



MINUTES OF HIGH HAM PARISH COUNCIL MEETING  
HELD AT HIGH HAM VILLAGE HALL  
ON TUESDAY 28<sup>th</sup> February 2023 at 7.30pm

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

County Councillors: Richard Wilkins

Public approx: 1

Meeting opened at 7.30pm.

**1) Apologies** County Councillor Mike Stanton had sent apologies. Apologies were received from Catherine Roberts and these were accepted. items. Apologies were received from 2 members of the public.

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

**3) Public Session:** Concern was raised with regard to fly tipping in the areas of Stembridge and Nythe Road.

**4 )Planning applications for consideration**

**A) 23/00221/FUL** – Bere Farmhouse, Beer Road, Aller – Extension to garden area and erection of garden studio building. The Parish Council unanimously agreed to raise no objections on the proviso that the planning department, should they grant the application put conditions on the application to tie it to the main dwelling and also that it was solely for daytime use as a garden studio.

**B) 23/00324/FUL** – Aunt Emily's, Low Ham – Demolition of existing buildings and erection of a new building. The Parish Council unanimously supported this application and were strongly in favour of this development. It was very clear that the buildings were already there and it was sympathetic and not too large. If it was not allowed – what would be the future for this plot. There were 50+ properties in Low Ham – Why not this one modest and sympathetically designed scheme? It was noted again that there had been issues with some neighbour notifications with regard to the planning application. It was noted that it was down to the district council to put up planning notices and send out the neighbour notifications.

**C) 23/00423/HOU** – Moreton Dairy Farm, Henley Road – Single storey extension to form pool room. The council were unanimous in raising no objections.

**D) 23/00413/S73A** – Ashbrook Lodge, Long Street – Proposed change of use of land from agricultural to residential, the erection of a new dwelling, triple garage with bat loft and conversion of an existing outbuilding into an annex (s73A application to vary conditions 2 and 19, alterations to landscaping plan, of approval 19/02843/FUL as varied by 21/01442/S73 and 21/02636/S73) – The Parish Council voted unanimously to raise strong objection this application. It was felt that the landscaping agreement dated 17/11/2021 (doc ref 21/071165/Lan 01) was there for a purpose and should be adhered to.

**5) Planning applications decided.**

19/01011/OUT – Land adjacent to Greymanes – Refused

The Parish Council had reported the enforcement issues off Field Road where events were held and holiday accommodation appeared to be being used.

The signs that had been concreted into public ground and greatly disturbed highways visibility at the bottom of High Ham Hill that advertised Rushton Dog Rescue had been reported.

Other enforcement issue were progress including Stout Road holiday useage and an issue at Tor View.

**6) Approval of Previous minutes.**

The minutes of 24<sup>th</sup> January 2023 were approved as a true record with minor amendment.



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**7) County/District Councillor reports** – The County Councillors written report for the month had been forwarded to the councillors. An update was given on the progress of the unitary change over. Full council had met (county council) and agreed the budget. The County Councillor was asked about help for small business and help with energy costs and whether help schemes would carry over into the new council. It was noted that the farmers were not supported with energy bills by current schemes. High Ham would be in the Levels & Moors LCN area of 33 parishes. It was noted by the chairman that High Ham's precept rate was comparable to other parishes of similar size/nature on the list supplied from the District Council.

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

**Phone box booths & Defibrillators** - Ongoing. The Low Ham box was now in use and thanks were noted to the team who were supporting the project.

**Future Work at Cemetery and Green** –ongoing. Bollards to replace the broken ones had been purchased and a services check would be undertaken if required. Nancy Green thanked for the work with regard to the cemetery.

Strimming/mowing work would start in March.

There were concerns about certain areas of the cemetery wall and also the wall at The Pound. Rob Rice would inspect and see if the damage seemed superficial or more serious. The website page regarding 'no plastic' flowers had been updated. It was noted that some sections of the fence required attention. Additionally it was noted that horse muck in a neighbours field was being put along the fence, which was not very satisfactory.

Land registry enquires were to be made with regard to the The Green and The Pound.

**Lych gate roof**- Ongoing. Some matching tiles had now been obtained.

**Millennium Wood**-see lengthsman report. LukeTimewell had cut hedges in the Millennium wood as requested and would also look at digging out the problem ditch.

**Lengthsman:**

1. Grass cutting in Cemetery and MW
2. 26th Feb, Rachael Howe and another member of the Howe Team, Reuben, continue to fell the selected diseased ash trees, and squirrel-damaged oaks.
3. Rachael is now making replacement Lost Words plaques that accompany the laminate Activity Cards kept in Pond-side Shelter. The wood will be treated and wire hanging loops to ensure longer life. Hopefully, they will be installed for Easter.
4. Road name at top of Fountain - craig cut back private hedge to reveal. Since then owner of hedge has cut back the very overgrown hedge.
5. Letter from Charlotte Bean. HH PTA, are encouraging the children to get 'out and about' locally at Easter, we want to put together an Easter Hunt 1st-16thApril. It will be a sign posted picture event, the kind to find out the word from the letters on each picture. As soon as the event is finished it will be cleared away, no litter left, and we hope it will give some newer families to the school the chance to explore the woods.' Charlotte Bean. Craig will have commenced mowing the MW rides before Easter - he will ensure there will be a cut before the PTA event.
6. MW - Boundary hedges cut by Luke Timewell 26th Feb.

**Highways/ Footpaths** – It was noted that the Rights of Way officer who had looked after the High Ham area had now changed. Thanks were noted from the officer moving on to a new area elsewhere for High Ham's pro-active approach to footpaths and the strimming project. 2 stiles requiring replacement and been reported on Beer Drove and Nythe Road. The strimmer had now been serviced.

Highways – potholes reported again. Parishioners urged to report them on the app. The area along Nythe Road where the tractor had gone in the rhyme was noted as still needing attention. Highways to be chased up as to when this might be repaired.

**Refurbishment of Noticeboards** – Rob Rice presented the finding with regards to the state of the various noticeboards. It was unanimously agreed to start a replacement program. Rob Rice would look into prices of various options.

**Local Community Networks** – the way in which planning applications were to be dealt with was queried. Currently it appeared that the system would at least for the time being be similar to how it is now operated.



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**Any other – inc School/Village Hall/ Playing Fields /Website–**

Dave Vigar to speak with PCSO re parking. Various Village Hall events were noted and planned for the year ahead. It was noted that the Parish Council photo was now on the website and that several pages had been updated including the cemetery page to include information about not allowing plastic flowers etc.

**Kings Coronation**

**6-8 May**

13 parish organisations and groups contacted sharing the PC plans for Coronation weekend and asking that any other plans to be shared to avoid clashes.

events so far -

Friday 5th: Cider & Cheese supper, the History Hut

Saturday 6th: Party Night, Village Hall Committee

Sunday 7th: Songs of Praise and Teas 2-4, Margaret Porter/St Andrew's PCC and LH Chapel, Barrie Bryer - Monday 8th: High Ham PC Dave/Amanda - Parish Walk

Margaret Cox is hoping that HH Ladies will contribute in some way - a possibility is to fund a tree for MW - a horse chestnut as there are none in any of the public spaces in the parish - will allow the Conker tradition to continue.

With regard to the toposcope there was to be a meeting in 10 days time to progress the matter.

**9) Correspondence** It was noted that the SALC courses had been useful and well received by the councillors attending. With regard to the Parish bench at the cemetery which was being used frequently at the 'Williams' grave, this was to be moved if required when there were services etc as other people may want to use it in a more neutral location at these times.

**10) Summary of meetings attended.** Several councillors (Amanda Chuter, Nancy Green, Rob Rice, and Dave Vigar had attended the SALC training on responding to planning applications. The Clerk and Amanda Chuter had also attended a course with regards to the new 'somerset' code of conduct. Dave Vigar had attended several meetings presenting phosphate problems and the poor 'entrade' mitigation scheme for farmers. Dave Vigar, Amanda Chuter, and Vicky Young continued to attend the fortnightly online meetings with regards to LCNs and the unitary change over.

**11) Financial**

Bank Signatories – Any councillors still to return the bank forms to the bank were asked to do so as soon as possible. The following payments were authorised

Lengthsman - £853.13

Clerk's wages revised nalc rate new scp 15 - £437.13

SALC – re courses £40.00

Reimbursement to clerk for playing field bearing £274.20

**12) Items for next meeting.** There were no new items arising

**13) Date of next meeting – 28<sup>th</sup> March 2023**

With no other business to discuss the meeting was closed at 10.23pm