

Pitcombe Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held in Hadspen Village Hall on Tuesday 14th June 2016 at 7.30pm

Present: Councillors J. Knight (Chairman), L. Comer, C. Brook, R Currie and A. Wells.

In attendance: County Councillor Groskop and District Councillor Beech.

Clerk: Zöe Godden

The meeting started at 19:30.

Public question time: No members of the public were present.

1. Apologies for Absence: Councillors Donald and Waller.

2. Declarations of Interest: Councillor Knight declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in item 8c. Councillor Comer declared a personal interest in item 6 ii (planning application 16/02197/FUL).

3. Minutes: The minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 10th May 2016 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

4. Reports:

Councillor Groskop registered her thanks to John McParland for his work in the post as Parish Clerk and welcomed the new Clerk. Councillor Groskop noted that she had reported an instance of fly tipping in the lay-by on A359 above Pitcombe three times, but it had yet to be removed.

Councillor Beech welcomed the new Clerk but had no new information to report.

PCSO Tim Russell had sent an email to the Clerk informing members that no new crimes had been reported in the Parish and that there were no changes to priorities.

5. Matter Arising for report:

Highways and Drains: Councillor Knight reported that grips had been installed in the section of bank that drains water near Cole Farm, to help alleviate flooding. Drainage work had taken place in Cole and water was now draining away. Councillor Comer reported that new signs had been erected at Grove Cross.

Provision of defibrillator(s): Councillor Currie tabled his report. The matter was discussed in detail, including partnership working with local schools, village hall and church, costs, funding and a way forward. It was **agreed** that Councillors Currie and Knight would contact the relevant parties to present the idea and report back to the next meeting. **(Action Councillors Currie and Knight)**

5. Review of Planning Applications.

i) Outcomes of applications considered at previous meetings

16/01643/FUL – Proposed two storey extension and alterations at Honeysuckle Cottage, Lime Kiln Lane, Pitcombe. **Granted with conditions.**

ii) New Planning Applications:

a) 16/02197/FUL – Erection of a replacement dwelling, Nettlecombe Barn, Hadspen, Castle Cary. BA7 7LW.

The council noted that previously, permission had been granted for a replacement dwelling on this site. It was noted that this new application was an improvement on the previous one and that immediate neighbours, having looked at the plans, were content. No other public comments had been received. The barn was now located 2.7 meters away from a neighbouring property and any issues with the party wall would be a civil matter and not a planning reason for refusal. There was some concern that, had this application been the original, it would still be considered too large for the site and not in keeping. It was felt that a precedent could be set, whereby applicants who have had permission granted for unpopular developments could submit subsequent applications with small

improvements, encouraging approval to be granted on the basis of an improvement to the original application, rather than on the content of the new application itself.

**RESOLVED: It was proposed and agreed that the Parish Council still feels that this development is too large but given that the original application was already approved the Parish Council acknowledges that the new scheme is an improvement. In addition, the Parish Council trusts that future applications will respect the views of the Parish Council and the Parish Plan.
(Action Parish Clerk)**

16/02188/FUL– Erection of a pool building at rear of property, The Wildings, Hadspen, Castle Cary. BA7 7LW

**RESOLVED: It was proposed and agreed that the Parish Council has no objections to this application.
(Action Parish Clerk)**

iii) Temporary Road Closures: **None.**

iv) Path Diversions: **None.**

7. Reports from Portfolio holders:

Footpaths: It was noted that fly tipping at Pitcombe Hill should have been removed. The Parish Council had previously agreed to contribute to the costs of this removal by Streetscene. Councillor Knight to find out if this has been done. **(Action Councillor Knight)**

Councillor Wells reported that he had removed a large number of small pieces of bale wrapping from behind Pitcombe Farm House after receiving a complaint from a resident. It was noted that the gate post had rotted away and the pedestrian gate had been chained closed to stop the main gate swinging open. Barbed wire had also been wrapped around the gate. Councillor Knight to follow this up with Somerset County Council and Councillor Wells volunteered to try and source a new gate post. **(Action Councillors Knight and Wells)**

8. Finance.

i) Approval of payment:

a) Outgoing Clerk's remuneration and expenses for May 2016 - £166.99.

RESOLVED: It was proposed and agreed to approve the payment to John Mc Parland.

b) To note that the Annual Return has been sent to the external auditor.

Noted.

c) To consider awarding a grant to support Pitcombe News Magazine.

Councillor Knight left the meeting for the duration of this item due to the previously declared Disclosable Pecuniary Interest. Councillor Comer took the chair for this item.

The matter was discussed and it was noted that it had previously been agreed to incrementally increase the level of grant provided to the Pitcombe News Magazine.

RESOLVED: It was proposed by Councillor Brook, seconded by Councillor Wells and unanimously agreed to give a grant of £450 for the 2016 period.

Councillor Knight returned to the meeting and took the chair.

d) To consider three quotes for a laptop and printer for use by the Clerk and to decide which to accept.

Councillor Currie felt that the purchase a laptop and printer for use by the Clerk was not necessary. Councillor Knight confirmed that SALC had advised that the Transparency Code, part of the Localism Act, required suitable IT equipment to be supplied for use by the Clerk.

**RESOLVED: It was proposed and unanimously agreed to accept the quote from Milborne Port Computers.
(Action Parish Clerk)**

9. Correspondence/Publications received for report: None.

10. Other Business:

Councillor Knight reported that he had received correspondence regarding the traffic calming scheme on the A359. He had referred the complainants to Somerset County Council. Councillor Groskop noted that this matter was now with the ombudsman and that speed in that area had reduced by 53% since the introduction of the scheme. She added that she had received complaints about the new lighting shining into bedroom windows of dwellings close by and that black strips would be added to the lights to prevent this problem.

11. Date of next Parish Council meetings: 12th July at 7.30pm

The meeting closed at 20:34.

Signed

Date