



MINUTES OF HIGH HAM PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD AT HIGH HAM VILLAGE HALL
ON TUESDAY 25th February 2020 at 7.30pm

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

Approx: 16 parishioners

Meeting opened at 7.30pm.

1) **Apologies:-** Paul Brunsdon

2) **Declarations of Interest on agenda items:** Chris Palmer declared an interest on item 6a being the applicant. Dave Vigar declared an interest in item 6b due to a business association with the applicant.

3a) John Rowland and colleagues Emma and Dawn from Somerst River Authority and the EA presented a short discussion regarding community preparedness with regard to flooding. There was a question and answer session and the opportunities to partake in drop in consultations with regard to future work etc was highlighted. Information leaflets were left for those interested.

3b) **Open Discussion:** None

4) **Councillors reports**

The County Councillor's written report had been forwarded. There was due to be an 'improving lives' grant made available.

District Councillor's report - several issues discussed some with regard to the unitary debate and things parishes' might be able to do in the future if there was a unitary council which meant that some local services needing local knowledge would be required. Other updates were given regarding planning applications in the Turnhill ward etc.

5) **Approval of Minutes** - The minutes of the meeting held on 28th January 2020 were approved as a true record and duly signed.

6) **Planning Applications for consideration**

A) 20/00275/HOU – 2 Hawthorne Close, High Ham – Erection of a porch & installation of a new bay window to front, insertion of window to rear elevation, rooflights & light tunnel. Chris Palmer introduced the application and then left the room for the duration of the discussion and vote. – The application was unanimously supported. Chris Palmer returned to the room

B) 20/00185/FUL – Orchard Home, Henley Road – The change of use of a modern agricultural building and associated operational development to provide a single unit of holiday accommodation/ancillary accommodation to the main dwelling house. Amanda Chuter chaired this item whilst Dave Vigar sat in the audience and did not speak or vote on the application. The Parish Council were disappointed with the way this application had turned out as the original application had been supported on the basis that it was for agricultural storage. The use at the time had been queried. This was an application for change of use for holiday let or ancillary accommodation but not one or other as is normal practice. The application was supported in principle that a change of use would be OK but it was felt it needed to be clear if it was ancillary accommodation or holiday let. The disappointment that the original application was not being used for the intent on the original plan was noted and it was noted that any future application for storage of chemicals would be difficult to support. Dave Vigar returned to chair the meeting.

C) 20/00100/S73A – Torwood, Hillside Farm Road, High Ham – Section 73 application to vary condition 2 (approved plans) of permission 1800710/FUL following subsequent permission 19/02158/S73 to allow the addition of proposed garage to north of plot 1. No objections were raised, on the proviso that it was not intrusive on the neighbour. It was noted that the work had already commenced and there was concern that the plans differed between the site plan and the detailed plan and that it did not seem positioned in the most favourable place.



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D) 20/00054/FUL – Four Chimneys Breach, Furlong Lane, High Ham – The demolition of garaging/garden buildings and the erection of a new dwelling. Some extra details had been submitted but still no dimensions were stated on the plan. It was queried that the height was the same as the existing but that the ground was some 8ft higher. It was noted that the applicant may be required to submit further information to the planning authority. From what was set before the Parish Council the application was unanimously supported.

E) 19/03127/HOU-55 Hamdown Court Picts Hill - Alterations and erection of a single storey rear extension and front entrance porch. A neighbour had needed to see the plans but had not raised objections. The application was discussed and the Parish Council unanimously raised no objections.

7) Planning Applications Decided - None

8) Matters for consideration/Items for Discussion

a. Enhancements at The Green – concern had been raised about a tree which had to be taken back quite far. However this had been done professionally and for reasons of safety. Other trees had been pollarded as necessary. No letter had been received back from the school in response to the Parish Council reply which re-iterated why the Parish Council had been left with no option but to block off the middle of the green. Which had been for child safety after a near collision between a car and a child due to the lack of visibility from badly parked cars here jutting out into the main road.

b. Highways. & Fingerpost restoration project/ & SIDs (speed indicator devices). Progressing. Various new matters noted to be reported to highways. Craig to do some drain work soon the problem drains for 'potting had been listed.. Fingerpost restoration – work will begin again in the spring/summer weather. It was noted that highways had been and marked up several potholes but the paint had washed off if the torrential rain. Noted that the drains near 'Classeys' needed attention together with one by the old agri-centre and Badgers Cottage.

c. Parish Lengthsman –inc Mil. Wd Wk and Cemetery and Strimmer Project
Jan- Feb 25th 2020 Lengthsman Report
Hours remaining - 37hrs

Drainage: Given the scale of rainfall this winter, Craig's focus has been on the most affected rather than working around the parish in a methodical way as done in previous years. As requested by the PC, Craig booked a SSDC StreetScene drain sucker to clear 17 blocked drains. Craig provided the team with a map for the location of the blocked drains.

Pavements: While StreetScene team were in the parish, Craig arranged for them to clear the leaves on the pavements near the school. Craig also cleared the pavement of debris between the corner of the school to Manor Farm.

The Green: Crowns lifted on the trees affecting visibility splays. Late autumn/winter the trees will be fully pollarded. Craig will apply to the planning authority for permission to carry out tree works in a conservation area, (shouldn't be a problem as its a re-pollard), and arrange with Western Power for a power shut-down. Craig has contacted them several times to get the lines cleared over the past 18 months, but nothing has happened. He is hoping that if he requests a shut down, it might put pressure on them to act.

Church wall corner: one of the 3 buttress stones has been re-set - the 3 stones while small, do keep vehicles away from the wall.

Millennium Wood: Craig will continue thinning of carefully selected trees.

Pending work includes: re-pollarding the lime tree in The Pound - permission granted from the planning authority to carry out the tree works in a conservation area. This work may have been completed by date of meeting).



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- d. Millennium Wood – -as above
- e. Village Hall items – upcoming events were highlighted. Big breakfast noted as 8th March.
- f. Playing Fields - matters were progressing re the pavilion.
- g. Speed Indicator Devices - the Turnhill shared camera had been invoiced. One site proposed for it by Huish Episcopi was one in High Ham near union drove near to Hamdown. It was thought best that the representatives from the Parishes meet informally and suggest the locations which are then finalised by the County Council. Dave Vigar would liaise with Huish on this matter. The other camera was dependant on County confirming they would authorise a speed indicator device in the location suggested – this was funded as part of the planning consent for traffic calming as it had been strongly felt that traffic calming measures were required on Picts Hill due to additional traffic and to make it safe for the access of the development. Dave Vigar and Andrew Davidson were in contact with highways on this matter.

9. Correspondence. Enquiries were ongoing regarding various website matters including the WCAG 2.1 AA regulation. This matter was ongoing. The current website name would change and be used by the web community group and grants towards this would be made by the Parish Council as required for the continuity of it. This was a website which had content from all Parish user groups and as such was not a parish council website. This would mean for any extra detail information that the Parish Council were required to publish on its additional website would need to comply instead. As this website was simpler it was thought this would be a better option. Conversations regarding the legislation were taking place with two IT specialists, one who had specialist knowledge of this legislation. A float for the name change of the website and to start the ball rolling on obtaining accessibility compliance statements was unanimously agreed of £500.00
2 additional passwords were to be sought. Cosmic were to be asked to change the name to High Ham Parish Life.org.uk.

10. Summary of Meetings attended

Millenium Wood meetings had been attended.
Site meetings at the Millennium Wood had taken place.

11) Financial

The following payments were authorised
Clerk wages (gross) and expenses – £330.54
Parish Lengthsman - £511.88
Westcotec - £1260.00
O Howley £228.00 Hedge trimming Millennium Wood.
P Green - £25 –re playing fields

12) Matters of Report and items for next meeting -

Various upcoming local events were highlighted
The Date of the next meeting would be 24th March 2020.
The meeting was closed to the public in order that some details relating to the lengthsman contract could be finalised.

Meeting closed at 2150hrs