



MINUTES OF HIGH HAM PARISH COUNCIL MEETING  
HELD IN HIGH HAM VILLAGE HALL AT 7.30PM  
ON TUESDAY 27<sup>th</sup> JULY 2021

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

Approx: 3 parishioners

Meeting opened at 7.30pm.

**1) Apologies & Declarations of Interest:** Clare Paul had sent apologies. There were no declarations of interest.

PUBLIC SESSION –Waste collections were discussed and the lack of service despite it being one of the services paid for by council tax. There was some discussion about it and as to whether the District Council were holding the contractors accountable for the lack of service.

The power was ‘down’ near the church but the matter was being rectified.

It was noted that there was a display in the Church for the next month about churches and chapels in the Parish.

The dog waste bin on Windmill Road was rusting through and could do with being replaced. It was thought that it would be possible to order a new one from the District Council although it was thought there was also a spare in storage in the parish.

There was a request for a memorial bench, for a lady who had recently passed away, which would be purchased privately, to be placed on public land. Depending on the site (such as verge on the road) the decision would ultimately be down to highways to check since vergeways more often than not belonged to Highways. If services were to be an issue with the chosen site the Parish Council would be able to consider the Millennium Wood or the Playing Field as a possible site.

Complaints had unfortunately had to be made again to National Trust with regard to BBQ disposables being left on their land and damage to their property. As a result the signage at the site may change.

The Turnhill car parking area was very rough and needed something sorting out. Andy Davidson was to ask highways if something could be done to smooth the parking area.

John Vigar pointed out that the state of the road (High Ham hill) was getting dangerous. It was noted that the speed indicator device was making a difference to the speed of the traffic on Picts Hill. The wig-wag by the school was not working. Andy Davidson to report this to highways.

**3) Planning Applications for Consideration - None**

**4) Planning Applications Decided**

The Ranch – refused

Land North of Long Street – approved

Agricultural land margins/barriers and phosphates were discussed. There were over 1300 applications in Somerset on hold due to phosphates.

**5) Approval of Minutes of Last Meeting**

The minutes of the meetings on 22<sup>nd</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> June were signed as true records.

**6) District/County Councillor Report**

Clare’s written County Councillor report had been forwarded to the councillors.

Gerard reported on District Council matters and answered questions regarding the waste collections. The driver shortage was adding to covid issues and the increased amount of recycling had all contributed to the problems



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experienced by the contractor. It was noted that the scrutiny committee were already looking into shortcomings of the waste collection contract.

It was reported that the issue of the County/District re-organisation into one unitary authority by May 2023 was causing problems of staff retention and adding further to issues in the planning department.

A parishioner mentioned his concern to the District Council with regard to his planning application which was long outstanding even since the phosphates information had been supplied.

The District Councillor had been asked for input on 'The Ranch' and could not find reason to support it. The issue with the application for Barrymore Farm being decided before the decision date and therefore before the consultee response from the Parish Council was discussed. The application for Hamdown Farm's reserved matters was supported by the District Councillor.

### **7) Action Points**

Village Hall Wi-fi – Chris Palmer would follow up. The Clerk was to put in writing the offer to install the wi-fi and meet 2 years costs.

Phone Boxes/Defibrillators – The work on the Low Ham box was progressing well. With regard to defibrillators some preliminary information was reviewed. It was thought that it might be possible to get a discount for multiple defibrillators. Possible sites were discussed such as the wall of the old chapel in Low Ham, Henley phone box, Low Ham phone box and Hamdown. It was thought that WelMedical should be contacted next to see if they would offer a discount for multiple defibrillators and cabinets. Chris and Rob to find out a bit more.

The book swap from the box on The Green at High Ham was working well.

Craig would be working on parts of The Green and the cemetery on the trees in the school holidays.

There was an issue at the Millennium Wood with free-running dogs going free and onto neighbouring land where they had been worrying livestock – Notices requesting dogs on lead were to be placed appropriately.

Highways- No new issues that had not already been mentioned. The state of the road up the hill into High Ham was a main concern. It was noted that some of the gulleys had been cleared.

Leaning trees at Stembridge Hill were now a highways issue. Andy Davidson to chase the matter up. There was also a question regarding ash dieback and who was obliged to report.

#### **School Parking/Additional Wig-Wag**

PCSO attendance at school in the new term had been requested. An additional wig wag for Butchers Hill was discussed. There was discussion regarding correspondence relating to a near accident at the Long Street/Windmill Hill road junction and whether lowering the hedge height would help. It really needed to be on both sides of the road. Paul Brunsdon will look again at the height of the playing field pavilion hedge to see if there were appropriate works that could be done to ease the issue.

Village Hall – Fire alarm system had been installed and emergency lighting was working. It remained for the exit signs to be replaced.

Playing Fields - There had been disappointing feedback to grants and it was thought that extending the terms of the original playing fields loan may be a helpful option. South Somerset DC were being approached for grants and quotes were being sort for the BMX track. The climbing frame installation, would need replacing due to safety reasons. There had been some vandalism at the playing field which had been reported as appropriate.

Footpaths – Broadacre Bridge and the Carey footpaths had been cleared.



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**8) Cemetery Fees.**

John Vigar to bring to next meeting suggestion on all fees.

**9) Correspondence**

-Dealt with earlier in the meeting in the relevant topics. A letter of concern from one of the councillors regarding the impact on rural areas of a 'cashless' society had been acknowledged by the MP. There were concerns about the long journeys to get cash etc for small payments as needed in the rural community and the impact on charities.

**10) Financial**

The following payments were authorised.

D Plant - £700.00  
SALC./NALC - £246.82  
Lengthsman - £773.51  
Clerk's wages - £330.54  
Somerset Landscapes – mowing playing fields june - £132.26  
Playing Field SSDC building inspection fee - £455.00  
Cosmic- website – annual fee - £180.00  
Bristol Fire Ltd - £1882.50 (fire alarms balance - Village Hall)

**11) Date of Next Meeting**

The Date of the next meeting was set as Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> September 2021 to at 7.30pm, unless a meeting urgently required in August.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.30pm.