



MINUTES OF HIGH HAM PARISH COUNCIL MEETING  
HELD IN HIGH HAM VILLAGE HALL AT 7.30PM  
ON TUESDAY 25<sup>th</sup> MAY 2021

Present: David Vigar (Chairman), Chris Palmer, Amanda Chuter, John Vigar, Rob Webb, Gerard Tucker (District Councillor), Clare Paul (County Councillor), V Young (Clerk).

Approx: 3 parishioners

Meeting opened at 7.30pm.

**1) Apologies & Declarations of Interest:** Andy Davidson, Paul Brunson. There were no declarations of interest.

PUBLIC SESSION – The donation of a bench for the cemetery from the History Group was discussed. Caroline Dickens was thanked and the offer of the bench for the cemetery was accepted. It would be a similar bench to the one from 'Charltons' which is in the Millennium Wood. Fixings would need to be arranged.

**2) Approval of Minutes** - The minutes of the meeting held on 27<sup>th</sup> April 2021 were approved as a true record.

**3) Planning Applications for Consideration**

21/01525/TPO 4 Hamdown Court

Application to carry out Tree Surgery works to No. 2 Trees as shown within the South Somerset District Council (HIHA 1) 1993 Tree Preservation Order. - The application was unanimously supported. The trees being very large trees near a domestic property it was felt that this struck the balance required between safety, light and the well-being of the trees.

21/01392/DOC Hamdown Farm Picts Hill Langport TA10 9EX

Discharge of Condition No 03 (Foul and Surface Water Drainage Arrangements) of Planning Application 20/00649/FUL  
The Parish Council had not been consulted on this application and it was for information only.

21/01066/HOU Four Chimneys Breach Furlong Lane High Ham Langport TA10 9BB

Erection of a new Timber framed, timber clad, garage/workshop

This application met with unanimous support and was felt to be in keeping with the property.

**4) Planning Applications Decided**

The issues of the application at Torwood and the consequence on the neighbours at Hillcrest was acknowledged. The issues within the planning department which had allowed an application that would be extremely unlikely to be approved had it been put in, in this form originally, was discussed. The Parish Council and District Councillor both felt extremely let down by the mistakes that had been acknowledged by the planning department, although it was not possible for the planning department to rectify the issue at this stage. The District Councillor was thanked for being so pro-active in his efforts to sort the matter out. The Chief Executive of SSDC and Chair and Vice Chair had visited the site and agreed that it should be determined by the Area North Committee, but due to various errors this did not happen and the decision was made using delegated powers without the knowledge of the ward member who should have been consulted due to the objection received. The Parish Council had written to the MP, but had received no reply, so would write again. The occupants at Hillcrest were to be contacted again to express the Parish Council's regret that there had not been a better outcome.

20/02897/FUL Collie House West Henley Road High Ham Langport TA10 9BE

Proposal Change of use of land for the stationing of 2 shepherd huts to provide holiday accommodation - Approved



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**5) Councillor Reports**

County Councillor report - Clare Paul updated the Parish Council on County Council matters including; Progress of Covid Vaccination programme which was very successful and above the average numbers (Public Health Bulletins to remain), Education portfolio, Climate agenda and recycling changes. Some issues of the unitary consultation and the advisory poll/ballot were discussed.

District Councillor report – Much of this had been given with regard to Torwood. He was now Chair of the Scrutiny Committee. It was reported that the Environmental front policy was heartening. Waste and recycling was to go to 3 weekly collections but with extra recycling taken each week.

**6) Matters arising/Items for Discussion**

**Phone boxes** – High Ham – Working well. Amanda Chuter was dealing with the stock of books there. The painting materials had been passed on to Low Ham for their use.

Low Ham – work starting soon.

Henley – investigations undergoing as to using this one for a defibrillator given the geographical distance between Henley and High Ham.

**Playing Fields/Changing Rooms** – Playing Fields were open and usable after some work had been undertaken on the footings for the pavillion. Mowing for the season had recommenced.

**Highways** - It was reported that regular use of a drove for an asbestos dump was taking place. Each time this was reported to the District Council, who came and removed it. The police were also informed should they wish to investigate the issue.

A letter had been received regarding the deterioration of the road surface at the top of Ham Hill. Andy Davidson would forward this onto highways. The whole situation was becoming highly dangerous with the poor surface, particularly poor going up into the village and the overhanging hedge on the opposite side, pushing traffic in both directions into the middle.

Issues with the road surface at the top of Stout Hill were also reported as well as pot holes developing near to 'The Lodge'.

A problematic hedge overhanging the highway reported at a previous meeting had been cut back by Rob Webb and Nick Fear with the landowners consent.

**Cemetery work /Millennium Wood/Strimmer Project** – Ongoing. Visibility splays cut. Cemetery grass cut. Weeds/Grass cleared back from notice boards around Parish. The pond clearance in the Millennium Wood had taken place. Craig to be asked to work on clearance of gries - Turnhill, Stembridge, Ham Hill. The Millennium Wood was reported as being in good health.

**Village Hall** – to be covered in correspondence

**School Parking** – The parking issues at the school were being addressed. The PCSO will be asked to attend by the school. The mini-police initiative was in the process of being set up. Rob Webb would co-ordinate a meeting of interested parents and school contacts.

**7) Correspondence**

Village Hall - A letter had been received with regard to the need to update the fire-safety aspects of the hall. Having had to close the hall there had not been the regular rental income. The letter was asking for a donation/grant towards this, which had an estimated cost of £3,000.00. It was confirmed that the requested amount was £3,000.

With regards to grants for other work for the hall it was suggested by both the District Councillor and the Chair that some grants were an 'apply once' option, but did mean that several aspects of a renewal project could be included in one go, rather than applying on different occasions for small amounts. It was noted that the Community Council for Somerset would be able to assist with grant finders for the whole project. There was also likely to be some match grant funding available from the District Council.

After some discussion, the letter requesting funds for the fire-safety would be considered at the next meeting where it could be on the agenda for the amount requested.



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The Parish Council confirmed that it would meet the cost of internet provision and running costs for the first 2 years of wi-fi at the Village Hall.

Forces Cycle – This was scheduled to take place next year and permission was being sought to use the green as it had done so in the past. This was agreed. It was to be confirmed if the route went past the village hall with reference to a water stop to minimise the use of plastic water bottles.

**8 Financial**

The following payments were authorised.

Clerk wages (gross) and expenses – £330.54

Parish Lengthsman - £773.51

Somerset Landscapes – mowing playing field - april- £132.26

Came & Company Insurance - £951.84

Pavilion footings – Total Landcare Limited - £5700.00

**9) Date of Next Meeting**

The Date of the next meeting was set as Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2021 to at 7.30pm

**10) Matters of Report**– The priority footpaths were being strimmed. The meeting closed at 21.30 hrs.