



MINUTES OF HIGH HAM PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD AT HIGH HAM SCHOOL COMMUNITY ROOM
ON FRIDAY 27TH MAY 2016 AT 8PM

Present: David Vigar (Chair), Bryan Bartlett, James Godfrey.
Vicky Young Clerk
17 Public (approx.)
Meeting opened at 8.00pm.

1) **Apologies:** Amanda Chuter, Nancy Green, Chris Palmer, John Vigar, Shane Pledger and Derek Yeomans had sent apologies. It was confirmed that a quorum was present.

The Chairman opened the meeting with a statement of apology.
The Clerk read out a statement relating to the meeting on the 18th and the action taken by the council.

2) **Declarations of Interest on agenda items:** - There were no declarations of interest.

3) **Suspension of Standing Orders**

Council is asked to suspend standing orders in order to rescind its original response to the planning application 16/01342/FUL

Bryan Bartlett proposed that standing orders be suspended in order to rescind its original response to the planning application 16/01342/FUL. This was seconded by James Godfrey and carried unanimously.

4) **Planning Application for Consideration**

a) 16/01342/FUL Land Rear Of Owl Cottage, Low Ham, Langport, Somerset,, Demolition, renovation and extension of buildings to provide a dwelling.

A statement of objection was read out at the meeting. This was the statement that had been sent to the planning officer at the district council who was dealing with this application. As several of the points of objection related to planning policy on such matters as abandonment the Chair commented that the Parish Council members were not professional planning inspectors and that it would be the qualified staff at the District Council who would examine these concerns on planning policy. Those objecting also read out a list of those who had sent objections to the District Council.

Various points of objection were discussed. Those objecting were under the impression that the Parish Council had invited other parties to a site meeting without those objecting being invited. The Council did not invite any parties to the site meeting the site meeting had been for the Parish Council only. There had been someone else on the premises but that was not at the invitation of the Parish Council.

A member of public raised concern about an earlier decision to support an application at the site in principle.

The applicant's agent spoke regarding the application. The applicant's agent stated that the floor plan was a 152% increase (one and half existing) and not a 490% increase. It was stated that the application did not fall neatly into any distinct policy but was a compromise on all policies and felt that it was suitable with the more permissive approach taken these days. The current buildings are in existence and in need work. It has previously been in residential use and although empty the applicant's agent pointed out that did not amount to abandonment. There was no longer livestock in the sheds as it was no longer viable to keep livestock due to the development around.

After further discussion and having heard from all parties the parish council voted 2 in favour of supporting the application with one abstention. It was stated that the planning department would then decide whether to take the application to area north committee.

No further business –meeting closed at 8.51pm.