



MINUTES OF HIGH HAM PARISH COUNCIL MEETING  
HELD AT HIGH HAM VILLAGE HALL  
ON TUESDAY 17<sup>th</sup> December 2024 7.30pm

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

Unitary Councillors:

Public approx: 5

Meeting opened at 7.30pm.

**1) Apologies and declarations of interest** County Councillors Richard Wilkins and Mike Stanton had sent apologies. Rob Rice declared an interest in application 3C.

**2) Public Session:** It was mentioned that a pothole at the bottom of Bridgehorn had been filled but there was a further one in the Parish which needed filling which was noted as at the bottom of Turnhill just before the Aller junction.

Trees overhanging Nythe Road – some damaged trees from the storm had been cleared others still needed further work (this was likely highways responsibility as they are on the road verge rather than private property. They had currently been left in a dangerous state and further clearance work was required.

Concern over hedges growing over roads was raised. It was noted that the power in Henley had been off for 4 days in the storm and it was a concern with regard to vulnerable people.

The Village Hall committee were thanked for opening the Village Hall as an emergency centre during the prolonged power outage. It was decided that it should be investigated in the future whether funding would be available for an emergency generator and whether it would be possible to run one at the hall if needed or if electrical work at the hall would be required for this.

It was to be considered at a future meeting if there should be a generic flyer sent out around the Parish about riparian responsibilities (ex. Trees near power lines being cut back, drains kept clear), in order that the Parish would be better able to deal with heavy rain and storms etc.

**3) Planning applications for consideration**

A) 24/02867/TPO Hamdown Court Union Drove Huish Episcopi Langport Somerset TA10 9EX

Application to carry out tree surgery work to No. 4 trees as shown by the South Somerset District Council - This was for notification only. No comments made from the Parish Council on this application by Midfleet Limited (The management company for Hamdown).

B) 24/02848/DOC1 Long Street Farm Long Street High Ham Langport Somerset TA10 9DN

Discharge of Conditions No. 05 (Landscape), 07 (Licence), 09 (Lighting Bats), 11 (Allocation Certificate), 14 (Surface Water), 15 (Electric Vehicle Charging Points) and 16 (Cycle Storage) of planning application 20/01027/FUL – The application met unanimously with no objections.

C) 24/02842/S73 Agricentre Burrow Lane High Ham Langport Somerset TA10 9DH

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. - This application was to enable the addition of solar energy and PV pumps to be used and other minor changes. Rob Rice left the meeting for the item. The application met unanimously with no objections.



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D) 23/01185/HOU & Listed Building Consent Application Number: 23/01186/LBC

Single storey rear extension, internal alterations, installation of Outdoor Swimming Pool and conversion of the existing outbuilding into ancillary accommodation. Fountain House Hillside Farm Road High Ham Langport Somerset TA10 9DB – The parish council unanimously stood by their previous comments of 7<sup>th</sup> June and asked that conditions remained in place regarding light(s) in order to limit light pollution from the site.

**4) Planning applications decided**

Application Number: 24/02707/NMA - Proposal Non Material Amendment to vary condition 11 (PTP) of approved application 22/01477/S73 to amend the specified PTP. Location: Land OS 4374 Part Field Road High Ham Langport Somerset TA10 9BZ - Granted

Application Number: 24/02547/FUL Proposal: Alteration of existing agricultural buildings.  
Location: Land Os 8307 Part Wagg Drove Langport Somerset TA10 9ER – Granted

Application Number: 24/02372/COL Proposal: Application for Certificate of Lawfulness for Proposed Use or Development for stationing of a shepherd hut for ancillary welfare/storage to existing agricultural use.  
Location: Land Os 8100 New Manor House Road Low Ham Langport Somerset - This had been a notification only application. It was noted that the application fell under the definition of caravan/caravan site and did not amount to development and had been granted on that basis. It was noted that this application had been objectionable to the Parish and it was felt that it should have been subject to a full application and that the documents put forward did not reflect the situation. It was however noted that the extent of use was restricted by a schedule in the conditions and any use materially different would render the user liable to enforcement.

Application Number: 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 - Granted

**5) Councillor Reports – None**

**6) Approval of Previous minutes.**

The minutes of the meeting held on 26<sup>th</sup> November 2024 were approved as a true record.

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

**Lengthsman:**

Report from Craig & Rachel: Late November: we cleared around the fence of the cemetery and removed any overhanging branches from around the perimeter path. We have also gave the trees at the Play Area area a crown-lift on the side of the car park.

December: At Millennium Wood we removed a tree that had fallen over one of the rides following the storms and removed branches that had snapped off and fallen into the walkways or play areas. We also sourced and placed a new Geocache in Millennium Wood which has already received a nice comment on the app. More about that below\*

We also continued with drainage works around the Low Ham and Henley area, clearing leaves and mud from around the grids whilst the weather has been relatively dry.



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Planned jobs for January include further works to the vegetation and trees in the cemetery and Millennium Wood. We will also try to find another location for a second Geocache somewhere on Cooks Lane as a second one in Millennium Wood itself is too close to the first one.

**Highways/ Footpaths**

**Highways** – A blocked drain on Field Road opposite Burrow Lane had been reported. Highways had confirmed it needed work but was not urgent. The Parish Council confirmed that they definitely felt that this was a traffic hazard as the flooding covers most of the road with 3 culverts running onto one which seemed to either be blocked underneath or collapsed. Photos were to be taken and sent in when the drain blocked again. The initial response to the complaint had been a standard response. It was noted that some repairs had been started on Bridgehorn with regard to potholes.

**Footpaths** – No updates

**Millennium Wood** – Per lengthsman report. There had been an additional comment re 'geocache'.

\*Geocache Comment about Millennium Wood - anonymous Geocacher

"Saw this cache published and was curious about the location called Millennium Wood, so looked it up online - fascinating. Two or three hours later I'd read all about how it came to be designed, how the children at the local primary school had helped with the planting, how High Ham parish council have fully thrown their support to ongoing maintenance and improvements. This is an excellent example of a community working together to provide a space for nature that can be enjoyed by everyone - I just had to come and see it for myself. Parked in the on-site car park and made my way to the wood passing on the way a young mother with her baby and toddler playing in the woodhenge area. Once at the viewing platform by the pond, it didn't take me long to find the cache and unroll the log to discover that I was first to find. Having signed the log and replaced the cache I spent a while sitting looking at the pond. Then I returned to the car park to read the information. I spent the next hour exploring the whole wood, admiring the constructions in the den building area and identifying several species of trees. A classic example of a geocacher being drawn to new and interesting location."

**Parish Green** – No new matters arising.

**Playing Fields** - The hedge planting/tree tidying work party had been successful. The playing field would like to have some self closing gates. A fund raising meeting was to be held on 13<sup>th</sup> January 7.30 with a full committee meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> February. The zipwire was currently closed pending an inspection. It was unanimously agreed to allow Rob Webb to use discretion to go up to £400 + VAT and confirm that the supplier had public liability insurance with regard to the chosen supplier for the necessary inspection.

**Refurbishment of Noticeboards** – The leaking board had now been sealed.

**Cemetery** – There had been a few burials and there was a request for a garden of rest plot and service. The sign had been knocked over on the road outside the cemetery.

**Carols around the tree** – Set for 5.30pm on 21<sup>st</sup> December. John and his workers were thanked for putting the tree up.

**Any other – inc School/Village Hall/ Website/Defibrillator** – The defibrillator pads had been replaced as required. The Village Hall Committee were thanked for opening the hall over the storm. An annual maintenance grant to the hall to be considered for having the facility to call upon.

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

The charges proposed on the bins was discussed. The only one chargeable to the parish council would be the one on the green/the church and this would cost approximately £338 plus VAT per year. It was to be confirmed at a future meeting if the Parish Council wished to continue with the use of the bin there.

The Chairman had attended a drop in consultation with regard to the 100 new houses in Huish (47 were to be affordable shared ownership and 63 would be for rental).



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The abattoir liaison meeting had been attended and it was noted that the 30 limited had been adjusted to cover the bridge.

**9) Financial**

The following payments were authorised

Lengthsman - £758.34

Clerk's wages - £469.63

Cemetery management payment – 226.67

**10) Date of next meeting** - confirmed as 28<sup>th</sup> January 2025 at 7.30pm

**11) Items for next meeting.** The budget was to go on the agenda for January.

With no other business to discuss the meeting was closed at 9.15pm