



MINUTES OF HIGH HAM PARISH COUNCIL MEETING  
HELD AT HIGH HAM VILLAGE HALL  
ON TUESDAY 27<sup>th</sup> June 2023 at 7.30pm

Present: Amanda Chuter (Chair) , Catherine Roberts, Nick Fear, Nancy Green, Rob Rice. V Young (Clerk).

Unitary Councillors: 0

Public approx: 3

Meeting opened at 7.30pm.

**1) Apologies & declarations of interest** Unitary Councillors Richard Wilkins and Mike Stanton had sent apologies. Dave Vigar and Rob Webb had both sent apologies and these were accepted.

Nick Fear declared an interest in application 3B

**2) Public Session:**

A short statement was read out on behalf of Dave Vigar (Chair of Parish Council) in his absence. The statement was as follows "The Parish Clerk, Vicky Young, and I have received comments from a few parishioners about the vegetation management of High Ham cemetery. Consultations have taken place and are continuing between the Parish Council and our contractors. We are working towards a mutual agreement of guidelines of vegetation management for the future. Meanwhile the vegetation will be controlled for the rest of this year.

It was noted that more work was to take place at the cemetery on 28<sup>th</sup> June. It was acknowledged that the updating of the cemetery management and rules was a large task and that a document with regards to this would be ready for the next meeting.

A member of the public spoke airing some concerns about the cemetery as it was at the moment. The Chairman of the meeting acknowledged that the documents currently being drafted would inform on these matters going forward.

There was a ditch opposite Old Manor Farm, Low Ham that had now been cleared twice by others but was in reality the responsibility of the landowner. The matter was to be taken up with highways.

A statement from Henley Chapel was read out. This was to be added to the reports for the Annual Parish Meeting.

**3) Planning applications for consideration**

A) 20/02759/FUL - Paradise Barn Paradise Lane Wearne Langport Somerset TA10 0DA

The carrying out of alterations and the proposed conversion of a barn to a dwelling. The application was supported, all in favour of the application with one abstention to the vote.

B) 22/02950/HOU - Charity House Turnhill Road High Ham Langport Somerset TA10 0QX

Proposal: Erection of first floor rear extension over existing ground floor utility in addition loft conversion and installation of dormer extensions to the front and rear roofslope and changes to fenestration. Erection of single storey detached ancillary carport/garage/workshop with attic space above. Nick Fear having declared an interest which was non pecuniary did not take part in the discussion or vote on the application. The voting councillors unanimously raised no objection to the application but did want to ask that Somerset Council Planning put on a condition to prevent it being separated as a new dwelling and also that it must stay as it is described on the plans.

C) 23/01579/NMA - Land OS 4374 Part Field Road High Ham Langport Somerset TA10 9BZ



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Proposal: Non Material Amendment to approved application 22/01477/S73 to add two air source heat pumps to the south elevation of the dwelling barn conversion (Barn 2) – The application was discussed a vote taken which was unanimous to raise ‘no objections’.

**4) Planning applications decided.**

The applications at Loxhams had been permitted for the Tree Preservation Order but the other two had been withdrawn.

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. - Nothing further had been heard so the matter was to be raised again.

**5) Unitary Councillor Report**

The monthly councillor reports had been forwarded to the Parish Councillors. Much of the topics related to Local Community Networks that were being set up, as groups of Parishes within Somerset.

**6) Approval of Previous minutes.**

The minutes of 15<sup>th</sup> May 2023 were approved as a true record.

**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. The Lengthsman was applying for the licence for 17 additional bollards. All vegetation management and cutting back work was to continue.  
**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: It was asked if something could be done with the visibility splay at the junction of High Ham Hill and Henley.

**Cemetery** - Start of the month, all paths were mown, grave edges strimmed. A new grass path has been created round boundary of unmown area, the route sensitive to the wild flowers that now proliferate in that area.

**Millennium Wood** - Rides and paths mown.

**Highways/ Footpaths** – An injury on some barbed wire by a footpath was being resolved by the landowners and county highways.

There were two Bristol gates that had been requested some time ago for a footpath, that needed fitting. This was in hand. There was a report today of a dead deer stuck in a gate. - the matter of removal was in hand.

The strimmer project was continuing well.

**Playing Fields** – It was noted that the wheels on the mobile goal posts had been sorted out. The grant money had now been paid and the safety report had come through.

**Refurbishment of Noticeboards** – 2 quotes had been obtained for the Henley boards for comparative work one was for £608.40 and the other £752 (both exc VAT). Nancy Green proposed and Amanda Chuter seconded and it was unanimously voted to accept the quote for £608.40 + VAT. It was agreed that the next board to look at repair/replacement was the one on the green.

**Local Community Networks** – The launch meeting had taken place in Curry Rivel village hall and Richard Wilkins had been elected chair. There had been a gathering into groups to discuss what issues the LCN want to have discussed by the unitary council. It seemed likely that the LCNs would meet every 8 weeks and each parish would have one vote.



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**Any other** – inc School/Village Hall/Website– Noted that the memorial service for Jane Rosser and the celebration for her life had been well attended and gone well. A new school head teacher had also now been announced.

The website was still being updated regularly

**Toposcope** – deferred until next meeting

**8) Correspondence**

Two quotes had been obtained for work on two sections of walling, one at the cemetery and one at The Pound. It was unanimously agreed to accept Mike Cox's quote for both pieces of work. This was approximately £930 – The Pound and £1020 The cemetery.

**9) Summary of meetings attended.**

LCN meeting had been attended by two representatives of High Ham. Fortnightly online meetings with the unitary council also continued.

**10) Financial**

The following payments were authorised

Lengthsman - £891.80

Clerk's wages - £437.13

Lengthsman additional - 2 x weedkiller - £54.00

Lengthsman additional – re search fees - £386.40

Somerset Landscapes – mowing playing fields -

Play Inspection Company – re safety inspection - £354 inc VAT

D Plant – re work at The Green - £750.00

P Green – reimbursement re wheels goal posts playing field - £52.85 inc VAT

Artwork Topograph £60.00

**11) Items for next meeting.** There were no new items arising not already discussed. The Cemetery regulations and management plan and noticeboards and walls were to be included for discussion at the next meeting.

**12) Date of next meeting** – 25<sup>th</sup> July 2023 at 7.30pm

With no other business to discuss the meeting was closed at 8.50pm