

Pitcombe Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held in Hadspen Village Hall on Tuesday 14th February 2017

Present: Councillors J. Knight, C. Brook, R. Currie and C. Donald.

In attendance: County Councillor Groskop

Clerk: Zöe Godden

There were no members of the public present.

The meeting started at 19:30.

1. Apologies for Absence: District Councillor Mike Beech, PCSO Tim Russell and Councillors Comer, Waller and Wells.

2. Declarations of Interest: None

3. Minutes: The minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 10th January 2017 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

4. To receive reports from

i County Councillor:

County Councillor Groskop informed members that Somerset County Council (SCC) would be holding its Full Council budget meeting the following day. SCC had to make savings of £18 million, which would lead to reductions in bus and other services. Councillor Groskop pointed out the Somerset Community Accessible Transport had funding for just another 18 months and that Adult and Children's Social Care was very costly.

ii District Councillor.

District Councillor Mike Beech was not present.

iii PCSO.

PCSO Tim Russell was not present but had sent a report to the Clerk. There had been no reported crime in Pitcombe and Hadspen in January 2017. PCSO Russell had also advised that opportunist thefts from sheds and outbuildings were still a problem and that residents should remember to lock their vehicles when they were left unattended.

5. Matter Arising for report:

i Highways and Drains – Update.

Councillor Currie reported that he had addressed the problem of rainwater missing the drain at Pitcombe Rock by placing a sandbag in such a way that water was now diverted to the drain. Councillor Knight thanked Councillor Currie for doing this.

ii To hear information on grants available from the Community Resilience in Somerset Partnership for items to help increase resilience in communities. (CD)

Councillor Donald reported that funds were available for small capital items to help community resilience, such as gel-filled sandbags. It was **agreed** that the Clerk should apply for this funding and that she should contact the local Flood Group to ask if any additional items were required.

(Action Parish Clerk)

iii To hear an update on the acquisition of a replacement notice board to be located at Cole. (Clerk)

The Clerk reported that she had contacted H. Miles to confirm if the quote for a new notice board, dated January 2013, was still accurate. H. Miles were too busy to undertake construction of a board at this time, so the Clerk asked members to forward contact details of any local companies that may be able to provide quotes.

(Action All Members & Clerk)

iv To hear a summary of information received at the SSDC Annual Town and Parish Council meeting on 26th January. (CD/ Clerk)

The Clerk summarised the notes from this meeting, which had been forwarded to members before the meeting. It was noted that Streetscene had said that they could clear drains for £11 per drain. Councillors Currie and Knight **agreed** to locate any drains in the Parish that may need attention. The Clerk confirmed that there was £162.50 left in the Maintenance budget which could be used for this work.

(Action Cllrs Currie & Knight)

6. To review Planning Applications, Road Closures, Foot Path Diversions.

i Outcomes of applications considered at previous meetings:

- a) **16/04836/FUL & 16/04837/LBC** - Refurbishment and minor alterations to the main house, including partially re-building and extension of the kitchen in the north side of the house; creating two dormers on the first floor on the rear façade (replacing an existing dormer in the bathroom and forming a new bedroom); extension of the rear part of the roof forming a canopy; and a utility outbuilding in the rear garden of the house, Cole Farm, Cole, BRUTON. BA10 0PL - **Granted with conditions.**

Noted.

- ii To note receipt of an appeal relating to the following planning application and to decide any comments to make: **16/03426/OUT** – Outline application for the erection of a single storey dwelling and formation of access, Sundown, Sunny Hill, BRUTON. BA10 0NX

It was **agreed** that Councillors Currie and Knight would respond on behalf of the Council.

(Action Cllrs Currie & Knight)

- iii Temporary Road Closures – None

- iv Path Diversions - None.

7. Reports from Portfolio holders not covered elsewhere on the agenda.

Footpaths – Councillor Brook reported that the replacement stile at Hells Ladder Lane had yet to be installed but that she had checked with SCC and it should be done before the end of the financial year.

8. Finance.

- i To approve payments of: Clerk's remuneration and expenses for January 2017 - £235.14.
Hadspen Village Hall – Hall Hire April 2016 to March 2017 - £195.00

RESOLVED: It was proposed and agreed to approve the payments as presented and that Councillors Knight and Brook would sign the cheques.

- ii To review the Budget vs Spend sheet to date.

Noted.

- iii To approve the cash book and bank reconciliation for January 2017.

RESOLVED: The Cash Book and Bank Reconciliation for January 2017 was approved and signed by the Chair.

- iv To note receipt of Transparency Code grants amounting to £779.34 and that the Clerk has ordered new IT equipment in line with the quote accepted at the meeting of 14th June 2016.

The Clerk explained that the actual cost of the IT equipment was £14.28 more than the original quote because the laptop from the quote was no longer available. It was **agreed** that the Parish Council would fund this sum.

- v To note receipt of confirmation that the recent bank mandate changes have been implemented.

Noted.

- vi To agree that the Clerk can apply for online access to the view Parish Council bank accounts.

The Clerk explained that online access would not give her the ability to make payments, just to view the account balances and transactions. It was **agreed** that the Clerk could apply for online access to the bank accounts.

- vii To agree that Phil Smith will be used as Internal Auditor for the 2016/17 accounts.

It was **agreed** that Phil Smith would be used as Internal Auditor in 2016/17 and that, in future years, three quotes would be sought for this work.

(Action Parish Clerk)

- viii To consider grant requests from the following organisations: Yeovil Shopmobility, South Somerset Citizens Advice and Somerset Community Justice Partnership.

RESOLVED: It was proposed and agreed to give £50 to South Somerset Citizens Advice and £50 to Somerset Community Justice Partnership, but not to give a grant to Yeovil Shopmobility. Cheques would be prepared for signing at the next meeting.

9. Correspondence/Publications received for report.

- i Avon & Somerset Police - to note a new text number to report rural crime.

The new text number for reporting rural crime, 81819, was noted.

- ii SALC – to note details of the South West Regional Conference to be held on 16th March and to consider if a member should attend.

It was **agreed** that no members would attend this event.

- iii Hadspen Village Hall – To note that HVH trustees have agreed to purchase land to the rear of the hall for additional car parking and an amenity area and to consider making a financial contribution to the cost of the land.

Councillor Currie declared an interest in this item as he is on the Village Hall Committee. Councillor Currie went on to explain that a piece of land behind the Village Hall had become available and the Committee had agreed to purchase it. No agreement as to the use of the land had been made, but it was thought that it would be made into a car park and amenity area. Councillor Donald said she would like to see plans for the land before making any comment. Councillor Currie confirmed that the views of local residents would be taken into account before any final decisions were made on the potential use of the land.

Councillor Knight **proposed** making an agreement in principle to give a grant of up to £500 to help with the purchase of the land or its conversion for use by the Village Hall. Councillor Brook voted in favour of this proposal. Councillors Currie and Donald abstained from voting. **Motion carried.**

10. Any Other Business:

Please note this item can only be used for statements of information and requests for items to be included on the agenda at the next meeting.

No other business was raised.

11. Date of the next Parish Council meeting: 14th March 2017 at 7.30pm

The meeting ended at 20:38.

Signed

Date