



MINUTES OF HIGH HAM PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD AT HIGH HAM VILLAGE HALL
ON TUESDAY 28th January 2025 at 7.30pm

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

Unitary Councillors: Richard Wilkins

Public approx: 8

Meeting opened at 7.30pm.

1) Apologies and declarations of interest: Nancy Green had sent apologies and these were approved. County Councillor and Mike Stanton had sent apologies. Apologies had been received from 1 parishioner. There were no declarations of interest in the agenda items.

2) Public Session: No items arising.

3) Planning applications for consideration

A) 24/02924/HOU Proposal: Demolition of conservatory, two storey rear extension and first floor side extension. Telston House Low Ham Langport Somerset TA10 9DR - No objections raised.

B) 25/00005/HOU Proposal: Single storey side extension Old Farmhouse West Henley Road High Ham. It was felt that this was of a sympathetic design in keeping with the surroundings and not over developed. The Parish Council unanimously supported the application.

4) Planning applications decided

23/01185/HOU – 23/01185/HOU Fountain House Hillside Farm Road High Ham Langport Somerset TA10 9DB
Proposal: Single storey rear extension, internal alterations, installation of Outdoor Swimming Pool and conversion of the existing outbuilding into ancillary accommodation. - Approved

24/02867/TPO Hamdown Court Union Drove Huish Episcopi Langport Somerset TA10 9EX
Proposal: Application to carry out tree surgery work to No. 4 trees as shown by the South Somerset District Council (HIHA 1) 1993 Tree Preservation Order. - Permitted

24/02842/S73 – Agricentre Burrow Lane High Ham Langport Somerset TA10 9DH
Proposal: S73 application to vary conditions 2(approved plans), 13(access) and 21(parking) of approval 21/01331/FUL for Proposed change of use of land from former Agricentre site to Residential. Proposed demolition of existing Agricentre and erection of 8 No. dwellings, associated carports, landscaping works and new vehicular access with pedestrian footpath. - Approved

22/01864 /FUL Land Os 1563 Windmill Road High Ham Langport Somerset TA10 9DL
Proposal: The erection of 6 No. new dwellings with associated landscaping and highways work including new road access to Windmill Road - Withdrawn

5) Councillor Reports – Richard Wilkins reported that the housing requirement in Somerset in the local plan had increased considerably. A recent call for sites had been made. It was hoped that if this provided sufficient it would be harder to to develop outside of the houses called forward in order to offer the countryside some protection.

There was an event taking place on the 30th in Somerton with regards to fostering.

The problematic highways areas which had potholes at 'paradise' and on the Pitney cut through which had been over used during the roadworks was to be photographed and the pictures sent to highways.



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Surface dressing in the county would be taking place and this also helped to prevent potholes.

The Unitary Council were also raising concern about future mitigation of floods etc. It was felt that improved resilience was required.

Richard Wilkins was asked about the road by the cemetery where the road floods across. Catherine would copy Richard in. It was felt this was very dangerous as 2/3rds of the carriageway here was routinely submerged.

6) Approval of Previous minutes.

The minutes of the meeting held on 17th December 2024 were approved as a true record with minor amendment.

7) Ongoing Action Points and Updates.

Lengthsman: Craig and Rachel Howe reported the following

Drainage: We are planning to clear the vegetation around the grit bins, hopefully this week, and no doubt we'll be doing more drainage – clearing grips, grids etc.

Millennium Wood: We have been dealing with storm damaged trees in the Millennium Wood, include those that have fallen over, or with compromised structure. We have made progress on the new signs for the Lost Words in the Millennium Woo. The signs have been cut and painted and I'm now working my way through getting the lettering on. They will then need to be varnished, bt we need some dry days!

Highways/ Footpaths

The Lengthsman had been asked to straighten/replace 2 bollards on The Green as required. It was now evident that one required replacing, however there was a spare bollard in storage which could replace it.

The chaotic school parking in between bollards was noted.

It was noted that the Mildmays ditches had been well cleared and whoever was responsible was thanked.

It was noted that the road opposite 'Luke's' flooded very badly. The Unitary Council had the work booked for the next financial year.

Footpaths – No updates. However concern was raised about how much the grass was getting torn up in the Church car park. There was concern with regards to how to maintain it.

Millennium Wood – Per lengthsman report.

Parish Green – No new matters arising.

Playing Fields - The full safety inspection had taken place and the zip wire had been deemed safe. An invoice for £170 was approved for payment with regards to the additional zipwire inspection that had been required this year. The company who had undertaken this inspection was asked to quote for future annual playground inspections.

There was a unanimous vote (proposed by Rob Webb, seconded by Dave Vigar) to authorise £435 for the required self closing pedestrian gate entrance to the playing field. It was thought likely that CIL funds could be used to pay for this. A tree working party had worked hard clearing out dead elm. Some of the boundary required a fence to secure the site until the new hedging plants had grown. A quote of £1085 for fencing with stockwire added was accepted (proposed by Amanda Chuter, seconded by Rob Webb) and carried unanimously.

The Playing Field Committee were also looking into the possibility of a Tesco Community grant towards the projects and also possibly for larger hedging plants to be purchased.

The date for the second **annual fete had been set as Saturday 12th July starting at noon**. There were ongoing committee meetings with regards to all discussed this evening. The Playing Field Committee were thanked for their efforts.

Refurbishment of Noticeboards – All the boards were working well. This was to be taken off the agenda.

Cemetery – A road sign outside the cemetery had fallen over. It was requested that it was photographed and that sent to highways/Richard Wilkins.



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Carols around the tree – This was held on 5.30pm on 21st December. Everyone involved was thanked. A total of £280 had been raised to go to 'Freewheelers EVS' (Blood Bikers) of Somerset.

Any other – inc School/Village Hall/ Website/Defibrillator – The defibrillators had been checked and were functional and on the 'circuit' so that emergency services etc were able to find the nearest defibrillator to anyone who needs one. A one off donation of £150 was agreed for the Village Hall for staying open as the emergency centre in the storms towards the end of 2024.

School parking was always mentioned in the school bulletin. The police were to be asked if they could send the PCSO and ask them to leave the car visible in the main road.

There was some discussion with regards to the finger post project and whether the council wished to reconsider the colour used. The phone booth book exchanges were working well.

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

The charges proposed on the bins was discussed. It currently looked as if there was one bin that would need to be paid for. The cost had been quoted by the unitary council as £338 + VAT per year.

It was thought likely that the council would request that this no longer be emptied. In the meantime it was decided to try signage on the bin for a trial period to stop dog waste being put in the general litter bin by the bench in a beauty spot. The constant placing of dog poo in the bin significantly degrading the experience and enjoyment at the current time. If this could be rectified and people could take it home then it would be reconsidered whether to leave the bin in place. Currently there were no changes of emptying required to be notified to the unitary council.

Additional correspondence had been received. It was felt however the matter was a civil one and not for the Parish Council to be involved in.

The re-arranged dates of LCN meetings were noted. The Active Travel group had applied for a scheme for funds for improving and increasing the off road cycle network. This would however include some highways.

9) Financial

The budget set out in appendix 1 was proposed by Rob Rice, seconded by Nick Fear and carried unanimously.

The following payments were authorised

- Lengthsman - £758.34
- Clerk's wages - £469.63
- Cemetery management payment – 226.67
- Information Commissioner - £40.00
- Village Hall - £150 (emergency centre)
- Village Hall (hire)- approx £220 (awaiting invoice for 2024 year)
- John Vigar – Christmas Tree - £100
- Ashcott Parish Council – SLCC contribution - £65.00
- D Plant - £750.00

10) Date of next meeting - confirmed as 25th February 2025 at 7.30pm

11) Items for next meeting. The contracts for the lengthsman and cemetery maintenance were to go on a future agenda.

With no other business to discuss the meeting was closed at 9.00pm

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