



MINUTES OF HIGH HAM PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD AT HIGH HAM VILLAGE HALL
ON TUESDAY 24th JANUARY 2023

Present: David Vigar (Chairman), Amanda Chuter, Catherine Roberts, Rob Webb, Nick Fear, Rob Rice, Nancy Green

County/District Councillors: Richard Wilkins, Mike Stanton

Public: 5

Meeting opened at 7.30pm.

1) **Apologies:** Gerard Tucker had sent his apologies.

The meeting opened and everyone was wished a happy new year.

2) **Co-option of Councillor:** Having previously shown an interest and attended as a member of the public since the vacancy was advertised, Rob Rice was formerly co-opted onto the council by a unanimous vote.

3) **Declarations of Interest on agenda items:** None

4) **Public Session:** The lack of road gritting through High Ham by County Highways was discussed. It was thought that it might be worth considering a private/local arrangement to at least grit the main road through. Turnhill potholes would be photographed to pin point locations for County Highways. Water running of 'Stout' had been diverted off. Highways had promised in the past that it would be piped. Richard Wilkins was thanked for coming and helping with the flooding issue on Long Street. All volunteers who turned out to help were thanked. It was noted that the gullies in front of the school were all full.
2 sites on Beer Drove where there had been fly-tipping had been reported to SSDC

5) **Planning applications for consideration**

A) 22/03485/FUL – Lower Broadacre Farm, Broadacre, High Ham - Proposal – Change of use of land for the stationing of an existing log cabin to provide holiday accommodation. - After discussion the application was unanimously supported.

B) 23/00080/DOC1 – Stembridge Tower Mill Cottage, Windmill Road, High Ham – Proposal – Discharge of condition no 3 (New natural Stonework Walls) of planning application 19/02718/LBC – The application was noted for information only. The Parish Council had not been consulted.

6) **Planning applications decided**

The Ranch – Approved

Other outstanding planning applications were mentioned.

No further update with regard to the dangerous sign for the dog rescue centre which had been concreted into the triangular green at the bottom of the hill and obstructed Highways visibility. The matter was to be followed up as the retrospective application asking for permission had been withdrawn.

7) **Approval of minutes of last meeting** – Approved with minor amendment

8) **Councillors reports** - The meeting was updated with regard to the new unitary council branding and logo (which was a legal requirement). This had been developed in house to keep the cost as low as possible. On many assets there would be a gradual change over – for example highways vans – the logos would be changed as and when the vehicles were replaced.

It was noted that the Local Community Network areas had been chosen. High Ham was in a group of approximately 33-34 Parishes called the Levels and Moors LCN. There was some discussion about the handing over of the planning



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departments. Under the new system there would be 4 planning committees similar to what is in place now with the local district councils and the local plans. These local plans would carry over into the unitary council.

9) Action Points and Updates

Phone box booths and Defibrillators – High Ham defibrillator had been taken, but was not required in the eventuality and was returned the following day. The pads and the battery were to be replaced. The approximate cost of £286 for the battery and £173 for 2 sets of pads was unanimously approved.

Future work at Cemetery/Green – It was noted that the tarmac outside the cemetery was again deteriorating and starting to break up and would need work at some point. An oak bollard had been knocked over on the green and there was now some erosion of the verge. Other bollards were to be checked for condition and an appropriate number could then be ordered from Yandles to match the current ones. It was currently thought that 4 bollards would need to be replaced.

Lynch gate roof - ongoing

Lengthsman/Millennium Wood – Abattoir Liaison Group were offering to plant some trees. Amanda Chuter to find out what they were and whether they would be suitable for the Millennium Wood. An amount of up to £200 was agreed as a budget to replace missing word plaques at the Millennium Wood.

Lengthsman report: General: has included drainage work and topping up grit bins

Cemetery: continued felling of selected trees, clearing overhanging vegetation from paths

MW: Continued to fell selected diseased ash trees and clear selected banks of bramble - large coppice adjacent to pond shelter

Playing Field: equipment maintenance in the play area

Lengthsman Planned work for February:

1. Continue with the winter maintenance and tree work at Millennium
2. Monitor drain grids on Long St following issues reported by resident on 26th Dec - clear mud on grids
Clear vegetation obscuring 30mph sign adjacent to Old rectory, and any other signs similarly obscured

The County Councillors left the meeting at the conclusion of this item.

Highways/Footpaths – Highways had been dealt with in the public session. Noted that potholes were re-appearing due to the weather. With regards to footpaths the Parish Council had responded to complaints about a blocked footpath. This had now been resolved The Strimmer was overdue collection. 2 issues had been reported directly to RoW warden at 2 footpaths exiting on to Lower Stout: opposite Lower Stout Farm. Missing finger post and obscured entrance to footpath - *waymarker now fixed to road-side post and also a fallen fingerpost adjacent to gate entrance to a Morton Dairy.*

Playing Fields. - Fencing had been replaced in the car park. Signs were to be put up in the carpark the quote for £445 + VAT was unanimously agreed. It was hoped to held a summer fayre in July with interest and help from the PTA.

Refurbishment of noticeboards – ongoing. Rob Rice to have a look.

Local Community Networks – ongoing

Cemetery - Nancy Green proposed that the Parish Council stop reserving cemetery plots on request from 1/4/2023. Amanda Chuter seconded the proposal which was carried unanimously. This was due to difficult to dig stone in places. No artificial flowers or plastic memorials would be allowed at the cemetery due to the difficulties with the material breaking down and also the mowing issues. A note was to go on the gate and on the website.

Any other – inc Village Hall/School/Website – photo to go on website of the parish council.

The chairman of the Parish Council had been approached by the committee of the Village Hall who were applying for a grant for 20% of a project. They had asked if the Parish Council would support the grant application. It was agreed that the Parish Council would support it in principle, but no amounts were mentioned or agreed. The PCSO had been up to the school and their presence was to be requested again. The Chairman would write and ask as it was felt that it would be helpful to meet on site. Rob Webb would continue work on the school parking project leaflet/newsletter.

King's Coronation – the Parish Council would liaise and ask groups in order that some kind of flyer or advertisement for the parish events could be put together.



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A pedestal plinth (topograph/orientation table) to go in The Pound to mark the occasion was in the design process. Approximate quotes for the total design and completion was in the region of £600. Rob Webb was asked to continue work on the project and it was unanimously agreed that providing the expense stayed as expected the Parish Council would fund it. The detailed design would likely indicate the direction and the distance to notable landscape features that can be seen by eye from The Pound. An inscription to commemorate the coronation would be included. It was also mentioned that it would be an opportunity to get a name sign for The Pound.

Amanda Chuter would email around the Parish Groups to try and make sure that groups would co-ordinate their events appropriately.

10) Correspondence. Carols around the tree had been well attended and raised £200 for the air ambulance.

John Vigar thanked for his help with putting the tree up and so on.

SALC training - correspondence had been received with training dates. Various courses booked. Rob Rice was to be booked on the planning training if not already booked on it.

Correspondence had been received by the chairman with regard to some damage to the bat house in the wildlife area at Hamdown Court. It was noted that this whole area was a privately managed by the Hamdown residents - management company. They were responsible for its maintenance and damage. Should the residents in question not get satisfactory results from complaints made directly to the management company then at this point the Parish Council could consider writing to the management company.

11) Summary of Meetings attended/Date of next meeting. - The meetings with regards to the progress towards merging the councils and LCNs that were every fortnight had been attended. The next meeting was set as 22nd February 2023.

12) Finance

Bank Signatories – this would be completed when everyone had taken their forms to the bank.

Approval of Precept set at the Finance Working Group Meeting - Nancy Green proposed that the precept of £26,000 as set by the Finance working party should be adopted for the year ending 31/3/2024. This was seconded by Amanda Chuter and carried unanimously. This represented an increase but the costs of the council were rising and it also included a renewed amount to take into consideration the depreciation on the new playing field equipment.

Payments for approval and cheques to authorise

The following items were approved for payment

Lengthsman - £853.13

Clerk's wages - £437.13

Information Commissioners Office - £40.00

Ashcott PC (re-imburement of share of SLCC reimbursement) - £58

Playing Field work and materials - £566.50 net of VAT (£709.90 gross)

Playing Field combination lock and chain – approx £25.00

Defibrillator battery and pads - £459.00

13) Meeting Closed to the public to discuss details of contracts for renewal

The meeting then re-opened to the public. It was confirmed that Mr Plant's contract would be renewed and the Lengthsman would be offered a contract again.

–meeting closed at 21.55 hrs.