



MINUTES OF HIGH HAM PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD AT HIGH HAM VILLAGE HALL
ON TUESDAY 26th November 2019

Present: Dave Vigar (Chairman), Amanda Chuter, Chris Palmer, Andrew Davidson, John Vigar, Paul Brunsdon, Rob Webb, Clare Paul (County Councillor), V Young (Clerk).

Approx: 20 parishioners

Meeting opened at 7.30pm.

- 1) **Apologies:-** Gerard Tucker (District Councillor)
- 2) **Declarations of Interest on agenda items:** None

3) Open Discussion:

Nythe Road closed 16th December for two days for road works. Long Sutton Village Hall booked for teenager party – lots of damage and similar problems in North Curry.
Cars were causing visibility and road safety issues by parking on the pavement by St Andrews Close. DV to speak to beat manager. Yarlinton to be informed.
Some over hanging hedges were noted to be a problem.

4) Councillors reports

The County Councillor's written report had been forwarded. The climate emergency plan sessions had been postponed until the new year. There was discussion regarding the signposted lorry routes around Langport with regard to the volume of hgv's accessing the abattoir. It was felt that the route currently signposted was not the best option. The issue of re-instating the post box at Park was ongoing, but the process may be lengthy. Gerard's written report was read out. The planning issues which had been taken by the Chairman to the scrutiny committee of the district council were highlighted. The District councillor was also challenging why some decisions were so slow, with some decisions taking anything up to a year. There had been a meeting with Picts Hill residents who were wondering why there were no repeater signs for the 30mph. Andrew had written to highways about it. It was thought that it would also be helpful to have a crossing ahead sign the other side of the hill. 30mph wheelie bin stickers were mentioned as a possible idea.

5) Approval of Minutes - The minutes of the meetings held on 22nd October and 5th of November were approved as true records and duly signed.

6) Planning Applications for consideration

A) 19/02843/FUL Land North Of Long Street House Long Street High Ham Langport Somerset
Proposal 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. – WITHDRAWN FOR AMENDMENT – NOT DISCUSSED

B) 19/03136/HOU Henley Corner Henley Langport Somerset
Proposal The erection of a first floor rear extension and a rear entrance porch (revised application).- There had been no objections to the original application and this was for a smaller scale scheme- unanimously agreed – no objections

7) Planning Applications Decided

Stembridge Tower Mill Cottage – approved
Leafy Brook Farm – approved.

8) Matters for consideration/Items for Discussion

- a. Enhancements at the Green – tree on little green to have the crown lifted
- b. Highways. & Fingerpost restoration project/ & SIDs (speed indicator devices). Wig Wags – Highways had assured the Parish Council representative that this would be done soon.
various issues noted re drainage and overgrown hedges. It was thought that it might be an idea to 'pot' the drains again as had been done previously with Craig and Street Scene. Finger post restoration project – on hold over winter.



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SIDS –the shared Turnhill one was progressing.

c. Parish Lengthsman –inc Mil. Wd Wk and Cemetery and Strimmer Project

November '19 Lengthsman Report

Picts Hill - cleared pavement on parish boundary bridge and adjacent tree and hedge growth.

Cemetery - final mowing of year

Millennium Wood - final mowing of year

31st Oct MW site meeting

Felling of selected trees started - overcrowded/diseased

The Pound - leaves cleared. Application made to SSDC to reduce the lime tree as it is within the Conservation Area

The Green - Crown lifted on one tree to improve visibility splay for traffic

Drainage work in parish - clearing grids/grips etc started

Nov/Dec work to include: continuing drainage work
MW site meeting 30.11.19

Volunteer Footpath Strimmer – waiting for spring – Nick Fear now allowed to do strimming as necessary under parish council insurance until the county council project was up and running with the training course in spring.

Cemetery grave edges – with regard to the cemetery it was discussed that it might be an idea to paint the new side gates. Councillors to view the gates before discussing further.

Millennium Wood – work as directed continuing.

d. Millennium Wood – inc above –It was noted that there was a Lime tree elsewhere in the Parish which would also need to be reduced.

e. Village Hall items – Rob Webb gave a short report and highlighted some of the events. The car park had been resurfaced. It was noted that the District Council did have grants available for things like providing Wi-fi at Village Halls. The item was to be discussed further at a village hall meeting. Noted that the 'Village Larder' book was out with proceeds going to the Village Hall.

f. Playing Fields - Short report given regarding the ongoing maintenance and equipment etc. It was confirmed that the committee were starting to look for grants now that they had enough set aside in their reserve to look for match funding grants.

g. Speed Indicator Devices – already discussed. Picts Hill SIDs – Clare was progressing this matter with Highways. It was thought that it may be necessary to chase this up again soon as Highways were causing delays.

h. Other/lecturn/The Pound –progressing.

9. Correspondence.

The Chairman updated the meeting regarding the District Council Scrutiny Committee meeting and the speech which had been delivered by the Chairman there regarding the Parish's ongoing problems with the District Council's planning department services, delays and so forth. A response had been received from Martin Woods which was extremely poor and barely acknowledged the issues particularly on one particular application where the parish had so little time to organise a meeting and discuss an application after the district council had held that application for 16-20 days before sending to the Parish Council. It was noted that it was felt that the department was not fit for purpose and people trying to give comments online often gave up in frustration.



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The Parish Council is a statutory consultee and it was felt that the District Council did not take the views seriously by giving such a poor service and poor time frames when they sat on applications for so long not doing anything about them.

10. Summary of Meetings attended - None

12) Financial

Bank mandate – ongoing, necessary form signed

The following payments were authorised

Clerk wages (gross) and expenses – £330.54

Parish Lengthsman - £511.88

Somerset Landscapes – mowing playing field– £127.80

George Plant & Fabrication Ltd – re gates at cemetery - £2415.60

Ellis & Co – wooden cemetery gates - £4,368.00

D Vigar – British Legion wreath - £25.00

Craig – weedkiller October - £20.00

13) Matters of Report and items for next meeting -

Various upcoming local events were highlighted – including sing song around the Christmas Tree on 21st December. – Charity that was chosen was the air ambulance.

Geoff Webb was thanked for restoring some of the 2000 plaques.

The Date of the next meeting would be 17th December.

Meeting closed at 20.50hrs