



MINUTES OF HIGH HAM PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD AT HIGH HAM VILLAGE HALL
ON TUESDAY 25th July 2023 at 7.30pm

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

Unitary Councillors: Mike Stanton

Public approx: 9

Meeting opened at 7.30pm.

1) Apologies & declarations of interest Unitary Councillor Richard Wilkins had sent apologies. Nick Fear and Rob Rice had both sent apologies and these were accepted.

2) Public Session:

A general question was raised regarding the 5 year land supply strategy, commonly used in planning applications and if this would remain the same in the new unitary plan. No imminent change was likely.

The issues of planning applications and phosphates was raised and it was noted that the EnTrade deal that it was hoped would be taken up by some farmers tied up the land for 80 years and therefore the plan had had little take-up.

3) Planning applications for consideration

Application Number: 23/01590/OUT (outline)

Proposal: Outline application for the erection of 5 no. dwellings, with some matters reserved, except for the layout and vehicle accesses onto Long Street.

Location: Land Adjoining Cobblers Barn Mill Road High Ham Langport Somerset TA10 9DJ

The voting councillors voted in favour of supporting the application (4 in favour and 1 against).

4) Planning applications decided.

22/01477/S73 for two air source heat pumps had been granted. With regard to an agricultural building in Windmill Road it had been found that permission was not required (ref 23/01600/AGN). Application 20/02759/FUL for Paradise Barn had been approved with conditions.

5) Unitary Councillor Report

The monthly councillor reports had been forwarded to the Parish Councillors. The Canalside Conference Room was to be the venue for the next unitary meeting.

6) Approval of Previous minutes.

The minutes of 27th June 2023 were approved as a true record with minor amendment.

7) Ongoing Action Points and Updates.

Phone box booths & Defibrillators - Noted that the 'libraries' were working well.

Future Work at Cemetery and Green –ongoing. See Lengthsman report for cemetery work. All tree trunk growth cleared for visibility. The application for work on the bollards on The Green was with the unitary council. Rob Webb will pass on message in new school term re one way system and the availability of extra parking at the playing fields and hall.

Lych gate roof- Ongoing.

Millennium Wood-see lengthsman report.



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Lengthsman - Our Lengthsman team, Craig and Rachael Howe, have been continuing with vegetation management:

Millennium Wood: mowing of paths and rides

cemetery: cutting along growth between graves on southern side and cutting the wild flower area as it goes to seed.

Site visit 8th August with Nancy and Dave to discuss 2023/24 Vegetation Management plan.

The Green: all trunk growth on all trees has been removed to improve vehicle visibility.

An application to Somerset Council for the installation of the bollards on the green has been made, just waiting to receive the permission to proceed.

Playing Field: A request was made by PF Comm to apply moss killer in the play area. Rain prevented application on the days when working in the parish - will carry out task on next visit to parish.

Highways/ Footpaths – footpaths: Nick Fear has cut all the pedestrian gates and steps from Cradle bridge to High Ham sluice along the left bank of the KSD. Also Broad Acre bridge on the River Cary.

Harry has been a bit strapped for time this month but he is hoping to cut the enclosed section beyond Breach Furlong and the gates and stiles from the Village Hall over to the Turnhill Road in the next week or so. This a timely moment to remember that Nick and Harry volunteer their time, and more, to keep our most-used footpaths in good order.

A deer that was trapped between the vertical bars of a Bristol Gate, on the start of footpath from Nythe Road east along Old River Cary, was reported to Somerset RoW Area Warden, and to the manufacturers to make them aware of the issue. RoW Warden said it was the first time he was aware of this happening. Deer was removed.

Playing Fields – The safety report had been received. Some of the points had already been rectified. There was a picnic bench that the playing fields committee were getting quotes for replacement. Par Signs were to contact the playing field committee soon re the signs ordered for the gates.

Refurbishment of Noticeboards – Bancombe joinery were aiming to complete the work on the first board by the end of August.

Local Community Networks – Data Pack Each LCN will soon receive a data pack. Will be bespoke to each LCN. data will reflect;

emerging 'themes'. Will include 'themes' if common to other LCNs.

Customer Service There will be Customer Access Points, 1 for each LCN, located in a library.

Online Customer Service will be available in ALL libraries. Library staff will be trained to give assistance, if required. If needed, Library staff will be able to scan customer documents and send to appropriate SC staff/dept.

Users of this service MUST have library membership - only name and address is required.

31 new customer access points can now be accessed.

Any other – inc School/Village Hall/Website– It was to be considered if the defibrillator could be moved out of the school to the village hall as it appeared that schools could all apply for free defibrillators as part of a national campaign that all schools should have defibrillators.

Toposcope – ongoing. The item had arrived damaged in transit and had been returned. Now it was hoped for installation of a replacement by the end of August. Mike Cox was to work on the wall repair at the Pound and in the Cemetery in September.

Dennis Davis Award – It was requested that names be put forward.

Cemetery Management Plan – Amanda Chuter, Nancy Green, Dave Vigar & Vicky Young had spent a lot of time drafting a set of cemetery rules. This was the first set of written regulation in over a 100 years since the cemetery had been opened. It was proposed (Nancy Green, seconded (Rob Webb) and unanimously carried that the document, since made



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available on the following link <https://highhamparishlife.org/sites/default/files/u6/cemetery%20regulations.pdf>
be adopted.

The cemetery vegetation management plan was still in progress. All the teasel that had grown this summer had now been taken out and much of the other high overgrown areas. It was discussed whether the nature area of the cemetery should be signed as such. It was agreed to give this further consideration in the future.

8) Correspondence

Various correspondence had been received with regard to the cemetery. Some of this was with reference to the vegetation and some with regard to memorial applications and scattering of ashes. Correspondence had been received as to whether enforcement action was necessary with regard to a site at Low Ham. A problem ditch reported to the parish council had already been reported to the unitary council. Dave Vigar was to be added to the bank signatories.

9) Summary of meetings attended.

Fortnightly online meetings with the unitary council also continued. The abattoir liaison group had met. Dave Vigar had attended. Concern had been raised with regard to faulty over filling sensors. A lorry survey had been done with regard to lorry route. It had been asked if a 30mph could be moved to Bicknell Bridge.

An upcoming Low Ham Church service date was highlighted.

10) Financial

The following payments were authorised

Lengthsman - £891.80

Clerk's wages - £437.13

St Margaret's Hospice £140.00

Cosmic - £204 (annual website hosting)

11) Items for next meeting. There were no new items arising not already discussed. The Cemetery vegetation management plan - to be included for discussion at the next meeting.

12) Date of next meeting – 22nd August or 26th September 2023 at 7.30pm

With no other business to discuss the meeting was closed at 8.55pm