



MINUTES OF HIGH HAM PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD AT HIGH HAM VILLAGE HALL
ON TUESDAY 25th June 2024 7.30pm

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

Unitary Councillors: Richard Wilkins

Public approx: 3

Meeting opened at 7.30pm.

1) Apologies and declarations of interest Rob Webb had sent apologies and these were accepted. County Councillor Mike Stanton had sent apologies. There were no declarations of interest on the agenda items.

2) Public Session: Rural theft was mentioned. The stolen and dumped livestock trailer by the cemetery had been reported to the police. It is believed that a gang from Bristol looking for potential get-away vehicles, broke in to a house in parish to find car keys - they fled as alarms rang.

3) Planning application for consideration

24/01110/REM Reserved Matters application for the approval of appearance, landscaping, layout and scale following outline approval 22/00120/OUT for erection of a self build detached dwelling Location: Land Adjoining Snowdrop Cottage Wagg Drove Langport Somerset - The Parish Council unanimously voted to raise no objection to the application but this was on the proviso that the conditions stated in 22/00120/OUT should still be met.

4) Planning applications decided

24/00851/COL - Farthings Hillside Farm Road High Ham Langport Somerset TA10 9DB

Application for a Lawful Development Certificate for proposed Internal Alterations and Replacement French Doors. - GRANTED

24/00829/FUL - Lot 1 Windmill Road High Ham Langport Somerset - Change of use of land to a mixed agricultural, equestrian and educational (equine assisted learning) use and the erection of a stable block and horse arena. - GRANTED

24/00590/HOU - Henley Corner Henley Road High Ham Langport Somerset TA10 9BH - Erection of single storey extension at rear. - GRANTED

22/02188/DPO - Balls Farm Henley Langport Somerset TA10 9BG - Application to modify a Section 52 Agreement dated 31 August 1988 at Balls Farm, Henley. - GRANTED

5) Unitary Councillor Report – Richard answered some questions about road closures in the parish. Due to purdah there was councillor report to circulate.

6) Approval of Previous minutes.

The minutes of the meeting held on 28th May 2024 were approved as a true record with minor amendment only. The draft annual parish minutes would also be put on the website within the week.



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7) Ongoing Action Points and Updates.

Lengthsman: Since the end of May Craig and Rachael have been continuing with the grass cutting in the cemetery and Millennium Wood, as well as clearing visibility splays in the country lanes including the cross roads on Moreton's Lane. They have also sprayed the weeds along the main road in the village and in the cemetery. Giant hogweed has been cut back from alongside paths and rides in Millennium Wood.

Highways/ Footpaths

Highways – Overgrowth on Furpitts Lane at the junction of B3153 had now been cut for visibility reasons. It was pleasing to note that most electronic mapping systems were now showing that HGVs should not turn to go along Turnhill Road. There was an enforcement/highways issues that had been reported through both routes with regards to a distracting and unsightly finger post that was on the road advertising several businesses on a property whose planning permission was for private use only.

Millennium Wood – Per lengthsman report.

Parish Green - Amanda Chuter thanked for work re the registration of The Green. (Report below)

Registration of The Green as a designated Village Green and its ownership - Following some research on internet, I ended up in email conversation with Andrew Saint, Senior RoW Officer SC. I made a request to see the Commons Register of Town and Village Greens held at County Hall. He offered to scan and email the relevant docs*

While ownership of The Green is now verified as being the PC. Previously we have had to rely on the belief we may own it! What is pending is a missing letter from PC that requests a modification to what land comprises the The Green. If we discover some land has been removed from the designated VG, then does this affect ownership? Answer- pending.

Nb. PC minutes held by Somerset Archives do not include minutes for 1950 to 1977 that may refer to letter. They do hold all other minutes 1894 -1994

Richard Wilkins left the meeting.

Playing Fields - Ratification of the committee was outstanding from the May Parish Council meeting since the Playing Fields AGM took place days after the Parish Council meeting. The Parish Council unanimously confirmed and ratified the committee members of the Playing Field Committee as Rob Webb, Rob Rice, Paul Deval, Charlotte Bean, Lesley Deighton, Derek Deighton and Catherine Roberts.

The first grass cut of the year had been a little rough. It was thought that this would improve and not be a problem now that it was underway for the year again.

Refurbishment of Noticeboards – A small board for the cemetery was the next board for consideration. A suitable and discrete oak framed board and post had been quoted at £215.29. It was unanimously agreed that Rob Rice should accept the quote and the project continue. It was noted that the Low Ham board will be placed soon. It was felt that the one by the 'Church in the Field' was OK.

It was noted that the finger post at Picts Hill had been refurbished by Huish Episcopi as it was just inside the border of their parish.



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Cemetery – There were two upcoming burials in the cemetery. The maintenance team were aware of the dates.

Fete – There was a query with regards to insurance. The clerk was to notify the insurance company of the upcoming fete to confirm if it was insured or not. The prospective date was 13th July.

Any other – inc School/Village Hall/ Website – Village Hall – The last organised event had gone well and raised over £400.00. The School had an upcoming event to which the village was invited. There would be building work at the school over the summer holiday. The transfer of the website to a new ‘engine’ had been confirmed and Cosmic had been instructed that the Parish Council had accepted the quote. Defibrillator - the defibrillator from Low Ham had been taken out but not used. It was confirmed that it was in operational condition and ready for use. Phone booths – It was confirmed that the book exchanges were working well.

8) Correspondence/Meetings attended /LCN

Ben Heath from Wessex Internet had been in touch with regards to any community engagement opportunities over the next few months.

It was noted that the SID would be in the parish until 13th July.

LCN Amanda Chuter reported on the LCN AGM – report below.

Dave and I attended the Levels and Moors LCN AGM on June 11th. There are 18 Somerset LCNs, our LCN having 33 members - 31 parish councils, and 2 town councils, Somerton and Langport. The inaugural year of the LCN was ably chaired by Richard Wilkins, with Anthony Betty as Vice Chair.

The meeting began with thanks to Richard for leading the LCN in its first year. The year saw 3 working groups established who were active in gaining an understanding of the needs of our communities, and establishing partnerships with key partners: Health and Well-being, Highways, and Active Travel. The aim of the groups is to discover the what, why, and hows of making lives better for our residents.

Sean Dromgoole from Langport was voted as Chair for the next year with Cllr Tim Kerley as Vice Chair.

Reports were given by the 3 working groups on their work of the last year.

Health and Well-being Chaired by Cllr David Fothergill, the group focussed on the concerns for mental health issues in farming communities, and will now be including the needs of residents in Martock, Langport and Somerton.

Highways looked at issues of speeding, and the state of roads across network Their March meeting was attended by SiC Highways Officers. Sean Dromgoole will chair this group for the next year.

Active Travel Chaired by Cllr Gerard Tucker the group made visible progress on a number of projects with volunteers active on the ground clearing and creating paths for pedestrian and cycle use. The aim is to build safe connections between Curry, Aller, to Langport. Long-term the plan is to create a Quiet Lane Network for the Levels and Moors communities.

These 3 work groups will continue their work. In addition, focus will also be given to Planning Enforcement and Community Facilities.

One issue for me - how does the Levels and Moors LCN make its 33,000 residents aware of its existence and its work?
Are all Town and parish councillors aware?



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Unitary Council – The reduction of budget for verge cutting from £360,000 to £60,000 was mentioned as was the planned reduction in workforce of 25%.

Footpaths – It was noted that the query with regards to a footpath brought to last months meeting had been replied to but nothing else heard. It is assumed that the landowner cleared this particular path. Nick and Harry were also thanked for the work they were doing cutting other popular footpaths.

9) Financial

The following payments were authorised

Lengthsman - £758.34

Clerk's wages - £437.13

Cemetery management payment –June 2024 -226.67

D Plant – contract mowing The Green - £750.00

V Young – expenses - £34.87

10) Date of next meeting - confirmed as 23rd July 2024 at 7.30pm

11) Items for next meeting.

With no other business to discuss the meeting was closed at 8.40pm