contemporary design whilst others considered a cow barn with associated agricultural use to be more detrimental to the nearby listed building than a house would, and the wind turbine and eco technology proposed for this particular, modest development would ensure future proofing of the property, bringing it in-line with Somerset's carbon reduction goals. The council's view was that it was not an overbearing design and additionally that the wind turbine was in a location that was not highly visible.
- Consistency of approach in terms of other similar previous applications before the PC involving heritage assets in close proximity to development proposals; The need for consistency but the differences/similarities with other recent applications was discussed as was the need to consider each application on its own merit.
- The redundancy of the agricultural buildings. It was confirmed that these were redundant farm buildings. Questions were posed as to the 'redundant' or 'disused' status of the farm buildings that currently support a dairy herd and if this facility was being lost to a traditional rural community.
- The proposed site being a designated 'agricultural' site not a 'brownfield', 'exception' or traditional 'infill' site.
- Whether an identified need was met.
- Questions were raised as to whether there would be much extra water coming off the property. The council was able to satisfy themselves that this development was unlikely to cause issues particularly at the area of most concern where there was a dip in the road.
- Questions raised regarding some of the supporting information contained within the Planning Statement.

The application was supported by a vote of 5:1 in support of the application.

4) Planning Applications Decided

Orchard Home – approved.

Kirkhill – withdrawn

Torwood – approved - This was now 1&1/2 metres closer to Hillcrest. The Parish Council were not told this at the consultation stage. It was felt that the system was flawed allowing this through as it was nothing like the original applications for 2 small semi-detached houses, but now two large dwellings. This was now very overbearing and overpowering on the neighbouring property. There is nowhere to appeal against an approval and it was felt that the Parish Council should write to the MP about the flawed system and the processes that had been used in this case.



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The Heights – complaints about this property were discussed. It was confirmed by the District Councillor that anyone directly affected by any of the issues from the site should report those issues directly to the District Council, particularly the environmental issues.

5) Councillor Reports

Prior to this item the planning application for 100 houses on the border with Huish Episcopi was discussed. The Council unanimously objected to the application on several grounds. The lack of sustainability for such a large development, the erosion of boundary separation between Picts Hill and Wearne, the loss of agricultural land and open countryside and the result of extra traffic through the parish of High Ham, in particular the areas of Picts Hill, union Drove, Wagg Drove and Hamdown Estate..

The District Councillor reported on planning enforcement issues in general and encouraged individuals to make personal reports of possible breaches through the District Council website.

The recent issues of fly tipping and deceased animals being thrown in the ditches was reported. There were updates regarding some regular bonfire sites at Turnhill. The head of the planning authority position was to be co-shared. Some services were in purdah due to the police and crime commissioner elections upcoming.

6) Matters arising/Items for Discussion

Phone boxes – High Ham – progressing as well as possible with current restrictions. Paint had been purchased and some shelves would be going in.

Low Ham – Residents were aware that there was likely to be a community project to rejuvenate the phone box and it was their opportunity to suggest a purpose for it.

Playing Fields/Changing Rooms-Progressing had passed building regulations for commencement and the contractor was ready to proceed with the project.

Cemetery work /Millennium Wood/Strimmer Project . – Unanimously agreed that the structures in the cemetery should be kept in good condition and now was the time to take note of the required work to preserve the old structures. Craig had cleared some veg away from the store structure in order that the structure could be reviewed for the work required.

Millennium Wood: - 18th May was the provisional date for the annual parrot weed clearance of the pond. The sign regarding dogs on leads had been installed.

Village Hall – 6th May the hall would have to be open for elections. The AGM of the Village Hall committee was on 17th May. 27th June was the planned opening of the Village hall. The village hall committee were to look into the possibility of grants for solar panels and internet and for obtaining a stronger router.

7) Correspondence. The HGV route over Picts Hill and through Huish was discussed. It seemed that the HGVs negotiated the lorry route from one location in Huish in both directions past the school and a now much more developed area.

Correspondence had been received regarding a quote for the BMX track. RW would clarify with the committee what was happening.

The Public Liaison Officer for Yeovilton RNAS had reported back with regard to some troublesome drones which were not anything to do with Yeovilton. This was now regulated by the CAA but troublesome drones could be reported to the police on 101.

The police had confirmed that the PCSO would shortly make a visible appearance at the school.

8 Financial

The following payments were authorised.

Clerk wages and expenses - £330.54

Parish Lengthsman - £511.88

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CPRE - £100.00

Nancy Green – re playing field building regulations - £225.00

Cosmic Website - £288.00

Flagmasters – Flag for churchyard-£87.50

Amanda Chuter – Paint phone box £83.00

9) Date of Next Meeting

The Date of the next meeting was set as Tuesday 27th April 2021 to at 7.30pm

The meeting was closed to the public

10) Renewal of the Lengthsman's contract.

Details of the contract for the coming year were discussed and unanimously agreed.

The meeting re-opened to the public.

11) Matters of Report– The police had confirmed that the PCSO would shortly make a visible appearance at the school. There had been a query regarding the ownership of the strip of land with the phone box and notice board.

meeting closed at 21.50 hrs.