



MINUTES OF HIGH HAM PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD AT HIGH HAM VILLAGE HALL
ON TUESDAY 22nd FEBRUARY 2022 at 7.30pm

Present: Dave Vigar (Chairman), Amanda Chuter, John Vigar, Rob Webb
Clare Paul (County Councillor), Gerard Tucker (District Councillor).
V Young (Clerk).

Public approx: 5
Meeting opened at 7.05pm.

1) Apologies & declarations of interest:- Paul Brunsdon, Andy Davidson and Chris Palmer's apologies were accepted. There were no declarations of interest.

2) Public Session: It was noted that the SRA had lowered Oath Lock at the outset of the recent storms but the surge had not been as high as expected.

3) Planning applications for consideration

22/00236/HOU - Longridge Main Road High Ham Langport - House refurbishment & new roadway entrance – The Parish Council raised no objections.

22/00265/PAMB - Henley Corner Henley Langport Somerset - Prior approval for the change of use of existing agricultural barn. Conversion of former agricultural building alongside highway with some rebuilding to holiday cottage. – This was an application for information only for which the Parish Council is not a statutory consultee. It was unanimously felt that the Parish Council should write in and ask that a condition be put on the application that it could not be sold off separately. It was noted that this request may need to be made at the stage it becomes a full application, should it do so.

22/00120/OUT - Snowdrop Cottage Wagg Drove Langport TA10 9ER - Outline application for a self build detached dwelling with some matters reserved except for access There was much discussion on this application. The Parish Council were disappointed to see this as an outline application. There were some concerns with regard to the access. Some felt that it was encroaching onto agricultural land. Huish Episcopi Parish Council had raised no objections to the application having been consulted as it was on the border of the two parishes. After discussion with regard to need for the property etc, the Parish Council voted 3 no objections and 1 abstention. This was on the basis that it was a self-build, as described in the title of the application, and therefore there was a need for it.

4) Planning applications decided.

21/03596/PAMB Long Street Barn Long Street High Ham Langport Somerset TA10 9DN
Proposal Notification of prior approval for conversion of agricultural building into dwelling.

It was noted that this application had been refused.

5) Approval of Previous minutes.

The minutes of 25th January 2022 were approved as a true record with minor amendment. It was noted that the Heart of the Levels Community Network meeting mentioned had not taken place and was now postponed until May 2022.

6) County/District Councillor reports

County Councillor – Clare's written report had been forwarded. An incident room had been set up to deal with issues caused by the storm. Waste collections had been affected and there were county wide school closures. The County Council budget was due to be set at a meeting tomorrow. The Council were still heavily involved in covid management across the county.



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District Councillor – Issues were reported with continuing to provide services whilst the change over to unitary authority was imminent. Somerset Waste Partnership were rolling out the 3 weekly collections in Sedgemoor of waste and increased weekly collections of curb-side recycling. It was noted that the work on the Chard Leisure Centre was now complete but that it had gone over budget. A performance report of the District Council had highlighted shortfalls in planning and call centre performance. The council were trying to address these issues. It was noted that there had been issues with the crematorium upgrade in Yeovil due to updated legislation specifications meaning that one of the cremators could not be installed. The Wincanton regeneration programme had gone well and under budget. It was noted that there was an increased budget for staffing until the hand-over.

7) Playing Field Constitution.

A signed copy of the constitution was required by the Playing Fields Committee to assist with grant finding. It was noted that the constitution had been updated in July 2004. Amendments to this were made with regard to the School Governors rights to appoint a representative. The school would retain this right, but if they could not find someone from the school community for this role, then the Parish Council would be able to appoint a community representative in this place. It was additionally agreed to amend the need to meet bi-monthly to quarterly. The amendments were proposed by Dave Vigar, Seconded by Rob Webb and carried unanimously. The updated version of the constitution would be confirmed for wording at the next meeting

8) Ongoing Action Points and Updates.

Phone box booths & additional Defibrillator(s) - There was agreement from the owners that Low Ham Chapel could be used for a defibrillator. Electrical installation quotes were to be sought for both the defibrillator at Low Ham and the one at Henley. The Christmas Crew were thanked for their very generous donation of £1500 which was to be split equally between providing the defibrillators and for the playing field equipment project.

Future work at Cemetery/Green – Largely on hold, waiting for better weather. Craig would clear a fallen tree and storm damage in the cemetery. A Duke of Edinburgh student had volunteered for helping to paint the phone box. The seed exchange from the phone boxes was very popular. On future contacts with undertakers with regard to the cemetery the issue of micro plastics was to be raised and they were to be requested to ask their clients to avoid these.

Millennium Wood – Regular management was ongoing.

Highways - The lengthsman was to look at some drainage issues on Turnhill to Beer.

Various highway issues were noted including and storm damage and tree clearance from the highway. The chevrons at the corner at the bottom of Ham Hill were again to be reported to highways as needing fixing.

Other – Village Hall/Playing Field –The Playing Field Committee were in the process of grant finding to fund the new play equipment.

Jubilee – There were several events now planned. Amanda Chuter was to phone around and confirm each 'group's plans as it was hoped that the Parish Council could fund a leaflet drop or similar advertising what was happening in the Parish. So far the Playing Field would be hosting a beacon on the Thursday evening, The Village Hall were holding a dance on the Friday night. The History Hut was hosting an event on the Saturday and on Sunday Cakes and Tea were being hosted at the Village Hall. There was also likely to be a display in the church of jubilee memorabilia and bell ringing. (Times dates are not finalised at the time of these minutes)

Dennis Davis Award – Chris Palmer had the certification in progress for presentation in due course.

Finger Posts – ongoing. Dave Vigar was liaising with the landowner of the property adjacent to the finger post on Picts Hill with regard to possible access for repairing the finger post there. It was confirmed that the Parish Council did not want to accept the quote for having the post professionally repaired as part of Huish Episcopi's quote due to the large cost involved.

9) Correspondence and Items of report.

The Town and Parish Council conference had been attended by Dave Vigar. There was much speculation as to the future and the effectiveness of unitary councils with two opposing opinions highlighted on how it was working shown by two town councils. (Salisbury and Shrewsbury)



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A contact at the District Council was given by the District Councillor to ascertain the management plan for Eastfield Reserve. There was some disappointment with its current management and it was hoped that its future could be safeguarded if it was turned over from the District Council to the new unitary council.

10) Financial

The following payments were authorised

Lengthsman - £773.51

Clerk's wages - £326.94

O Howley hedge trimming Millennium Wood - £270

J Vigar - 2 years Christmas tree on green - £120

11) The meeting was closed to the public

Contractual arrangements for the Lengthsman. The new rate for the year for the contract was unanimously agreed. The meeting re-opened to the public.

12) Summary of meetings attended and Date of next meetings

The Christmas crew were thanked for the donation received to be split equally between the playing fields and defibrillator installation/costs. (£750 for each had been raised.)

It had been requested by a parishioner that the lengthsman spend a little more time looking at some drainage issues again in the parish. It was noted however that the drains currently causing issues could only be done by Highways due to pipe layout and so on or beneath roads and/or in/on private property which the lengthsman was also unable to work. It was noted that the SRA would pay for some gullies to be jetted out in certain circumstances.

It was noted that the HGV route would be staying as it was with regard to the routing around the abattoir.

The next meeting was set as Tuesday 22nd March 2022

Meeting closed at 9.40pm