



MINUTES OF HIGH HAM PARISH COUNCIL MEETING  
HELD AT HIGH HAM VILLAGE HALL  
ON TUESDAY 25<sup>th</sup> April 2023 at 7.30pm

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

Unitary Councillors: Mike Stanton

Public approx: 2

Meeting opened at 7.30pm.

**1) Apologies** Unitary Councillor Richard Wilkins had sent apologies.

**2) Declarations of interest:** There were no declarations of interest on the agenda

**3) Public Session:** Margaret Porter reported on the arrangements for the 'Songs of Praise' taking place and teas to celebrate the Coronation. A few more volunteers would be gratefully accepted. The Church bells were to be rung at 4pm on the Coronation day. Proceeds from the day were to go to the Dorset and Somerset Air Ambulance.

Additional events also taking place to mark the Coronation included a parish walk. Posters were on noticeboards, postings on HHFacebook, parish website, and newsletters circulated by Karen Cook and Margaret Cox for HH Ladies. In addition to events: Friday 5th 6pm, History Hut. Cider and Cheese. Tickets to be booked with Karen Cook by Friday 29th.

With regards to fly tipping it was noted that 15 fridge/freezers fly-tipped on field on Rushleigh, (reported to AC. Dave V investigating ownership of field), and activity on Gypsy site - lights at night and work vehicles. Site has no PP for business use. Monitor.

It was noted that a resident at Hamdown had been required to travel to Street as that was the closest place they could get a covid booster. There were no clinics for this in Langport at the current time.

It was noted that Aller was all decorated for the Coronation and it was hoped that the High Ham decorations would be up by the first May bank holiday.

It was noted that highways had repaired the road by Manor Farm.

#### **4) Planning applications for consideration**

23/00531/HOU - Proposal: Erection of a link extension between bungalow & garage, part conversion of existing garage to provide additional bedroom in the roof space, relocation of existing site access with parking and turning area. Location: The Dairy Henley Road High Ham Langport Somerset TA10 9BG – The application was discussed and although certain aspects of it were of unusual design it was felt that the development was not overbearing on the plot. The Parish Council unanimously voted to support the application and felt that it was in keeping with the agricultural style.

It was noted that a recent application had been sent in which was for notification only and not requiring comment with regard to some minor work on a tree in a tree conservation area at Loxhams, Stout Road.



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**5) Planning applications decided.**

No applications had been decided since those reported at the last meeting which were:

Kingsmoor House – Change of Use – Approved

Moreton Dairy – Pool Room – Refused

Bere Farmhouse – Garden studio building – Granted.

Rushton Dog Rescue – An enforcement request had gone in to ask that the matter be investigated with regard to the withdrawal of the retrospective application for the large private sign obscuring highways visibility on public property.

**6) Unitary Councillor Report**

Mike Stanton had circulated the councillors' written report prior to the meeting. The change over to the unitary council had worked well. 24<sup>th</sup> May 2023 was the date set for the first meeting of the new council. Planning would continue in the same way as before but under different names and there would be no sub-areas. Planning applications managed previously by South Somerset District Council would be managed by the New Somerset Council area south somerset, which would involve the same personnel etc as before, but there would be no 'area north' (ie 'area north' had been the sub area of south somerset district council where planning applications would go before a committee if required).

There was a new single phone number for the council.

Work was being done with regards to an integrated care system with the aims of putting together a plan to reduce bed locking in hospitals and for delivering the best possible rehabilitation programs.

Fortnightly meetings with regards to Lcn's (local community networks) continued.

Richard Wilkins was thanked for attending the site meeting at Picts Hill with regards to some of the residents queries.

Langport town council had sent out an invite to a meeting on 22<sup>nd</sup> May at Edgar Hall in Somerton at 6pm for an informal meeting that was taking place with regards to the parishes just getting together. Dave Vigar and Amanda Chuter were to be booked as the representatives from High Ham.

Mike Stanton left the meeting with his apologies at the conclusion of this item.

**7) Approval of Previous minutes.**

The minutes of 28<sup>th</sup> March 2023 were approved as a true record with minor amendment.

**8) Ongoing Action Points and Updates.**

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

**Future Work at Cemetery and Green** –ongoing. A site meeting with the lengthsman had taken place with regards to the dangerous parking on 'The Green'. It was noted that one of the trees which required pollarding would need to be pollarded earlier this year and another one needed topping off to avoid electrical cables.

The lengthsman work at the cemetery is reported in the lengthsman report. Fencing at the cemetery had been temporarily righted. Amanda, Nancy and Dave were thanked for their work with regard to the clearance and removal of plastics and old wreaths etc from the cemetery.

Rob Rice would meet with Mike Cox about the wall in the cemetery and also the wall at The Pound. Kevin Billing was also to be asked for a second but 'like for like' quote.

**Lych gate roof**- Ongoing. Some matching tiles had now been obtained. Roger Powell was planning to get some of the guttering repaired over the next few weeks.

**Millennium Wood**-see lengthsman report.

**Lengthsman - Junction splays and road signs:** vegetation on key junction splays and road signage has been strimmed.

**The Green:** Dave, Craig, Amanda site meeting 18th April. Agreed to install additional posts, both sides adjacent to main road, and on stretch opp Old Rectory wall. Craig will apply for necessary licence. To be purchased - 16 bollards and sets of reflectors.

Lime tree adjacent to BT kiosk - winter '23 Craig will remove top section of main trunk, and pollard selected trees to avoid re-growth into overhead wires. A licence will be required for this work on trees in Conservation Area.



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**Cemetery:** paths and have been mown, grave edges strimmed. Craig has been asked to mow a new path through uncut section to flow parallel to road and along rear boundary.

**Millennium Wood:** Rachael Howe has installed the 20 replacement Lost Words plaques - this time sealed and with wire fixings.

Paths and rides mown.

Luke Timewell has cleared length of boundary ditch adjacent to Clover Lea - no charge

**Highways/ Footpaths** – Picts Hill site meeting with Dave Vigar, Amanda Chuter, resident Jill Weaver re concerns of narrowing of road due to growth of secondary hedge/saplings and verge that now covers kerbing/white line and manhole cover. This resulted in meeting with Somerset Cllr Richard Wilkins, Amanda C and Jill W. Photo taken and Richard W will talk to Highways.

Amanda C spoke with Sam Setchell, owner of Roman Way, re the overgrown hedge adjacent to pavement from Hamdown and Union Drove - within an hour he cut back side growth - pavement now safer to use.

Nick Fear and Harry Plant would ensure that the paths for the upcoming parish walk was strimmed. It was noted that some visibility splays at road junctions had been cleared by the Lengthsman.

**Playing Fields** – It was noted that the first grass cutting for the year had been undertaken. Par Signs were installing new signs this month. Somerton under 8s had been in contact and asked if they could use the facilities on Friday afternoons for one hour. They would give a donation to the Playing Fields for this. The small goes on wheels were to be used but there were issues with the wheels. These would be repaired for them. Huck Nets, the original supplier had quoted £254.83 plus VAT for for the new wheels. Huck Nets were to be asked for some clarity with regards to the quote and whether there were additional costs or if this included all the fixings etc. The AGM for the Playing Fields was to be on 10<sup>th</sup> May at 7.30pm in the School Community Room. Paul Brunsdon was thanked for the planting work on the hedge. Pierce Construction had been noted on several occasions of taking up much of the occupancy of the car park as if it were a private car park whilst they worked on an adjacent site. They had been asked to make a donation to the playing fields for this.

**Refurbishment of Noticeboards** – Rob Rice had to cancel a meeting that had been planned. The board at Henley was to be focused on as the first one to repair. Somerton Joinery were to be asked with regards to the doors of the noticeboard.

**Local Community Networks** – Covered earlier in the meeting.

**Any other** – inc School/Village Hall/Website– The school had been sent a letter of condolence on the loss of the headteacher. The Village Hall were in the process of applying for tesco grants for heating, repointing and insulation. The website was continuing to work well for the Parish. Several people doing ancestry tracing made contact through the website. Amanda Chuter thanked for her constant updating of the website with fresh and relevant content.

**Kings Coronation** – The events had been covered in the public session.

Toposcope; The plinth was now in place and had been kindly donated by Shaun Wolff of Wolf Stone. David Bean, local resident and stone mason had worked on the stone and volunteered his time. Robert Webb and David Bean had installed the stone onf 23/4/23. Due to a family bereavement the etcher could no longer complete the etching work. Rob Webb was asked to keep going with the project and follow up new leads with regards to the etching.

**9) Correspondence** - The clerk had replied to correspondence relating to a memorial.

**10) Summary of meetings attended.**

Dave Vigar was booked on a SALC Chairman's course on 15<sup>th</sup> May.



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**11) Financial**

Bank Signatories – Completed. The last form had been accepted at the bank.  
The following payments were authorised

Lengthsman - £891.80  
Clerk's wages - £437.13  
Lengthsman additional - £58.36 (re bollards)

It was noted that the Annual Audit process was underway for the accounts to the year end 31/3/2023

**12) Items for next meeting.** There were no new items arising not already discussed.

**13) Date of next meeting** – 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2023 – 7pm – annual parish meeting and 7.30pm annual parish council meeting.

With no other business to discuss the meeting was closed at 9.28pm.