



MINUTES OF HIGH HAM PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD AT HIGH HAM VILLAGE HALL
ON TUESDAY 26th JULY 2022 at 7.30pm

Present: Dave Vigar (Chairman), Amanda Chuter, Catherine Roberts, Rob Webb, Nick Fear, Nancy Green, Paul Brunsdon.

Gerard Tucker (District Councillor), Richard Wilkins (County Councillors)

V Young (Clerk).

Pubic approx: 9

Meeting opened at 7.30pm.

1) Apologies & declarations of interest:- Apologies were received from Mike Stanton (County Councillor). Dave Vigar and Amanda Chuter declared an interest in planning application 4a - b being members of the CLT board. Catherine Roberts declared an interest in 4a - c by virtue of its location.

2) Acceptance of office forms - to be completed before the next meeting.

3)Public Session: No matters were raised

4a) Planning applications for consideration

a. Ref: 22/01959/HOU - The erection of single storey rear extension to dwelling. Walnut Cottage Hillside Farm Road High Ham Langport –The council were unanimous in raising no objection to the application

b. 22/01864/FUL - The erection of 6 No. new dwellings with associated landscaping and highways work including new road access to Windmill Road Land Os 1563 Windmill Road High Ham Langport

Dave Vigar and Amanda Chuter stood down and retired to the back of the room and did not participate in the item. Paul Brunsdon took the Chair. It was noted that there were 6 affordable homes for those with local connections. These would be available by registering on Somerset Home Finder via the District Council. The application met with the unanimous support of the councillors eligible to vote (ie excludes the councillors who declared an interest who did not take part in the vote.)

At the conclusion of the item Dave Vigar and Amanda Chuter returned to participate in the meeting and Dave Vigar retook the chair.

c. 22/01506/FUL - Demolition of existing buildings and erection of a new dwelling on land rear of Owl Cottage, Low Ham. Aunt Emilys Low Ham Road Low Ham Langport

Having declared an interest in the application Catherine Roberts left the room whilst the item was discussed. It was explained to the meeting that the Parish Council has to consider each application as an individual application and that this was a different application to the previous ones. It was felt that it was appropriately designed for the location. It was noted that there appeared to be issues with the neighbour consultation which was undertaken by the district council prior to covid. It appeared that they were not yet consistently sending out consultation to neighbours. The application was unanimously supported by the voting members of the council. At the conclusion of the item Catherine returned to the room.

4b) Planning applications decided.

An application for a minor amendment for South end house had to be decided between meetings. There were no objections to these.

5) Approval of Previous minutes.

The minutes of 28th June 2022 were approved as a true record with minor amendment to a spelling on the lengthsman's report.



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6) County/District Councillor reports

Richard Wilkins gave the County Councillor's report. There was now a new chief executive. Both a cost of living and an ecological emergency had been declared. The ecological loss related to loss of biodiversity. The County Council wanted to take up these matters with higher level government. The County Council was able to offer some support to households with food and energy bills. Should anyone here of anyone in 'crisis' with these then it was recommended to direct them to the county council. It was noted that there was still uncertainty and confusion as to what LCNs would actually do (LCN being a 'local community network').

Gerard gave the District Councillor's report. It was highlighted that no funding had been put to setting up local community networks. Somerset Waste Partnership had been the best waste organisation in the country with over 50% of curbside collections immediately recycled. There was no area north meeting in August.

Gerard left the meeting at the conclusion of this item.

7) Ongoing Action Points and Updates.

Phone box booths & additional Defibrillator(s) -

The box at Low Ham was still being renovated but work was continuing.

An article had appeared in a paper that all schools were to be provided with a defibrillator. If this was to be the case it was thought that the Parish one should be relocated so that there would be 4 distributed throughout the parish.

Correspondence was ongoing with regard to reimbursement of electricity for the use of electricity at the Chapel Low Ham for the defibrillator.

Future Work at Cemetery Green –ongoing. The guttering supplies had now been delivered. Some painting would take place. Roger Powell was thanked for his efforts and voluntary work on this project.

The vegetation growth in gutter/downpipe notes 2020 continues, and there are loose and missing roof tiles that need attention before the damage to supporting woodwork begins/increases - some tiles moved back in place, the odd missing replaced, and some mortar work.

Lynch gate roof- a budget for tiles was set of approximately £250. Nick Fear volunteered to assist with the project.

Millennium Wood-see lengthsman report

Some damage to insect hotels had taken place. It was noted that the ditch to the north side still needed to be dug-out. O Howley was to be asked to quote for the work.

Lengthsman – Grass cutting in cemetery, Millennium Wood continued early this month - the dry weather has given an opportunity to do weed killing in the cemetery and on the pavements in the centre of the village.

Plans for next month include repairing a fence in the play area, clearing some road signs, and hopefully more weed killing if the weather permits.

Highways/ Footpaths – various potholes etc were noted for report. Noted that the worst of the potholes on Nythe Road had now been filled. Grips along Hext Hill repaired. Some shrubbery affecting highway visibility had been cut back with the permission of the landowner. It was noted that some Japanese knotweed along a particular drove needed spraying. Harry Plant had now joined the volunteer strimmer project. Noted that the Explore Somerset website could be used to report broken stiles and gates and footpath defects directly.

Parish Walks There have now been 2 Parish Walks this year, Platinum Jubilee Walk led by Dave Vigar, and Langport Battle Site Walk led by Shirley Robinson. Further occasional walks will be advertised on HH Facebook, HH Parish website.



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Playing Fields – some fencing repaired. It was noted that there had been some minor incidents of antisocial behaviour. Trees had been watered to keep going in the hot weather. It was looking as if the equipment may be installed in the playing field by September. The deposit for the equipment had been paid.

Refurbishment of Noticeboards – All the boards needed attention of some sort. It was difficult to see through the Perspex at the Henley board and water was getting into the board on the Green.

Any other – inc Village Hall/School – It was reported that the toddler group had disbanded. It was reported that the farewell assembly at the school for Jess Pitman had gone well as had the year 6 leavers assembly. Work was still going on to the school fabric over the holidays.

8) Correspondence and Items of report.

There had been some concern raised over the weekend about a 12 hour drumming session that had been advertised. It appeared that this had not taken place and there had been no complaints afterwards.

Correspondence had been received from the supplier of the defibrillators to confirm that they were both up and running. There were now 3 in the Parish. One at the school, one in Henley phonebox and one on the wall of the Chapel at Low Ham.

9) Financial

The following payments were authorised

- Lengthsman - £853.13
- Clerk's wages - £402.68
- Somerset Landscapes – 2 cuts in June - £132.26
- Cosmic (Website) - £204.00
- Ashcott Parish Council (SLCC subscription share) - £48.00
- Lengthsman (weedkiller) -£36.00
- D Plant (re mowing green etc) - £700.00
- Guttering etc for Cemetery – £182.87
- SSDC (election fee) – £345.98
- Playing Field – equipment - £17,677.20

10) Summary of meetings attended and Date of next meetings

Dave Vigar had attended an abattoir liaison Meeting and matters with regards to hgv routes etc were being discussed. Updating bank signatories was to go on a future agenda. Date of next meeting was set as 23rd of August if it was deemed necessary, otherwise the council would meet on the 4th Tuesday in September. There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.15pm.