



MINUTES OF HIGH HAM PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD AT HIGH HAM VILLAGE HALL
ON TUESDAY 23rd July 2024 7.30pm

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

Unitary Councillors: Richard Wilkins

Public approx: 5

Meeting opened at 7.30pm.

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

2) Public Session: There was some discussion about some land on Picts Hill where there was concern of disturbed nests and it seemed that trees were down where they shouldn't be. There was concern with the time of year of the work with regards to birds nests etc.

The Village Fete had gone very well and being very successful. Rob Webb and his team of volunteers were thanked for his work in pulling the event together.

Item 5 on the agenda was taken next

3) Councillor Reports – The council were running 'business as usual' following on from the elections. There was now a new government and some things of what this would entail for local councils was not yet known. There had already been a meeting with Angela Raynor with regards to phosphates and house building. In Somerset, Natural England were still very much involved in giving advice. It was highlighted that there was an urgent need for foster carers across the county.

On a separate matter a resident in Henley had written to the local MP requesting a 'road narrows' sign for the road through Henley.

Questions were raised about highways. Kier had been appointed as a contractor. There was discussion in general about the poor state of highways including lesser used ones.

The rubbish recycling contract was to continue with Suez.

The issue of the sign post for several businesses at the top of Hext Hill was highlighted to Richard Wilkins. It was noted that businesses on these signs were occupying premises that had permission only for private use.

4) Planning application for consideration

A) 24/00834/S73 Land North Of Four Chimneys Breach Furlong Lane High Ham Langport, Somerset

Proposal: S73 Application to vary Condition 02 (Drawings) 09 (Materials) to new drawings/materials to planning approval 22/00278/FUL for Erection of two self-build dwellings and store for gardening/landscape/fencing business. There were no objections but it was to be noted with the unitary council that a Juliette balcony would be preferred together with more traditional materials. The Parish Council unanimously supported the application for dormer windows and the majority (5) would prefer the option of a Juliette balcony and also thought that double roman tiles would be more in keeping with the character of the village.



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5) Planning applications decided

The application at Kingmoor House, Beer for change of use had been granted but there had been conditions put on that the annexes could not be sold off.

The appeal for Aunt Emily's had been dismissed.

6) Approval of Previous minutes.

The minutes of the meeting held on 25th June 2024 were approved as a true record with minor amendment only.

7) Ongoing Action Points and Updates.

Lengthsman:

Since the last meeting Craig and Rachael have continued with the vegetation management at the Cemetery and Millennium Wood. They have also been working their way through the lanes clearing vegetation impeding visibility signs and signage. Weed killer has been applied in the Village Hall car park, The Pound, Saint Andrew's Close, and along the main road.

Highways/ Footpaths

Highways – covered earlier in the meeting.

Footpaths – no issues to report though it was noted that a few footpaths had been trimmed by the landowners.

Millennium Wood – Per lengthsman report.

Parish Green - Village Green - status and ownership

Before June, the PC assumed they owned The Green and were unsure if it was an officially registered village green. At June's meeting, I reported that the Commons Register of Village and Town Greens, held at County Hall, verified the Green as registered; the PC as owners of The Green; and the land included: The Green, Little Green, the strip in front of the Old Rectory, and the area in front of the church, but it was noted there was a missing letter from the PC responding to a Letter of Objection from SCC.

Andrew Saint, Senior RoW Officer, has since been in contact to say he has found the letter dated April '71. The exact wording with reference to objection of the Clerk of Somerset CC, my council agree unanimously to the claim of Highway Land as per the plan submitted. The HH PC, however, do wish to claim as a Village Green, that part which the CC are not claiming as Highway Land. K. Chorley, Clerk to the PC

To sum up, for the past 50 years, the PC have been maintaining Highways land: Little Green, the Rectory strip, and the verges on the road through The Green, and opposite the post box. What remains, The Green, and the area in front of the church, is owned by the PC.

Playing Fields - The fete had been very successful. The organising team were thanked. It had been a successful fundraiser for various village organisations raising funds of between £440 and £600 and approximately £2000 in total for local charities. The next committee meeting was on 9th September.

Some concern about traffic was raised with regards to the school fete (rather than the parish fete). Mr Brunson was sent condolences on the loss of his wife. He had been a committee member for several years and also a Parish Councillor and also tree warden for the Parish.

Refurbishment of Noticeboards – The noticeboard at Low Ham was now in place in a repaired state. The Picts Hill board needed one more coat of paint and a small notice board was on order for the cemetery.



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Cemetery – Craig and the maintenance team were thanked. The front trees crowding in on the gateway will require work over the winter. There was some concern that when the grass was cut late it was difficult to cut well.

Any other – inc School/Village Hall/ Website – The Village Hall would host the produce show as their next event.

School – issues re parking – continued – to be raised again in the new school term.

Website – no new issues

Defibrillators – new pads would be required shortly. The issue of bleed kits to be considered to go with the defibrillators.

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

9) Financial

The following payments were authorised

Lengthsman - £758.34

Clerk's wages - £437.13

Cemetery management payment –June 2024 -226.67

Lengthsman additional expenses – weekkiller - £30.00

Bancombe Joinery (noticeboard) - £995.70

Somerset Landscapes – mowing the playing fields - £144.43

10) Date of next meeting - confirmed as 27th August 2024 (if required) or 24th September 2024 at 7.30pm

11) Items for next meeting. The question as to whether to include bleed kits in the places that the defibrillators were available was to go on the agenda for a future meeting.

With no other business to discuss the meeting was closed at 9.12pm