

Pitcombe Parish Council

Minutes of a meeting of Pitcombe Parish Council held on Tuesday 10th September 2019.

Present: Councillors R. Waller (Chair), A. Wells, R. Currie, C. Donald and M. Groom

Also present: PCSO Tim Russell

Clerk: Holly Callow

The meeting started at: 19:30

1. **Apologies:** Councillor Donahue, County Councillor Anna Groskop and PC Sara Stephenson
2. **Declarations of Interest:** None
3. **To approve the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 9th July 2019.**
Councillor Wells asked for a change to be made to 11.i to state that bales were being burnt not plastic.

RESOLVED: It was proposed and agreed to approve the minutes once the above change had been made.

4. To receive reports from

- i **County Councillor Anna Groskop** had sent her apologies.
- ii **District Councillor Robin Bastable** was not present.
- iii **PCSO Tim Russell** presented his report which included one crime reported in Aug/Sep 2019.
Neighbourhood Watch (NW) was discussed. The council believed the parish co-ordinator received a monthly report but was unsure. PCSO Russell advised that the Parish NW co-ordinator should contact the Area NW co-ordinator to encourage a better flow of information.
Councillors reported other attempted thefts in the area, PCSO TR advised residents to increase security such as gates, locks and security lights on throughout the night.
Councillors questioned PCSO Russell regarding drugs, county lines and asked what action was being taken. PCSO Russell reported issues mainly in Yeovil and Shepton Mallet locally where higher class drugs were more prevalent. Local incidents were rare and concerned lower class drugs. Regular patrols and school talks were ongoing but there are low Police resources. PCSO Russell stressed that any information must be reported in order for action to be taken. Crimes should be reported at the time of the event by calling 101, crime stoppers or sending an email to PCSO Russell if not urgent.
Councillor Wells questioned PCSO Russell about police policy of pulling over vehicle late at night in the lanes. Patrol cars were pulling people over if suspected of speeding, theft or any other crime.
PCSO Russell was happy for his contact details to be shared around the community. The police are happy to give advice and visit people in their homes.
Councillors thanked PCSO Russell for the update.

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

- i Outcomes of applications considered at previous meetings: **19/01208/HOU** - The erection of a garden room extension on south and west elevation of farmhouse - Colestile Farm, Colestile Farm Lane, Pitcombe. BA10 0PJ – **Granted with conditions**

Noted.

- ii New Planning Applications:
 - a) **19/01885/FUL** – Proposed demolition of disused agricultural buildings and change of use of land and agricultural building to ancillary residential use with alterations - Colestile Farm, Colestile Farm Lane, Pitcombe. BA10 0PJ

The application was discussed at length with particular reference to the site boundary.

RESOLVED: It was proposed and agreed that the Parish Council recommends refusal of change of use of land from agricultural use to ancillary residential use.

- b) **19/02228/COL** – Certificate of lawfulness for the existing and continuous occupation of the dwelling for a period in excess of 10 years in breach of condition 01 (agricultural tie) of the planning permission SE/1853 (No.8558) – 4 Grove Mead, Castle Cary, BA7 7NH

It was agreed that the council makes no comment.

- iii Other planning matters:
 - a) To consider allowing the Clerk to attend Planning training regarding the use of the SSDC planning website on 24th September. The session is free of charge, mileage will cost approximately £13.50

RESOLVED: It was proposed and agreed to allow the Clerk to attend the training.

- b) Council to agree to write to SSDC regarding developments that had taken place without planning permission and possible non-compliance with planning conditions on Pitcombe Hill.

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Principle dairy access was believed to be opposite the entrance to the Newt, however this was not being used as principle access. The unclassified road of Ridge Lane (Cole) had been improved encouraging vehicles to use this road instead.

RESOLVED: It was proposed and agreed that the Chair would call a Highways representative and invite him to visit the track and then seek advice regarding use of the land rather than writing a letter.

- iv Temporary Road Closures:
 - a) Lusty, Bruton. Proceeding along Lusty (A359) from 10m north and 10m south of Lusty Railway Bridge for a total distance of 30m. Works are expected to commence 27/08/2019 and last for 10 nights (20.00-05.00hrs).
 - b) Station Road, Wanstrow from the railway bridge on Station Road and Burts Hill, southwards for a distance of 1100 metres. To commence 07/09/2019, expected to last 1 night (23.00-05.00)

Noted.

- v Path Diversions – **None**

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

Councillor Wells reported a broken gate on Church Path, he would like to approach the resident and fix it for her. Councillors thanked Councillor Wells.

7. Finance.

- i To review the Budget vs Spend sheet.

Noted.

- ii To agree the Clerk's home working allowance to continue at a rate of £2 per month and the contribution to broadband and phone line to continue at a rate of £3.20 per month

RESOLVED: It was proposed and agreed that the Clerk's allowance would continue at aforementioned rate.

- iii To approve the cash book and bank reconciliation for June and July 2019.

The cash book and bank reconciliation were approved by Councillor Currie.

RESOLVED: It was proposed and agreed to approve the cash book and bank reconciliation as presented.

- iv To approve payments of:

Holly Callow	Salary July 2019	£119.32
HMRC	Income Tax RE H Callow July 2019	£29.80
Holly Callow	Salary August 2019	£176.13
HMRC	Income Tax RE H Callow August 2019	£73.80
Holly Callow	Expenses July & August 2019	£56.80
SALC	Code of Conduct Training	£30.00

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

8. Council Matters:

- i To agree to pay Clerk's membership of SLCC at an annual cost of £81

RESOLVED: It was proposed and agreed to pay the Clerk's SLCC membership.

- ii To hear an update on the problem of speeding vehicles through the Parish. (CD)
Nothing to report, Councillor Donald to provide update at next meeting.

- iii To hear an update on the Quiet Lanes initiative (LD)
As Councillor Donahue was not present it was agreed to **defer** this matter until the next meeting.

- iv To hear an update on proposed changes to service delivery at Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Service (RC) and to compose a response to the findings.

Councillor Currie believed the consultation was unsatisfactory. Councillor Currie believed it was a way of saving money despite it having been presented as a positive plan. Councillor Currie also believed that activity was being undercounted activity as second call outs were not included.

Councillor Currie would draft a response from the Parish Council before the deadline of 20th September.

(Action: Cllr Currie)

- v To agree how to consult the public on environmental issues, with a view to drawing up a policy.

The Clerk was instructed to find and share a template policy or comparable parish policy. Councillor Waller would write in the Pitcombe news and ask for suggestions.

Councillor Wells would approach a local school and ask if they would like to consult local residents to discover what the parish's environmental issues were which could form the basis for a policy.

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The council acknowledged that there was a group who cleaned the river every year.

(Action: Parish Clerk, Cllrs Waller & Wells)

- vi To hear an update on the Neighbourhood Plan meeting, taking place on 18th July, and agree any action to be taken.

It was felt that the advantages of working with Bruton on neighbourhood plan would be greater for Bruton than for the Parish of Pitcombe. There was also concern that only part of Pitcombe Parish would be included in the Neighbourhood Plan. It was **agreed** that the Parish Council would await further communication.

- vii To consider ways to improve information sharing and engagement with the public.

The council was happy with the way things were at the moment. No further action required.

- viii To note that The Newt in Somerset has instructed work to be carried out on three fingerposts and agree any action to be taken

The Clerk was instructed to thank The Newt. It had been agreed that three fingerposts would be refurbished. The Clerk was instructed to write to The Newt and ask if their team would be willing to complete the remaining three fingerposts and enquire as to how much would this cost with a view to this being funded by the Parish Council.

(Action: Parish Clerk)

- ix To consider the email from County Highways and agree whether the council would like to introduce village nameplate signs at a cost of roughly £300-£400 per location.

RESOLVED: It was proposed and agreed that the council would not make these purchases.

- x To agree whether any council member would like to organise a Route 60+ talk within the parish alongside Steve Greenhalgh from Somerset Road Safety.

It was **agreed** that local residents would be able to attend the Road Safety vehicle which will be visiting Castle Cary market.

- xi To discuss the repair of the fingerpost on the triangle opposite Ludwell Villa

This matter was discussed in item 8 viii.

- xii To agree whether to accept the offer from a local resident to stain the notice board on the triangle opposite Ludwell Villa, free of charge.

It was **agreed** to allow the resident to complete the refurbishment. The council was very thankful for this generosity. Councillor Wells would discuss the appropriate materials with the resident.

(Action: Cllr Wells)

9. Items for report and for the next agenda

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.

The Clerk was instructed to add the following items to the next agenda:

- To receive an Ambulance Service update from Councillor Wells
- To discuss the recruitment of a new councillor to fill the current vacancy

10. Date of the next Parish Council meeting: 8th October 2019 at 7.30pm

The meeting ended at 21.23

Signed:

Date: