



## MINUTES OF HIGH HAM PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

HELD AT HIGH HAM VILLAGE HALL

ON TUESDAY 26<sup>th</sup> November 2024 7.30pm

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

Unitary Councillors: Richard Wilkins

Public approx: 5

Meeting opened at 7.30pm.

**1) Apologies and declarations of interest** County Councillor Stanton had sent apologies.

**2) Public Session:** No matters arising.

### **3) Planning applications for consideration**

A) Application Number: 24/02372/COL – Notification Only Proposal: Application for Certificate of Lawfulness for Proposed Use or Development for stationing of a shepherd hut for ancillary welfare/storage to existing agricultural use. Location: Land Os 8100 New Manor House Road Low Ham. Although this application was notification only the Parish Council decided it would raise objection on the basis of lack of agreement with the planning statements that were misleading and concerns with the traffic and the lack of adequate footprint and the lack of amenities (including water) for growing vegetables.

B) Application Number: 24/02547/FUL Proposal: Alteration of existing agricultural buildings.

Location: Land Os 8307 Part Wagg Drove Langport Somerset TA10 9ER – The Parish Council raised no objections.

C) Application Number: 24/02707/NMA - Proposal Non Material Amendment to vary condition 11 (PTP) of approved application 22/01477/S73 to amend the specified PTP. Location: Land OS 4374 Part Field Road High Ham Langport Somerset TA10 9BZ – The Parish Council raised no objections

### **4) Planning applications decided**

24/02068/S73A S73A Application to address the requirements of Conditions 10 (Landscaping) and 12 (Biodiversity Enhancement Plan) for rewording as compliance conditions and to reflect the prior Discharge of Conditions 04 (Written Scheme of Investigation), 06 (Drainage Scheme) and 11 (Lighting Scheme) pursuant to applications 23/00528/DOC1 and 23/01959/DOC1 to vary Planning Permission 22/01990/FUL; Erection of 2 no. polytunnels, a livestock building and an agricultural storage building (Part retrospective)

The Ranch Stout Road High Ham Langport Somerset TA10 9BD – Granted with conditions.

**5) Councillor Reports** – Some issues relating to re-organisation at the Unitary Council were mentioned. The clean up operation following the recent storm was also mentioned. Road closures were discussed. It was noted that there seemed to be several that made it difficult to visit or travel through Yeovil or Bridgwater or even get to local towns. The concern was that often the roads appeared to be closed and no work appeared to be done during the closures. The Unitary Councillor mentioned that Somerset did challenge the companies that asked for road closures and did not do the work in the time frame.

### **6) Approval of Previous minutes.**

The minutes of the meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2024 were approved as a true record with minor amendment only. It was noted that Gwen Chubb had passed away. She had been a very active member of the community and had been a Parish Councillor and the Chair of the Village Hall Committee. A one minute silence was held in commemoration.



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**7) Ongoing Action Points and Updates.**

**Lengthsman:** Since the end of October, they have completed the final cut at the Cemetery for this season. They have also started winter maintenance including clearing the vegetation growing through the fence, and crown lifting where needed around the outside path. Other tree works will commence after they complete the tree survey.

They have been tidying up other areas of vegetation ready for the winter including the verge along Union Drove.

Other routine works have included drainage during periods of high rainfall.

As requested, they have crown-lifted the trees along the fence line in the Play Area car park.

Towards the end of October, they joined PC members and Roger Powell for a site meeting at Millennium Wood where they discussed winter work which includes bramble management and essential tree works such as felling diseased ash trees. They hope to make a start on these projects soon.

On Monday, Craig was asked to see what he could do to clear the 2 drains at T junction bottom of Mary Cox Hill - these drains have been cleared many times in past. Within an hour they were cleared - but I was informed by Rachael Howe that the adjacent ditch is higher the road - to solve the problem, the owners of the ditch, the 3 adjacent properties will need to have their ditch deepened.

**Highways/ Footpaths**

Highways – A blocked drain by Willow Cottage had been cleared and pipes replaced. Other drains in the area were to be jetted. Some drains in the area of Hext Hill and Netheram Farm had already been jetted. With regard to the problem drain at Mary Cox junction, highways had reported that work to clear the gullies will be done. Efforts were to be concentrated on getting Highways to clear the drains and culvert beneath the road near the cemetery where the main road through was prone to flooding as a result of water not clearing away.

It was noted that the drains by 'Fountain' were blocked and that there were also flooding issues at the bottom of Bridgehorn. It was thought that it might be possible to either get an SRA grant for a small project for jetting the drains or get a quote from Kier to get the work done.

Footpaths – No updates

**Millennium Wood** – Per lengthsman report.

**Parish Green** – No new matters arising. There was concern that parents were managing to park dangerously in between the bollards. The school parking had blocked a resident in their car in the church carpark.

**Playing Fields** - The use of the zipwire was suspended until the line had undergone a safety inspection. There was to be a group meeting on site to plant trees etc on 1<sup>st</sup> December. It was noted that the fete was probably on 12<sup>th</sup> July. Quotes were being obtained for the cost of materials and labour for the changing rooms.

**Refurbishment of Noticeboards** – It was noted that the leaking board at Long Street will be covered.

**Cemetery** – John Vigar was thanked for topping the wildlife area.

**Carols around the tree** – The charity for collection was to be the blood bikers again. The tree was ordered and the carol sheets had been received. Nancy had the lights and John Vigar had volunteered to help put the tree up and loan some farm equipment to assist. The time was set for 5.30pm

**Any other – inc School/Village Hall/ Website/Defibrillator** – It was noted that the Village Hall wreath making workshop was coming up shortly and was very well booked. The phone booth exchanges were working very well. The website had been 'migrated' to a new platform and seemed to work well.

**8) Correspondence/Meetings attended /LCN** – most matters already covered earlier in the meeting.

It was noted that the Christmas Fayre was to be held in the parish on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> November.

The High Ham CLT had held their AGM and there was now a full board of 7 directors.



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The correspondence regarding the consultation from the unitary council about their local plan had been responded to by a working group from the Parish Council.

**9) Financial**

The following payments were authorised

Lengthsman - £758.34

Clerk's wages - £469.63

Cemetery management payment – 226.67

Somerset Landscapes – mowing playing field - £144.43

Playing Field Premises licence - £70.00

D Vigar – RBL Wreath - £30.00

Cosmic – re moving website - £2400.00 (inc VAT)

Cosmic – support package with new website platform- £192 (inc VAT)

**10) Date of next meeting** - confirmed as 17<sup>th</sup> December 2024 at 7.30pm

**11) Items for next meeting.** The budget was to go on the agenda for either December or January.

With no other business to discuss the meeting was closed at 8.37pm