**Minutes of a meeting of Pitcombe Parish Council held on Tuesday 9th October 2018**

**Present:** Councillors L. Comer (Chair), C. Brook, R. Currie, C. Donald, R. Waller and A. Wells.

**Also present:** County Councillor Anna Groskop and PCSO Tim Russell

**Clerk:** Zöe Godden

There were two members of the public present at the start of the meeting.

**The meeting started at 19:31.**

1. **Apologies:** Councillor Knight
2. **Declarations of Interest:** Councillor Comer noted that the planning applications at item 7 ii referred to stone that her company was able to supply. There was no agreement between Councillor Comer and the applicant for her company to supply the stone so there was no interest to declare. No other interests were declared.
3. **Minutes:** The minutes of the Parish Council meetings held on 11th and 20th September 2018 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.
4. **To receive a declaration of acceptance of office from the Vice-Chair:** The declaration of acceptance of office was signed by Councillor Comer and witnessed by the Clerk.
5. **To receive reports from**
6. **PCSO Tim Russell** reported that the Neighbourhood Team boundaries had changed but he would still be covering Pitcombe. The team known as Wincanton North had been renamed Yeovil Rural. PCSO Russell summarised his report (attached to these minutes) and drew members’ attention to a spate of thefts from vehicles. Criminals were looking for contactless cards and the advice was that no valuables should be left in vehicles, especially in quiet areas often used by walkers.
7. **County Councillor Anna Groskop** reported that a decision has still not been reached by Somerset County Council (SCC) in relation to the planning application from Hadspen Quarry (18/00415/CPO). Councillor Groskop expressed concern about the impact of this delay on the applicants who were trying to run businesses and on other businesses that may rely on the supply of Hadspen stone. Councillor Groskop said that SCC was having problems recruiting planning officers. The Clerk was instructed to write a letter to the Chief Executive of SCC to express the Parish Council’s dissatisfaction with delays at SCC planning, in particular with the Hadspen Quarry application, and to highlight the adverse impact such delays have on the business of the applicant, on other businesses that rely on the supply of Hadspen stone and on local employment security.

**(Action Parish Clerk)**

1. **District Councillor Mike Beech** was not present.
2. **Matter Arising for report:**
3. Highways and Drains
4. Update: There were no matters to report.
5. To note receipt of a request from a resident for additional 30mph signs and speed enforcement measures on the A359 between Bruton and Pitcombe and to note comments from County Highways and Bruton Town Council; to agree any action to be taken.

Members noted the correspondence. It was **agreed** that Councillor Comer would ask Pitcombe News to publish a request for volunteers for Bruton Town Council’s Community Speedwatch scheme.

**(Action Cllr Comer)**

The Clerk was instructed to contact the resident to explain the response from County Highways, which was that additional roundels and repeater signs could not be installed.

**(Action Parish Clerk)**

1. To note an email from a resident regarding a faulty streetlight at the arches at Pitcombe Rock.

**Noted.** Councillor Wells said he would measure the light at this location with a light meter and report back to the next meeting.

**(Action Cllr Wells)**

1. **To review Planning Applications, Road Closures, Foot Path Diversions.**
2. Outcomes of applications considered at previous meetings: **18/01758/TPO** - Application to fell 1 tree and carry out further tree works to trees within Tree Preservation Order SSDC (PITC 1) 2011. Embankment Shatwell Lane Yarlington Wincanton Somerset– **Granted with conditions.**

**Noted.**

1. New Planning Applications:
2. **18/02737/FUL** - The erection of an Apiary (bee house) and associated landscape works. Hadspen House, Hadspen Estate, Hadspen, Castle Cary. BA7 7NG

**19:55** – The Chair allowed a public open session.

The applicant summarised the reasons for and benefits of the application.

**19:59** – The Chair brought the public open session to a close.

**RESOLVED: It was proposed and unanimously agreed to recommend approval of this application.**

**(Action Parish Clerk)**

1. **18/02776/FUL** – Demolition and rebuild of two single storey barns to provide living accommodation for Emily Estate staff, associated works to the landscape and relocated vehicle access to the A359. Avalon Farm, Galhampton Hill, Galhampton, BA22 7AE

**20:00** – The Chair allowed a public open session.

The applicant explained that the application aimed to provide accommodation for staff, especially those moving to the area from further away. This would enable the attraction of good staff and give them short-term accommodation while they looked for their own housing locally. Other visitors to the site, who were not guests of the hotel, would also be accommodated here. The development would comprise 12 single accommodation units with associated communal cooking, eating and lounge facilities, as well as a one-bed studio for the housekeeper of that facility and the wider site of Avalon farm

Access to the site would be changed with farm and residential traffic being separated. There would be no impact on the nearby footpath. A shuttle bus would be utilised to take staff to the main Hadspen House site.

**20:05** – The Chair brought the public open session to a close.

**RESOLVED: It was proposed and unanimously agreed to recommend approval of this application.**

**(Action Parish Clerk)**

1. Other planning matters – To note recent correspondence regarding a new access to the A359 at Strutters Hill and agree any action to be taken.

Members noted an additional email received since publication of the agenda from SSDC, notifying them that a 28 day stop had been put on any work at the site pending investigations into the engineering works carried out. The Clerk was instructed to add this matter to the November agenda for review.

**(Action Parish Clerk)**

1. Temporary Road Closures
2. Holbrook Roundabout, Holbrook Roundabout to Jack Whites Gibbet, Anchor Hill Roundabout to Holbrook Roundabout and West Hill, 29th October for three days between 07:30 and 17:30.

**Noted.**

1. Anchor Hill Roundabout, Anchor Hill Roundabout to Holbrook Roundabout, Lawrence Hill and Anchor Hill Garage Road, 1st November for 2 days from 07:30 to 17:30 & 5th November 07:30 to 17:30.

**Noted.**

1. Path Diversions - None.
2. **Reports from Portfolio holders not covered elsewhere on the agenda.**

**20:16** - Two members of the public left the meeting.

1. **Finance.**
2. To review the Budget vs Spend sheet.

**Noted.**

1. To approve the cash book and bank reconciliation for August 2018.

The cashbook and bank reconciliation were checked by Councillor Waller.

**RESOLVED: It was proposed and agreed to approve the cashbook and bank reconciliation as presented.**

1. To approve payments of:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Zöe Godden | Salary and expenses September 2018 | £242.80 |
| HMRC | Income Tax September 2018 | £ 51.20 |
| SSCAT | Grant | £200.00 |
| Henstridge Parish Council | Contribution to Clerk’s SLCC Principal membership | £8.33 |

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

1. To consider an amended draft budget for 2019-20.

Members discussed the draft budget. No amendments were required.

Councillor Currie said that replacement pads were needed for the defibrillator at Bruton School for Girls and that he would order these.

**(Action Cllr Currie)**

1. To consider adding two additional members to the bank mandate.

**RESOLVED: It was proposed and agreed that Councillors Donald and Waller would be added to the bank mandate.**

**(Action Parish Clerk)**

1. **Council Matters:**
2. To consider allowing the Clerk to attend an SLCC Regional Training Seminar at a total cost of £30.79.

It was **agreed** that the Clerk could attend this training event.

1. To note that the Clerk has submitted the names of the members who volunteered to maintain finger posts to SCC.

**Noted.**

1. To consider writing a letter of support for the Friends of Castle Cary Library.

The Clerk was instructed to write a letter saying that the Parish Council supports the principle of keeping Castle Cary library open.

**(Action Parish Clerk)**

Members noted the receipt of a request for funding from the Friends of Castle Cary Library that had arrived since the publication of the October agenda. This matter would be dealt with at the November meeting. In the meantime, the Clerk was instructed to find out if Bruton Library would also be asking for funding from Parish Councils from 2019-20 budgets.

**(Action Parish Clerk)**

1. **Correspondence/Publications received for report.**
2. CPRE – Invitation to attend the CPRE AGM on Thursday 25th October; to agree any member to attend.

Members did not wish to attend.

1. SALC – To note several upcoming courses and agree any members to attend.

Members did not wish to attend.

1. SSDC – To note receipt of a briefing regarding the Community Infrastructure Levy.

**Noted.**

1. Spark – Invitation to attend an “Improving Health & Wellbeing in Your Community” event at a cost of £10 per person and to agree any members to attend.

Members did not wish to attend.

1. SSDC – Invitation to respond to a consultation on a draft Statement of Principles relating to the Gambling Act 2005; to agree if a member will respond.

Members did not wish to respond.

1. Environment Agency - Invitation to attend a “Somerset Prepared Community Resilience Day”; to agree any members to attend.

It was **agreed** that Councillor Currie would attend this event.

1. **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.*

Councillor Wells reported that a tree had fallen on Lancombe Lane and **agreed** to report this to SCC.

**(Action Cllr Wells)**

Councillor Waller asked County Councillor Anna Groskop if the recently received plan for a new garden town had been approved. Councillor Groskop said it had not but that a new consultation was due.

1. **Date of the next Parish Council meeting: 13th November 2018 at 7.30pm**

**The meeting ended at 20:50.**



Zöe Godden

Parish Clerk