

# *Pitcombe Parish Council*

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Minutes of a meeting of Pitcombe Parish Council held on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> October 2019.

**Present:** Councillors R. Waller (Chair), L. Donahue, M. Groom, A. Wells, R. Currie

**Also Present:** Councillors R. Bastable and A. Groskop

**Clerk:** Holly Callow

There were 2 members of the public present at the start of the meeting.  
A third member of the public joined at 19:42.

**Public open session started at: 19:31**

A resident provided an update on the substation to be installed on his dairy unit, the completion of which is not now expected until Christmas. The mobile home on his land will be moved once the electricity is in place. Councillor Currie asked whether residents should expect further development and the resident responded that there are no current plans for further development. His aim to continue dairy farming and believes that there will be little impact on the surrounding community. Councillor Groom questioned access to the dairy unit as he has seen a rise in the level of traffic. The resident stated that he is expecting very little traffic to use the bridleway as he is using and directing his traffic to use the road from the A359.

The applicant of planning application SCC/3650/2019 was present and informed the council that the Environmental agency aspect of the planning has been passed. He informed the council that the final slurry lagoon will be returned to permanent pasture.

**Public open session closed at: 19:43**

**The meeting started at: 19:43**

1. **Apologies:** Councillor C. Donald
2. **Declarations of any Interest:** None
3. **To approve the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> September 2019.**

**RESOLVED: It was proposed and unanimously agreed to approve the minutes as presented.**

**4. To receive reports from**

- i **County Councillor Anna Groskop** reported that the library in Bruton is doing very well. Regarding the planning application SCC/3650/2019 Cllr Groskop reported that she has informed the environmental agency of some concerns including whether the water table will be affected, concerns over the materials to be used and increased traffic.
- ii **District Councillor Robin Bastable** reported that after their initial £75million commercial investments, SSDC plan to invest a further £75million due to the perceived success of initial investments. SSDC have indicated that there will be no new housing bonus in the future, so are planning to increase income through other routes. Cllr Bastable provided an update on local developments which are currently in the planning process. The councillors discussed the possible monetary benefit to the community and concerns over the amount of developments taking place locally. Cllr Bastable reported that he has received several complaints regarding a lack of staff in the SSDC planning department resulting in poor service.
- iii **PCSO Tim Russell** was not present.

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

- i Outcomes of applications considered at previous meetings: none to report
- ii New Planning Applications:
  - a) **SCC/3650/2019** – Infill of disused slurry lagoon with inert waste at Land at Pitcombe Hill, grid reference 366083 132210

Refer to discussion in public open session.

The council discussed the spoil left from previous works and its possible use, the applicant informed the council that there is not enough left to fill the lagoon. The council were informed that the works are planned to take between three and six months although if granted, the planning application will be in place for one year. The increase in traffic was discussed as the application states that there will be an average of seven lorries per day with a maximum of thirty per day. The applicant does not expect the amount of lorries to reach the upper limit and assured the council that they will be using the A359 for access and be only eight metres long.

**RESOLVED: It was proposed and agreed that the Parish Council recommends approval of this application.**

- iii Other planning matters:
  - a) Council to agree for any amendments which should be made to the draft letter to be addressed to the farmer of Pitcombe Hill and instruct the Clerk to post said letter.

The council discussed a meeting with highways taking place the next day and the benefits of waiting until after this had

taken place to send the letter.

**Resolved: It was proposed and agreed that the Clerk would send the letter following the meeting of 9<sup>th</sup> October once the Chair had either accepted the draft or redrafted as appropriate.**

- 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 14/10/2019 and last for 3 nights (20.00-05.00hrs).
- v Path Diversions – **None**

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

Councillor Currie reported that the badger set had again damaged part of Lime Kiln Lane, and that the road may need repairs soon.

Councillor Wells reported that he is in process of fixing the gate at Church Path as discussed in item 6 during the September Parish Council meeting. The council gave their thanks to Councillor Wells.

#### **7. Finance.**

- i To approve payments of:

Holly Callow	Salary September 2019	293.93
Holly Callow	Expenses September 2019	51.74
Zöe Godden	Locum and handover wages	187.45
SSCAT	Contribution towards South Somerset Community Accessible Transport 19/20	200.00
SLCC	Clerk SLCC Membership Fee	81.00

**RESOLVED: It was proposed and agreed to approve the payments as presented.**

#### **8. Council Matters:**

- i To hear an update from Councillor Wells regarding contact with local schools on environmental issues. To discuss the example environmental policies and decide upon what action to take.

Councillor Wells has spoken to two local schools and attended a meeting with one who have agreed that students will report back to the council with any environmental issues they are aware of. Cllr Wells will contact the second school again.

- ii To approve Pitcombe Parish Council meeting dates for 2020.

**RESOLVED: It was proposed and unanimously agreed to approve the dates proposed.**

- iii To agree to arrange the next verge and hedge trim.

The council discussed whether another cut was required.

**RESOLVED: It was proposed and agreed that the council would authorise a cut. Three votes in favour, two abstained.**

- iv To hear an update on the Quiet Lanes initiative (LD)

Councillor Donahue reported that she had received no responses to an email she had sent to local councils, with the exception of one who have now abandoned the scheme as it had no effect on slowing traffic. Councillor Groom reported that the scheme is reported to show only a single figure percentage fall in speeding. The council would like to thank Cllr Donahue for the time spent researching the initiative but believe it is not suitable for the parish.

**RESOLVED: It was proposed and agreed that the Quiet Lanes Initiative was not suitable for the Parish and no further action would be taken on the matter.**

- v To hear an update on the site visit to Pitcombe Hill (RW)

The meeting with highways is scheduled to take place at 10am on October 9<sup>th</sup>. Three members will attend.

**ACTION: Chair Waller to report the outcome at the next Parish meeting.**

- vi To consider the response from The Newt regarding the remaining fingerposts to be refurbished at a cost of approximately £1000 per post.

Councillors discussed the cost and value of this kind offer and would like to research the costs further. The council would like to thank The Newt for providing this estimate.

**ACTION: Councillor Donahue will explore costs and provide feedback at the next meeting when a decision can be made. The Clerk was further instructed to invite a representative from The Newt to the next meeting.**

- vii To discuss whether any councillors would like to attend planning training organised by SALC to take place on 27<sup>th</sup> November.

**AGREED: The Clerk is to book places for Councillors Groom and Donahue on said training.**

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viii To receive an Ambulance Service update from Councillor Wells

Chair Waller attended a meeting provided by Castle Cary Town Council to further inform the public on the plans for the Ambulance Service. Chair Waller reported that he believed there was no immediate concern for the public as although there is currently an Ambulance Station in Castle Cary, the move to a site in Wincanton will not adversely impact the service provided to our community.

ix To discuss the recruitment of a new councillor to fill the current vacancy

Councillors reported that they have all been discussing the vacancy within their networks but currently have no interested parties.

**ACTION: Chair Waller to continue to advertise the vacancy in the Pitcombe Parish News and the Clerk to advertise on the website.**

## **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.*

Councillor Currie advised the council that it may be useful for one or more members to attend a Community Resilience Day being held in Bridgwater on 24<sup>th</sup> October. Councillors agreed to check their diaries and attend if able.

## **10. Date of the next Parish Council meeting: 12th November 2019 at 7.30pm**

**The meeting closed at 20:38.**

Signed:

Date: