



MINUTES OF HIGH HAM PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD AT HIGH HAM VILLAGE HALL
ON TUESDAY 14th June 2016

Present: David Vigar, Nancy Green, Bryan Bartlett, John Vigar. Chris Palmer, Derek Yeomans.

Approx 7 parishioners
Meeting opened at 7.30pm.

- 1) **Apologies:** Amanda Chuter and James Godfrey and Shane Pledger had sent apologies.
- 2) **Declarations of Interest on agenda items:** - None

3) Open Discussion: - Margaret Porter and Gwen Chubb and their helpers were thanked for running the Queens Birthday Tea which had been a popular event. Margaret Porter repaid the £90 as people had donated various items for the event and there had been no expense incurred.

Charlie Botheridge had asked if a sign go on the village green for the open gardens day. The Parish Councillors were all in agreement as it was for a Parish event.

4) Councillors reports -

Derek Yeomans gave the County Councillors report and focused on news regarding devolution and a Mayor for Devon and Somerset. His written report had been forwarded to Councillors. There was some discussion about Hinkley Point. The Queens Speech would also have an impact on providing another level of childcare. Aller Solar Farm had been passed at appeal but with various conditions. Derek Yeomans left the meeting with his apologies.

5) Approval of Minutes -

10th May 2016 minutes approved as a true record with a minor amendment.
18th May 2016 minutes approved as a true record .
27th May 2016 – minutes approved as a true record.

6) Matters arising/Items for Discussion

a. Highways. BB reported back on ongoing highways matters that were progressing including Wagg bridge, wagg drove. Wessex Water had lowered a drain cover on the green. Western Power will put telegraph pole further back to make more room in front.

Reported that lengthman can only dig to 10cm on highway verges and if deeper a licence for that site/occasion was required. Highways were to write to the landowner regarding the ditch at the bottom of Cooks hill. Highways were to contact landowner regarding a ditch at Hext Hill.

b. Parish Lengthsman /Cemetery work /Millennium Wood/Strimmer Project .

May/June Lengthsman report

May: 38 hours worked - 379 left

Focus is on vegetation management:

Strimming

Visibility splays throughout parish - ongoing

30mph signs - ongoing

Cemetery and Millennium Wood - with help from Tony Whitford (volunteer footpath strimmer)

Weed Spraying

Hamdown Court

Millennium Wood play area (highly toxic Water Dropwort)



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May/June Footpaths

Tony has, again, reported footpath faults on SCC Rights of Way website, and is now in email contact with SCC local rights of way officer George Montague to try and resolve a number of long-standing footpath faults in the parish.

Strimming

Work completed in May includes footpaths at : Turnhill, Furpits Lane and Reservoir, Pipers Ash, Beer Drove to Nythe Bridge, Peaky Corner to Henley Corner, Firing Range entrance... most of the parish footpaths!

Tony assisted Lengthsman Craig strimming in cemetery and Millennium Wood.

Walkers taking the footpath from Pipers Ash to Easfield will note the major work done by Tony with help from James Simpson - includes recovering a 'lost' stretch of path.

3rd Parish Walk, led by Tony, was held on 8th June. 16 walkers. 5 1/2 miles.

Dates for next walks: Pitney 29th June -start 10am Pitney Playing Field

Somerton 18th July - start 10 am Half Moon Car park, Somerton

- c. Millennium Wood - The group had now been told officially that they had been awarded £12000 but there was no letter yet.
- d. Website - Working group was progressing well with the project. 2 initial designs were being used to choose the required features/look of the site. Photographs of the parish would be welcome as need 6 good pictures of the parish. Initially 4 people would be trained how to use the site. (AC, NG, VY and Martin Botheridge). It would be possible to invite advertisements from businesses for a small fee.
- e. Dennis Davis Community Award – There would be a High Ham bowl on a wooden plinth with engraving plate. The Parish Council were keen that Dulcie be involved. It was felt that something should go out initially to advertise the award and ask for nominations. It was hoped that it might be possible to do this in November.
- f. Other – The PA system for the Village Hall had been looked into briefly and had been found to be rather expensive. The District Council were to be asked whether it might be possible to put in a grant request.

7) Correspondence. – Ian Taylor had confirmed that he was happy to continue as footpath representative for the Parish.

8) Planning Applications for Consideration

a) 16/02172/DPO- Hamdown Lodge, Picts Hill, High Ham – Application to discharge a Section 106 agreement dated 23 August 2010 between South Somerset District Council and MJ Dunlop and J D Dunlop in connection with planning permission 10/00657/OUT for a workplace home, tying the house to the adjoining business.

After discussion (by a vote of 4 to one abstention) regarding this application it was decided to comment that the Parish Council wished to raise objection to this application as it was felt that there was insufficient justification to discharge it and that the Council could not comment on any other applications relating to the site until it was known if what the Council believed to be an important 'tie' was removed or not.

b) 16/02132/FUL – Pict Hill Cottage, 2 Picts Hill, High Ham, - Erection of 2 storey side extension and single storey porch. After discussion this application met with unanimous support.



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9) Planning Applications Decided –

16/01632/S73A-Whitehouse Farm – Granted
Aller Solar Farm – Granted on appeal
15/05750/FUL- Long Street Farm – Granted
16/01183/FUL-Hill View – Granted
16/01526/FUL-Beer Farm –application withdrawn

10) Summary of Meetings attended. – 3 Councillors had attended the Planning Training in May. It had been helpful and informative and highlighted the pressure put on District Councils to approve applications in the towns. Planning considerations had been considered and that had been helpful.

11) Financial

a. **Bank Reconciliation Report-** The Bank reconciliation was handed to Councillors.

b. **Payments for approval and cheques to authorise** - The following cheques and payments were unanimously authorised.

V Young – Clerk wages and expenses – £262.56
Parish Lengthman May - £503.24
Somerset Landscapes -April- £115.20
Somerset Landscapes 1/6/16 - £115.20

12) Matters of Report and items for next meeting –

OPEN GARDENS 10TH JULY

NEXT WALKS ORGANISED : Pitney 29th June -start 10am Pitney Playing Field

Somerton 18th July - start 10 am Half Moon Car park, Somerton

13) Date of Next Meeting – July 12th 2016 at 7.30pm was the date for the next meeting.

No further business –meeting closed at 21:05hrs