



MINUTES OF HIGH HAM PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD AT HIGH HAM VILLAGE HALL
ON TUESDAY 26th March 2024 7.30pm

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

County Councillors: none

Public approx: 15

Meeting opened at 7.35pm.

1) Apologies and declarations of interest County Councillors Mike Stanton and Richard Wilkins had sent apologies. Apologies were received from 1 member of the public. There were no declarations of interest on the agenda items.

2) Public Session: 'Wessex Fibre' had advertised on facebook that there was to be a public consultation regarding installation of 'fibre'. Highways had taken down a dangerous tree overhanging the road and were thanked. The dangerous dip of sudden road undermining 50-100yards past the turning to the denture clinic was mentioned. Ashcott had reported it several times and would continue to. High Ham would also report it. A landowner had voluntarily assisted with clearing a ditch that wasn't there responsibility to allow the water a course off the road on the lane by Breech Wood. The landowner was thanked. The oak gate at the back of the churchyard which had been broken had been taken to a parishioner who had repaired it FOC and thereby saved the parish in the estimated region of £1500 due to the work involved. The Parishioner was thanked and the work was much appreciated.

3)Planning applications for consideration

Due to the number of interested people and time constraints the speaking limit time of 3 minutes was invoked.

A) 2023/1892/FUL Proposed ground mounted solar photovoltaic park, underground cable route and ancillary development. Location: Land At 342774 135299 Nythe Road Walton Street Somerset

The application was fully discussed and by a vote of 6:1 the Parish Council decided to object to the application. There was a lack of genuine information as much referred to other solar sites and not this one within the application. The landscape impact had not been fully considered. Some concern was raised with water run off and whether it would create future flooding on Nythe Road. The access was thought to be inappropriate. No community benefit had been offered to any of the effected parishes and the visual impact from footpaths etc had not been considered neither had the genuine remaining agricultural use of the ground beneath the panels when the sunlight could no longer reach the ground. Concern was additionally raised with regards to pollution from the panel cleaning solutions that would be used.

The parishioners were thanked for attending the meeting to raise their concerns.

B) 24/00562/TPO Application to fell No. 3 trees as shown by South Somerset District Council

(HIHA 1) 1993 Tree Preservation Order. Location: 10 Hamdown Court Huish Episcopi Langport Somerset TA10 9EB

It was noted that the application had been put in due to subsidence issues caused. No objections were raised.

C) 23/01595/FUL Retrospective consent for the change of use of formerly agricultural and residential land and a formerly redundant agricultural building at Thornside, to a flexible commercial use (encompassing uses falling within Classes E and F of The Town and Country Planning (Use Classes) Order 1987 (as amended)), together with associated parking; retrospective consent for the retention of building works already undertaken;and consent for the extension of existing leisure facilities. Location: Thornside Wagg Drove Langport Somerset TA10 9ER- The application was fully discussed. The Parish Council unanimously raised no objections but was disappointed that it was a retrospective application.

4) Planning applications decided.

24/00240/TCA - Proposal: Notification of intent to fell No.01 trees within a Conservation Area



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Location: High Ham Church Of England Primary School Burrow Lane High Ham- Granted

24/00183/TPO - 1 Hamdown Court Huish Episcopi Langport Somerset TA10 9EB

Proposal: Application to carry out Tree Surgery Works to No. 3 Trees as shown within the South Somerset District Council (HIHA 1) 1983 Tree Preservation Order. - Granted

5) Approval of Previous minutes.

The minutes of 27th February 2024 were approved as a true record with minor amendment.

6) County/District Councillor reports – The County Councillors written report for the month had been forwarded to the councillors. The report was available on the website.

7) Ongoing Action Points and Updates.

The new access causing concern on Field Road had been forwarded and Richard Wilkins had forwarded to planners as there was concern with the traffic and the planners had acknowledged that it did need to be investigated. There was concern also with regards to some of the pothole repairs in the parish that had just been washed away. It was noted that several repairs reported could be undertaken by the unitary if deemed dangerous. It had been that some particular potholes did need doing and top dressing but that it wouldn't be until later in the 24/25 year. It was noted that the new oak plaque at 'The Pound' was starting to warp. It was to be investigated as to whether adjusting the stone backing with smaller pieces of stone and metal studs welded to the back would keep it straight.

Lengthsman: Since the end of February Craig and Rachael have started vegetation management: cutting the grass in the cemetery and millennium wood. Millennium wood is still quite wet in places so there are some areas they will leave until it's dry enough to get on them to cut. They have also been tidying the cemetery including the Garden of Rest, trimming back the hedges and trees overhanging the paths and removing plastics. They have been carrying out thinning in Millennium Wood, removing some of the worst affected ash trees focusing mainly on those that are close to the rides and areas of higher footfall.

Highways/ Footpaths

Highways – potholes reported again. Parishioners urged to report them on the app. Blocked drains were reported and it was noted that the wig-wags still needed to be repairs. Footpaths – At last week's meeting of City, Town and Clerks Working Group, Peter Hopley RoW Service Manager introduced himself and explained his role and gave some information on future works. We learned that Strimmer Project will continue. As a follow-up Amanda Chuter emailed Peter and told him how High Ham made use of the Strimmer project, how we benefited from a close relationship with warden Debbie Ebsary, who was very responsive to reports of faults etc - how we hoped that this could continue with her replacement. This had not happened and it had been asked if we could have the name and contact details for current warden, and tin of yellow paint to refurbish the faded yellow arrows on wooden fingerposts. Amanda Chuter had sent links to our website pages for our 2 volunteer strimmers, and general Footpaths page. The Parish Council was waiting for a response.

Millennium Wood – It was noted that work with the ash was ongoing. The hedgecutter had trimmed the outside and also the playing fields.

Parish Green -HiLine have now pollarded all but one of the trees on The Green adjacent to power lines.

Refurbishment of Noticeboards – Rob Rice reported that the first noticeboard should be complete within the month. It was mentioned that it might be an idea to put a small notice in the board reserving half for parish council only use.

Cemetery – Efforts were ongoing to try and keep it 'plastic free'. It was hoped that there could at some stage be a noticeboard at the cemetery to remind people of the problems with plastics left there. It was noted that the monthly grass cutting at the cemetery had started.



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Any other – inc School/Village Hall/ Playing Fields Website– No issues to report. It was noted how well the phone booth libraries/exchanges were working.

8) Correspondence/Meetings attended – The LCN meeting of which only 11 parishes were represented at how the concept felt as though it was ‘being pushed down on from above’. However it was noted that the Active Travel group hoped to bring real results in access routes that kept cyclists and walkers away from the main roads. The Highways Stewardship Group was discussed as the financial cost was overburdening and unlikely to be of interest to smaller parishes in the group. The cost would likely be in the region of £50,000 for each LCN. It would be limited in the amount of work achieved and hours available for each parish. Additionally it would use contractors not chosen by the individual parishes. (Currently Kier). It was thought that the current lengthsman scheme was far better suited to High Ham’s needs.

9) Financial

The following payments were authorised

Lengthsman - £891.86

Clerk’s wages - £437.13

Cemetery management payment – March 2024 -226.67

Lengthsman additional days - £300.00

10) Date of next meeting - 23rd April at 7.30pm

11) Items for next meeting. The Pound history plaque was to go on the agenda if required. It was noted to that the windmill would be available for occasional access although this would have to be booked in advance. It was hoped that it could also be opened for special days such as the ‘fete’.

With no other business to discuss the meeting was closed at 9.05pm