



MINUTES OF HIGH HAM PARISH COUNCIL MEETING  
HELD AT HIGH HAM VILLAGE HALL  
ON TUESDAY 26<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2022 at 7.30pm

Present: Dave Vigar (Chairman), Amanda Chuter, John Vigar, Rob Webb, Andy Davidson,  
Clare Paul (County Councillor), Gerard Tucker (District Councillor)

V Young (Clerk).

Public approx: 5

Meeting opened at 7.40pm.

**1) Apologies & declarations of interest:-** Paul Brunsdon's apologies were accepted. There were no declarations of interest.

**2) Public Session:** Fly-tipping – more reports of fly tipping in Butleigh Drove on a large scale – approx. 60 tyres. It was very concerning the amount of fly tipping. It was also noted an oil tank in Beer Drove had been reported and removed. Parishioners were urged not to use normal litter bins for dog poo bags and to take them home. The bin by the bench on The Green was becoming unpleasant due to the number of poo bags in the adjacent bin. There was a plea to report fly tipping if you see it (whether taking place or the resulting 'dump') and if possible post on HHFB. A couple had been seen on Sunday afternoon voluntarily litter picking along Nythe Rd.

The matter of the Nythe Road Solar farm extension of 132 acres in Walton and Ashcott was discussed. No planning application had been made yet and additionally Walton and Ashcott were calling for proper public consultation to include the councils as there was much confusion and the public consultation had been short notice and not all residents/parishes consulted.

Dave Vigar would follow up a matter with regard to a fence at Bridgehorn. He had not yet done so due to isolating due to covid.

A letter from a resident in Picts Hill was discussed. It was noted that Gerard, Amanda, Dave and Andy had attended their meeting and taken their issues onboard, some of which were now resolved, others were outside the control of the Parish Council but the Parish Council continued to lobby the relevant authority for action on these issues. These were mainly Highways issues and speed issues. It was also noted that the SID (speed indicator device) was used there and it was unreasonable of the residents to expect it to be there all the time as these devices were mobile devices and not allowed to operate in the same place for more than a certain length of time (stipulated by the county council) and due to the expense of the device it was shared with other Parishes in the ward. The Parish Council had also been heavily involved in lobbying for the HGV abattoir route to be amended so that it did not use Picts Hill.

**3) Planning applications for consideration** - It was noted that there was an application which was for notification only - 22/01238/AGN for Crickledown Agricultural.

**4) Planning applications decided.**

22/00236/HOU House refurbishment & new roadway entrance - Longridge Main Road High Ham Langport - Approved

It was noted that of three enforcement complaints registered before covid, the Parish Council had now heard back on one that the action was complete and the case closed. This was in relation to a summer house that had been built on agricultural land. This had now been removed and returned to agricultural land.

It was noted that CIL receipts were expected in relation to some completed developments in the Parish totalling £5360.15. The use of this was restricted to 'community benefit' and the use was subject to the approval of SSDC.



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**5) Approval of Previous minutes.**

The minutes of 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2022 were approved as a true record with minor amendment to the start time to read 7.35pm.

**6) County/District Councillor reports**

District Councillor Report – Adrian Moore at the District Council would be in touch with the Playing Field Committee regarding the grant that had been applied for from Area North.

The light pollution at King Sedgemoor Equestrian was ongoing but it was not thought likely that Sedgemoor District Council could deal with this via the enforcement system.

It was reported that the District Council had improved its performance with customer connect and call waiting times had been reduced from 12 minutes to 4 minutes. Changes were also happening in the planning department with regard to charging for pre-application advice. It was to be raised at the scrutiny committee with regards to charging for the various consents for listed buildings. 'Planning Re-imagined' had multiparty involvement to try and sort out the issues.

County Councillor Report – The business of the County Council was still continuing although the Councillors themselves were affected by purdah. After the unitary elections the District Councillors would remain in place for one further year over the change over period.

Gerard Tucker left the meeting with his apologies.

**7) Playing Field Constitution.**

**Ongoing Action Points and Updates.**

**Phone box booths & additional Defibrillator(s)** - The two new defibrillators were now operational. A letter was to be drawn up and given to the landowner of The Chapel with regards to the Parish Council paying the electricity used by the defibrillator. The roof window signs had been installed in the Henley box. First aid and defibrillator training was being arranged for anyone interested.

**Lengthsman/Millennium Wood/Cemetery/Green –**

**Lengthsman** - Work over the last month had included the regular grass cutting at the cemetery, Millennium Wood and certain verges and paths. This included work on clearing growth around highways signs for the required visibility of these signs. Two wooden posts had been reinstated on The Green. The one on Old Rectory wall was too short and would be replaced. Another one could be purchased from Yandles in due course.

**Footpaths** – At the end of March the Strimmer Volunteer (Nick Fear) had cut back some of the bank of briar at the access of the footpath along King Sedgemoor Drain at Cradlebridge. A report had been made to the Rights of Way team with regard to the poor state of the fingerpost/steps at Cradlebridge. The rights of way team were arranging for these to be repaired and a new marker (fingerpost) to be installed. Harry Plant had offered to help Nick Fear with the footpath strimming. The relevant officer at the rights of way team at the county council would contact Harry and the Parish Council in due course. It may be required that the Parish Council would be required to pay a small additional fee for setting-up the new volunteer to enable him to work in the scheme. This was acceptable to the Parish Council.

**Highways** - Matters to chase up with 'Highways' included potholes that had previously been reported although some in Henley had been repaired. It was noted that a large badger hole was immediately adjacent to the road on Beer Drove and the temporary guard fence was not always upright/positioned as required. A pothole at the school corner junction with Stout Road was also noted. The potholes at the top of Culver Hill were to be reported. The general poor state of repair and potholes on the carriageway by Churchcroft and also the road from Bridgehorn were to be reported. The overhanging trees issue on the Langport to Somerton were to be reported again. The chevron at the bottom of High Ham Hill needed re-instating and the illegal sign it was currently tied to was to be requested for removal since the retrospective application for its consent had been withdrawn. Clare Paul would chase highways up with regard to this issue.

**Other – Village Hall/Playing Field**

**Village Hall** – no matters arising



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### **Playing Fields**

The AGM had been held the previous evening. A comment with regard to some raised iron work had been made. Dave Vigar and Jeff Webb would remove it. Misuse of the car park by joy riders had again been reported. For this reason the entrance gates would be locked at night.

Jubilee- John Vigar was willing to host the beacon and the playing field committee were working on arranging the festivities. It would be a bring your own food and drink event and glass bottles were to be avoided. The lighting time of 9.15pm was mentioned.

Margaret Porter had kindly volunteered to organise a 'Sunday Tea' commencing at 2pm prior to Songs of Praise in the Church at 4pm

The Village Hall were organising an evening event with 'twisted vinyl'

The different events to celebrate the jubilee which also included a display in the Church, an event at the History Hut and a village walk would be collated and published nearer the time when all the organisations had finalised the details of their events. The Parish Council were willing to fund any reasonable publication costs of the flyer.

**Elections** – An election would take place on 5<sup>th</sup> May as there were 8 candidates for the 7 seats on the Parish Council. Andy Davidson and John Vigar were standing down as councillors. Both were thanked for their time and involvement and effort on the council. It was noted that John Vigar had been a councillor for the Parish for over 20 years. It was noted that he was still willing to be a contact point with regard to the cemetery

### **8) Correspondence and Items of report.**

It was noted that the vicar would be leaving the Parish in the middle of July. Margaret Porter, the Church Warden felt it was vital that the door be kept open. It was not known how long it would take before a new vicar was appointed.

A letter regarding the management of Eastfields Nature Reserve had been received from Estates management at the District Council. The concerns had been acknowledged but there were many difficulties. The reply indicated that a new tenant was sought for the grazing, 5 rangers from within the District Council worked periodically on the reserve, although they had been redeployed to assist with the pandemic response. The Parish Council felt that the grazing licence was too restrictive to entice a new tenant.

A letter had been received from GigaClear about 'connectivity' asking if the Parish Council would like to meet. This had been postponed until after the elections.

It was noted that the Dennis Davis award was ready for presentation.

### **10) Financial**

The following payments were authorised

Lengthsman - £853.13

Clerk's wages - £326.94 (to be reviewed to re-align to scp 25 (17 new) at next meeting)

Electrician – Defibrillator installation x 2 - £390.00

Information Commissioners Office - £40.00

Website - £78.00

Website support - £288.00

D Davis Award inscriptions - £17.50

### **11) Summary of meetings attended and Date of next meetings**

The AGM of the Playing Field Committee had been attended by the Chairman of the parish council.

The Annual Parish Meeting was scheduled for 17<sup>th</sup> May at 7pm followed by the Annual Parish Council meeting. A reserve date of 24<sup>th</sup> May 2022 was also booked should it be required.

Meeting closed at 9.00pm