



MINUTES OF HIGH HAM PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD AT HIGH HAM VILLAGE HALL
ON TUESDAY 24th October 2023 at 7.30pm

+9
Present: Dave Vigar (Chair) Amanda Chuter, Nick Fear, Nancy Green, Rob Webb.
V Young (Clerk).

Unitary Councillors: Richard Wilkins

Public approx: 5

Meeting opened at 7.30pm.

1) Apologies & declarations of interest Councillors Rob Rice and Catherine Roberts had both sent apologies and these were accepted. Unitary Councillor Mike Stanton had sent apologies. There were no declarations of interest. Apologies had been received from a member of the public.

2) Public Session: It was noted that a bigger 'No HGV' sign had gone up on the road to Bere. There was a queried raised as to whether one could go up by the road junction near the cemetery. It was thought that this might not be possible as it was the only vehicular access to a few farms/residences. There had also been a query relating to signs on the green and how long could signs advertising local events stay on the green. It was noted that the illegal sign for the dog rescue centre that badly obscured highway visibility on High Ham Hill had been removed.

3) Planning applications for consideration – None

4) Planning applications decided.

23/01959/DOC1 - The Ranch Stout Road High Ham Langport Somerset TA10 9BD

Proposal - Discharge of Condition No. 4 (Written Scheme of Investigation) of Planning Application 22/01990/FUL. - approved

23/02352/NMA - Land Adjacent To Mildmays Mill Road High Ham Langport Somerset TA10 9DJ

Proposal - Non Material Amendment to approved application 22/03220/S73 to change material of the driveway & additional enclosure of car port (already partially enclosed on 2.35 sides) to form garage -approved

It was noted that there were two applications to which the Parish Council may not get consulted on that had been submitted. These were:

23/02631/DOC1 Discharge of Condition - Land OS 4374 Part Field Road High Ham Langport Somerset TA10 9BZ
Discharge of Condition No. 8 (External Lighting) of Planning Application 22/01477/S73.

23/02578/FUL The erection of a roof over existing cattle feeding area to reduce pollution

Location: Poplar Farm Henley Road High Ham Langport Somerset TA10 9BH

Concern had been raised with the unitary councillors with regards to planning enforcement. There was concern with reference to a building plot and work being conducted in Henley which did not appear to have any consent.

5) Unitary Councillor Report The monthly councillors report had been forwarded to the Parish Councillors. The financial situation of Somerset Council was being closely monitored. Precepting and budgeting may be effected should there be services in the Parish that the unitary council would no longer provide and the Parish might wish to take up the expense and maintenance should they wish these services to continue. A letter was to be sent from the unitary council shortly to the parish councils stating where these cuts were likely to be.

6) Approval of Previous minutes.

The minutes of 26th September 2023 were approved as a true record with minor amendment.



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7) Ongoing Action Points and Updates.

Lengthsmans report

Lengthsman - Cemetery: grass cut on paths and between graves. Grave edges strimmed.

There has been a spate of dog walkers hanging dog waste bags on the cemetery railings along Mildmays Road. Recently, a dog Walker was seen to allow his dog to foul the cemetery verge and not pick it up, despite having green poo bags showing in his pocket. Abandoned dog mess and poo bags are an increasing issue in Millennium Wood, Cemetery, graveyard and footpaths, particularly for those mowing/strimming.

MW: during winter thinning of selected diseased ash trees.

The Green: an application will be submitted to allow completion the pollarding of lime trees.

Drains: Low Ham - drain grids/gullies bottom of Mary Cox Hill following urgent request after heavy rain.

Phone box booths & Defibrillators - no update - the phone booth libraries were working well. Catherine Roberts had been contacted regarding concern with a piece of shelving in the Low Ham booth.

Future Work at Cemetery and Green –ongoing. See Lengthsman report . Mike Cox had completed the masonry work of the wal at The Pound prior to the installation of the toposcope and also the repair to the wall at the cemetery.

Lych gate roof- Ongoing.

Millennium Wood-see lengthsman report.

Highways/footpaths: Eroded tarmac reported near 'Charity'. Highways had cleared Picts Hill debris and soil and it was noted that they would have to undertake this regularly. Fly-tipping: 2 fly-tipping events have been reported to Somerset Council - Nythe Rd (3 dumps of large plastic fuel/helical containers, and Beer Drove (computer monitors) There would soon be a road closure in Henley, for some works. Also Bow Street in Langport to be closed for some work. Richard would circulate the dates for this.

The volunteer strimmers had been active. The manufacturers of a bristol gate had been contacted by a landowner regarding the design which had caused a deer to become trapped in one. It was hoped that improvements would come from this so that it doesn't happen in the future. In the meantime the landowner had put some mesh over the gate.

Refurbishment of Noticeboards – Bancombe joinery were progressing with the first noticeboard which would be installed when there was a break in the bad weather.

Playing Fields – The next meeting was 13th December.

Any other – inc School/Village Hall/Website – None A few upcoming diary dates were mentioned.

Toposcope – Toposcope unveiling was to be arranged for the coming Sunday at noon.

Dennis Davis Award – A nominee had been agreed as the recipient of the award.

Cemetery/Vegetation management plan - This had been circulated. Nancy Green proposed and Rob Webb seconded that the document be adopted and agreed with the contractor.

8) Correspondence - Concern had been raised about the parking of cars on the road by the bend making a chicane at the top of High Ham Hill very dangerous. The fire brigade survey about the precept was to be completed and raise concerns about fire truck access.

Stembridge Mill Cottage had new tenants and they had contacted the Parish Council to introduce themselves.

The next LCN meeting was Monday 13th November at Edgar Hall. - It was hoped that it would be possible for the Parish Council to ask for PCSO attendance in the Parish at school drop-off times.

Fly tipping had been reported on Bere Drove.

The National Trust had replied to a resident with regard to the lack of maintenance to part of a wall at Turnhill. The local ranger was aware and it was now on the 'works list'.

9) Summary of meetings attended. Fortnightly online meetings hosted by the unitary council with regards to the changes etc continued to be attended when possible.



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10) Financial

The following payments were authorised

Lengthsman - £891.86

Clerk's wages - £437.13

Somerset Landscapes – playing field grass cut October - £69.44

SALC - £263.24

Ashcott Parish Council – Re SLCC share - £55.00

11) Items for next meeting. The issue of dog waste bins for The Green and The Pound was to be discussed.

12) Date of next meeting – 28th November 2023 at 7.30pm

With no other business to discuss the meeting was closed at 8.35pm