



MINUTES OF HIGH HAM PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD AT HIGH HAM VILLAGE HALL
ON TUESDAY 25th OCTOBER 2022 at 7.30pm

Present: Dave Vigar (Chairman), Amanda Chuter, Catherine Roberts, Nick Fear, Nancy Green. V Young (Clerk).

County Councillors: Richard Wilkins

Pubic approx: 5

Meeting opened at 7.30pm.

1) Apologies & declarations of interest:- Apologies were received from Paul Brunsdon and Robert Webb. Gerard Tucker (District Councillor) and Mike Stanton (County Councillor) had also sent apologies. Nick Fear declared an interest in the application for The Ranch being the applicant.

2)Public Session: It was noted that the parish needed to start thinking now as to how to celebrate the coronation which had been announced as 6th May 2023. This was to be an agenda item on future agendas.

It was noted that a fire had been lit and burning in Henley for 5 days. Any problematic bonfires etc to be reported to the Environmental Health Team at the District Council.

A local event was advertised - 'Brue Boys' on Saturday 29th October with proceeds going to local churches.

3) Planning applications for consideration

A) 22/01990/FUL The Ranch Stout Road High Ham Langport

Erection of 2 no. polytunnels, a livestock building and an agricultural storage building (Part retrospective)

Nick Fear left the building whilst the item was discussed. An envelope had been passed to the clerk relating to this item. This contained the neighbours thoughts on the application and what they felt would be an acceptable layout.

The applicants agent was present and confirmed that the hay and machinery store objections to the previous application had resulted in this being moved and a revised layout which was workable from a day to day management point of view. It was confirmed that manure would be disposed of 'off-site'. It was felt that this was a rural location and that the location of this registered small holding was suitable for the small scale but sustainable local business being offered from the produce. It was additionally noted that there is 'no right to a view' when considering planning applications, unless it is to the extent of loss of light and overbearing. It was additionally noted that the application had been adjusted to the satisfaction of the conservation officer at the local council and to take into account a neighbour's previous objections. After much discussion the application was unanimously supported.

Nick Fear returned to the building at the conclusion of this item.

B) 22/02745/DOC1 - Land North Of Long Street House Long Street High Ham Langport TA10 9DN

Discharge of Conditions No.03 (Bat Mitigation and Compensation Strategy) and No.06 (Bat Licence) of planning application 21/02636/S73 – NOTIFICATION ONLY – Noted by the meeting.

4) Planning applications decided. - It was noted that the application for Bere Farm 22/01570/HOU for erection of a garden studio building, which was part retrospective had been withdrawn.

5) Approval of Previous minutes.

The minutes of 27th September 2022 were approved as a true record with minor amendment.



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6) County/District Councillor reports – Richard Wilkins reported that the electoral boundary review would be changing some of the boundaries in Somerset and that the result would be an additional electoral ward in Somerset – This was to be discussed at the next constitutional meeting. The boundary review consultation was due to go out to anyone who was interested on 8th November. It was confirmed that LCN's (Local Community Networks) were being discussed and would take form as part of the new structure, although it was still uncertain as to their exact formation and remit.

7) Ongoing Action Points and Updates.

Local Community Networks – Whilst on this topic the item was moved up the agenda. Dave Vigar and Nancy Green had attended a meeting in Yeovil with regard to Local Community Networks and the proposed models of how they may operate. The new models suggested that between 10 and 17 would serve Somerset. Presentations had been given by LCNs in Buckinghamshire and Cornwall highlighting successes and failures of these LCNs. It was now thought that the date of April 2023 was not reasonable for LCNs to be in place and that it would be a later date. There had been an offer by the LCN team to hold public meetings about LCNs in the community. Dave Vigar proposed that High Ham could host an event. The date of this still to be arranged. Invites would go to the surrounding Parishes as appropriate.

Phone box booths & additional Defibrillator(s) -

The box at Low Ham was still being renovated but work was continuing. Karen Cooke was to be asked if she could be the contact/main overseer for the Parish Council. It was reported that the defibrillator training on 4th October had been well attended. Liz Daniels was thanked. This course had covered resuscitation on younger people/children.

Future Work at Cemetery and Green –ongoing. A group from the Parish Council was to meet at the cemetery with regard to concerns re reservation of plots should the ground be too stony. Lengthsman - planned winter work: Remove dead trees on Mildmays boundry and raise crowns of trees along perimeter paths

Lynch gate roof- Nick Fear volunteered to help find some suitable tiles for the replacements required.

Millennium Wood-see lengthsman report. After a site meeting held on 11th Oct it was noted that there had been some equestrian use. It was voted unanimously by the Parish Council that a sign be purchased informing that no equestrian use was allowed in the Millennium Wood.

Future ongoing work at Millennium Wood as below;

Lengthsman

1. MW pond work party late November
2. Coppice selected Hazel trees
3. Thin out selected trees in Bottom Plantation to provide growing space for healthy trees
4. Clear selected diseased/dead trees and storm/squirrel-damaged trees and brush cut undergrowth - all plantations.
5. Replace rotted Stepping Logs
6. Cut back selected banks of bramble dogwood/willow adjacent to paths

Dave V: Actions

Liaise with MW neighbour regarding trees in hedge that are diseased/dead, and ditch clearance

Also

Jo Russell, Yellowmead Farm, offered to repair the 3 vandalised Bug Hotels in MW

Lengthsman – It was noted that he was moss spraying in the play area as requested by Nancy on behalf of the playing fields committee – other work noted in the subheadings above and below.

Highways/ Footpaths – Stone stile 46246 concern was raised from a local resident re safety. Reported on RoW website and by email to Debbie Ebsary.

Bristol Gate request by landowner has been agreed, to replace field gate on footpath L12/30 on River Cary

It was noted that highways had been contacted by Catherine Roberts on behalf of the council and blue signs will be put on the road by the Church to stop lorries going along and getting stuck by the Church. Various potholes were noted for report to Somerset County Council.



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The lengthsman was to be asked to cut back some growth around highway signs

Nick reported back on the strimmer project. Fountain-Turnhill Rd had been strimmed and also the footpath towards Henley Chapel. The strimmer was to go back for its annual service.

Amanda Chuter was to attend a zoom meeting re footpaths and rights of way via zoom.

Overflowing gullies and highway drain issues which had been notified to the parish council by residents had already been reported. Leaves on Hext Hill blocking 3rd drain down and 2 others reported in Low Ham.

Playing Fields - It was noted that the new equipment was being used regularly. Quotes to be sought for fencing and pedestrian gate. Moss clearance was being undertaken by the lengthsman.

Refurbishment of Noticeboards – volunteer craftsmen to be sought with the view to completing tailored and affordable repairs.

Any other – inc Village Hall/School - The School was to be contacted to congratulate them on the ofsted report.

It was also noted that there were lots of companies offering assistance with finger post painting as part of the fingerpost restoration project.

It was agreed that Amanda Chuter could go back to the website developers with regards to a few issues and possible upgrades to make the website easier for people to use/view.

Carols around the Tree – John Vigar reported that a suitable tree had not yet been chosen due to problems with the quality of the trees at the usual supplier. The Christmas tree lights were to be tested. It was unanimously agreed that the Parish Council invest in new carol sheets.

SALC Courses – places to be booked on 16th November responding to planning applications for 3 councillors.

8) Correspondence and Items of report.

Correspondence had been received regarding a stile. This had been dealt with earlier in the meeting and the matter was in the hands of the footpaths officer from the county council.

A request had been made by a member of the public for a further dog poo bin. It was noted that the District Council were already emptying the allocated number from the Parish so at this time it would not be possible.

9) Financial

The Councillors were asked to be mindful when it came to the budget setting time that a larger allowance for depreciation/replacement of playing field equipment would be wise together with the unknown affect of the unitary council change over.

The following payments were authorised

Lengthsman - £853.1

Clerk's wages - £402.68

Lengthsman additional - £21.60 (moss killer cemetery and play area)

CPRE - £100.00

Amanda Chuter (Defibrillator training expense) - £11.50

Ink cartridges - £63.99

10) Summary of meetings attended , any other business and Date of next meetings

It was noted that Paul Brunsdon had resigned. Co-option of a councillor was to go on the next agenda. The post was to be advertised in the meantime as advised by the District Council.

Other items to carry forward included, coronation and updating bank signatories.

With no other business to discuss the meeting was closed at 9.30pm