



MINUTES OF HIGH HAM PARISH COUNCIL MEETING  
HELD AT HIGH HAM VILLAGE HALL  
ON TUESDAY 28<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2022 at 7.30pm

Present: Dave Vigar (Chairman), Amanda Chuter, Catherine Roberts, Nick Fear, Nancy Green.  
Gerard Tucker (District Councillor), Richard Wilkins & Mike Stanton (County Councillors)

V Young (Clerk).

Public approx: 4

Meeting opened at 7.40pm.

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

**2) Public Session:** Margaret Porter thanked parishioners for the support given to the Jubilee events which had been very popular. Margaret Porter was thanked by the Parish Council for organising and co-ordinating the parish tea, cakes, and church service.

**3) Planning applications for consideration**

i) 22/01570/HOU - Bere Farm Beer Road High Ham Langport Somerset TA10 0QX

Erection of a garden studio building - part retrospective – no objections. However the parish council noted that it did not support the principle of retrospective applications. Applicants/potential applicants are strongly advised to take pre-planning advice to avoid 'retrospective' applications being necessary.

ii) 22/01847/TCA - The Grange Main Road High Ham Langport Somerset TA10 9DA

Notification of intent to carry out tree surgery works to No.01 tree within a Conservation Area – This application was notification only, and there were no objections to it.

**4) Planning applications decided.**

It was noted that the application for a single garage at 'Fountain' had been approved. Approximately 14 applications were outstanding in the Parish for decision.

**5) Approval of Previous minutes.**

The minutes of 17<sup>th</sup> May 2022 were approved as a true record with minor amendment to the spelling of a name.

**6) County/District Councillor reports**

District Councillor Report – Nancy Green and Paul Brunsdon were thanked for the hard work in obtaining the grant from Area North for the playing fields. The District Councillor had attended the consultation event held in Walton with regard to the solar farm. Gerard would speak with planning management at the District Council to open links with Sedgemoor/Mendip to ask that High Ham are consulted when the planning application is made. There was some general disappointment and alarm about the way public consultation had so far being carried out within all the effected parishes. It was noted however, that the applicant did not need to consult until the planning application had been made. So far the public consultations had fallen short on both not informing all affected residents of it taking place and of being advertised at too shorter notice. The contact with regard to these consultations from Ashcott and also from the public consultations in Walton were to be made aware of the disappointment and were to be asked for consultation within the Parish.

County Councillor Report –It was noted that a new CEO had been appointed and a meeting of the new county council had been held. Additionally it was noted that there were budgetary issues for many local council budgets from the inflationary economy that was currently an issue nationwide.

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

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**Confirm the deferred appointments of Liaison Officers between Parish Council and School and Parish Council and Village Hall.** It was confirmed that these appointments were to act as points of 'liaison' or 'contact' only and that they did not need to be on any committee. Nick Fear was appointed to be liaison officer for the school and Nancy Green liaison point for the Village Hall.

**Phone box booths & additional Defibrillator(s) -**

The defibrillators had been registered with 'the circuit' to make sure they are up and running and realtime information on readiness available to the ambulance service. A course relating to the resuscitation of children was to be offered soon. It was noted that the Low Ham phone box still needed some completion work which was in progress. Catherine would put up a poster asking for volunteers.

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

**Cemetery –** Guttering had been measured. Clerk to order up items that were required – cost approx. £155 before VAT. Concern regarding the door of the shed was raised again. It was unanimously agreed that it was worth investigating the costs and spending required on a variety of options regarding repair/new doors etc in order that a decision could be made as to go ahead and replace/repair or leave the doors off.

Nancy Green now had the original hand written cemetery map. It was confirmed that the undertakers would be asked to pass on as required the 'no plastic flowers' policy.

**Millennium Wood-** At a site meeting in May, Dave Vigar and Amanda Chuter met with Mr Grinrod (owner and sole operative of Loler Arboricultural Service, and occasional assistant to the lengthsman on large tree works in the parish). He had offered a one-off gift, with the aim to offset some of his carbon usage by planting trees locally. This would be achieved by

- 1) In Autumn 2022 planting native trees to the value of £1000, sourced from a local tree nursery. Planting position and timing would be discussed with the Lengthsman to ensure that the planting contributes to the current work of removing dead and diseased trees and replanting where appropriate.
- 2) 2022/2023 monitoring the trees and ensuring they are well watered.

This offer was discussed and unanimously accepted.

**Lengthsman –** This month we have continued with the grass cutting at the cemetery, millennium wood and certain verges and visibility splays. With the wet and warm weather there has been a big growth in vegetation. The area of wild flower in the cemetery was now at its peak and attracting much wildlife. The Ash tree pollarded in the millennium wood has started to develop regrowth, and the development will be reviewed with interest.

**Footpaths –** A Somerset County Council rights-of-way officer had installed 3 'please keep dogs on leads' discs along the section of the footpath at the end of Hawthorn Close gardens. It is hoped that dog owners will respect this polite request. This action had been taken in response to a request received from a resident who had reported some dog walkers using the path and allowing dogs to stray into the gardens as they were not on leads.

The wooden steps installed last month over a wall/stile on footpath L12/23 by SCC, opposite Pound Cottage, will be removed and possibly replaced more appropriately.

**Highways -** various faults were noted for reporting to Highways. Overhanging trees on 'New Road' – an approach was to be made to the landowner first. Silt filling grips along Hext Hill and other potoles were to be reported. Visibility splays, particularly at the junctions of the Langport/Somerton Road were to be requested to be cut.

**Jubilee Feedback**

All events had gone well and all the volunteers were thanked for helping with the events. Amanda Chuter was thanked for co-ordinating literature/publicity for the events.



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**Playing Field Grant** – A grant of £9460.00 had been approved at area north. The playing field committee would have a shortfall of £4829 after taking into account the CIL funds that were applied. The committee asked if the Parish Council would fund the gap so that an order could be put in before the summer holiday. It was unanimously agreed that the Parish Council would fund the gap.

**Other – Village Hall/Playing Field** –The Village Hall had been pleased with how the dance went. A questionnaire was going out soon to all villagers and the produce show schedule was also due out soon. The Village Hall committee requested that the £100 agreed donation should it be required, to cover the expenses of jubilee celebrations, be paid.

**Code of Conduct** - It was unanimously agreed to adopt the new code of conduct which would be made available online.  
**Redlands Solar Farm** – already discussed in District Councillor’s report.

**Other** – Foothpaths strimmed including Turnhill to the Village Hall and Breech Furlong had been strimmed. Harry Plant was booked on strimmer training and would then be able to assist with the strimmer project.

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

The correspondence returned regarding Eastfield nature reserve was to be replied to. It was to be noted that the farmers felt that the grazing tenancy was too restrictive and it was not viable added to the problem now of this year there being too much blackthorn to make usable hay.

SALC website to be monitored for training courses for ‘planning applications’, the current date offered did not suit so a future date was to be obtained for the interested councillors

**10) Financial**

The following payments were authorised

- Lengthsman - £853.13
- Clerk’s wages - £402.68
- Somerset Landscapes - £132.26
- Insurance - £996.93
- Blake Training (50% re strimmer project fee) - £93.00
- Village Hall – rent/meetings - £216.00
- Village Hall – Jubilee celebration expenses grant - £100

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

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