



MINUTES OF HIGH HAM PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD AT HIGH HAM VILLAGE HALL
ON TUESDAY 26th September 2023 at 7.30pm

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

Unitary Councillors: Richard Wilkins

Public approx: 5

Meeting opened at 7.30pm.

1) Apologies & declarations of interest Unitary Councillor Mike Stanton had sent apologies. There were no declarations of interest. Apologies had been received from a member of the public.

2) Public Session:

All tickets had been sold for the Harvest Lunch. A French Supper night was organised for 13th October. There were some concerns mentioned that the bollards on the green were overkill and a concern had been raised that now the cars could not get out of the road. It was pointed out that there was alternative parking available both at the hall and at the playing fields. Concern was also raised with regards to the lack of progress with the CLT. It was noted that there was still much work going on behind the scenes. Ongoing disappointment at the speed of decisions on all applications in the area by the planning department was noted. The phosphate issue still seemed to be causing frustration. There would at some point be a whole 'Somerset Plan' but until such time the old district council policies for the areas were still in place. Richard Wilkins updated the meeting with regards to how the re-organisation into the unitary was currently working.

3) Planning applications for consideration

A) Application Number: 23/01590/OUT (outline) – AMENDMENTS ONLY

Proposal: Outline application for the erection of 5 no. dwellings, with some matters reserved, except for the layout and vehicle accesses onto Long Street. Location: Land Adjoining Cobblers Barn Mill Road High Ham Langport Somerset TA10 9DJ - After discussion the Parish Council returned an unanimous vote of no objections to the amendments. Some concerns were discussed as to whether or not additional 'run-off' of water from the site would be an issue. It was felt that the safety improvements re the one central access and less changes to the hedgerow to create the visibility splay outweighed the possible 'run-off' concerns.

B) Application Number: 23/02232/COL Certificate of Lawful Use or Development

Proposal: Application for a Lawful Certificate for Existing Use: Occupation of dwelling without compliance with Condition 2 of planning permission ref. 850370, dated 12th September 1985 (agricultural occupancy condition) Location: Old Orchard Mortons Lane High Ham Langport Somerset TA10 9DT - The Parish Council had no evidence contrary to the statements in the application and therefore had no objections or response to make.

C) 23/02352/NMA – NOTIFICATION ONLY

Address Land Adjacent To Mildmays Mill Road High Ham Langport Somerset TA10 9DJ

Proposal Non Material Amendment to approved application 22/03220/S73 to change material of the driveway & additional enclosure of car port (already partially enclosed on 2.35 sides) to form garage. - The Parish Council raised no objections or comments with regard to this application.



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4) Planning applications decided.

23/00531/HOU - Proposal: Erection of a link extension between bungalow & garage, part conversion of existing garage to provide additional bedroom in the roof space, relocation of existing site access with parking and turning area

Location: The Dairy Henley Road High Ham Langport Somerset TA10 9BG - GRANTED with conditions including use as annexe only.

It was noted that there was a large development potential in Othery for 46 houses which had gone out to public consultation although planning had yet to be applied for.

5) Unitary Councillor Report Richard was welcomed back.

The monthly councillors report had been forwarded to the Parish Councillors. The financial situation of Somerset Council was being closely monitored. There was a need to make some changes to avoid being 'crippled' as a County at a later date.

The Octagon Theatre project was discussed briefly and was being discussed by the unitary executives.

A revised (and additionally improved) slinky bus service, pilot scheme, was being trialled around Somerton area for two years.

6) Approval of Previous minutes.

The minutes of 25th July 2023 were approved as a true record with minor amendment.

7) Ongoing Action Points and Updates.

Phone box booths & Defibrillators - no update - the phone booth libraries were working well.

Future Work at Cemetery and Green –ongoing. See Lengthsman report for cemetery work. The work at the green with regards to the bollards was complete and the 'keep off the grass' signs were to be removed. Registration of the green was being discussed.

Lych gate roof- Ongoing.

Millennium Wood-see lengthsman report.

Lengthsman - The Green: Craig Howe, our Parish Lengthsman, has installed additional bollards on The Green and Little Green to protect them from further vehicle erosion and, more importantly, to prevent the dangerous parking that some of you may have witnessed term-time along the main road through The Green. All necessary permissions were granted for the work. The PC are funding the cost, as they do for grass cutting and tree management on The Green and Cemetery. The bollard on Little Green, knocked over by vehicle has been reinstalled.

Cemetery: 8th August Site visit with Lengthsman team Craig and Rachael myself Nancy and Dave to discuss 2023/24 Vegetation Management plan. craig has submitted a draft plan. In the meantime, work in the cemetery has continued to trim and mow the paths, and between graves. MW: paths and rides have been mown. Pending - Ash trees to be selected for felling.

Highways/footpaths: Eroded tairmac reported near 'Charity'. Highways had cleared Picts Hill debris and soil and it was noted that they would have to undertake this regularly. Flytipping: 2 flytipping events have been reported to SC - Nythe Rd (3 dumps of large plastic fuel/ helical containers, and Beer Drove (computer monitors)

There would soon be a road closure in Henley, for some works. Also Bow Street in Langport to be closed for some work. Richard would circulate the dates for this.

The volunteer trimmers had been active. Wagg Drove had been cleared on request and Harry had also trimmed back several paths.

Refurbishment of Noticeboards – Bancombe joinery were progressing with the first noticeboard which should be ready once the glass that had been ordered was fitted and available for installation shortly.

Playing Fields – Rob Webb reported back from the playing field committee. Quotes had been obtained for replacement goal nets. The total for these was £148.80 for all nets (the large ones and small ones). Rob Webb proposed and Amanda Chuter seconded and it was carried unanimously that the parish council would fund this quote. The seating requiring replacement was still under consideration to find something with as long a lifetime as possible for the cost. It was hoped that the hedge-cutting would be done before February.



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Local Community Networks – The first meeting had been attended by Amanda Chuter. The inaugural meeting had asked what the priority topics should be for future meetings. Active travel and transport and health and well-being had been chosen as the initial focus topics. The next meeting was to be on 13th November. There had additionally been discussion about flooding/flood prevention.

Any other – inc School/Village Hall/Website – None

Catherine Roberts left the meeting with her apologies.

Toposcope – ongoing. Mike Cox to do the wall work for cemetery and The Pound soon. It was hoped to have the unveiling of the toposcope at midday on 29th October. Rob Webb was thanked for his work on the project.

Dennis Davis Award – It was requested that names be put forward. These would then be discussed in private session.

Cemetery Vegetation Management Plan – In progress. A further meeting to be held tomorrow with the working party. John Vigar offered to 'top off' the wildlife area in the Cemetery if required.

More concern had been raised by the undertakers and grave digger re the difficulty of digging double depth graves in the current stone seam. It was agreed to only allow single depth for the current area in the cemetery from now on. Instead of a double it would have to be a purchase of two single plots together if needed.

The Parish Council were extremely disappointed with the 'dumping' of a cherry picker across the cemetery gate. Efforts had been made to find out who was responsible and why it was considered OK to block the access. The cherry picker had now been removed.

8) Correspondence

The MP was to be invited to the unveiling of the toposcope. Complaints had been received regarding the speed of traffic in the 'Fountain' area of the parish.

9) Summary of meetings attended. Fortnightly online meetings hosted by the unitary council with regards to the changes etc continued to be attended when possible.

10) Financial

It was confirmed that the audit for the year ending 31 March 2023 had been concluded with no matters for attention.

The following payments were authorised

Lengthsman - £891.86

Clerk's wages - £437.13

Somerset Landscapes – playing field grass cut 23rd Aug - £69.44

Lengthsman extra re bollards - £108.00

PKF Littlejohn – external audit fees - £378.00

Lengthsman extra – postcrete – £9.48

Somerset Landscapes – playing field grass cut – July - £138.89

11) Items for next meeting. There were no new items arising not already discussed. Carols around the tree – arrangements to be confirmed at future meeting. Provisionally agreed as Saturday 23rd December at 6pm. Unanimously agreed that the charity should be the Blood bikers (confirm proper name). Dave Vigar to contact supplier re tree. John Vigar volunteered to assist in moving a tree.

12) Date of next meeting – 24th October 2023 at 7.30pm

With no other business to discuss the meeting was closed at 9.20pm