

Pitcombe Parish Council

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

Present: Councillors R. Waller (Chair), A. Wells and L. Donahue.

Clerk: Holly Callow

Also present: Councillor Anna Groskop

One member of the public was present.

Public session opened at: 19:31

The applicant of 19/02827/FUL attended the meeting and informed the council that he had addressed concerns of a neighbour both verbally and in writing and that the neighbour was satisfied. The council had also received communication from said neighbour with the same comments.

Public session closed at: 19:34

The meeting opened at: 19:34

1. **Apologies: Councillors Robin Bastable, Mark Groom, Caroline Donald and Robin Currie.**
2. **Declarations of any Interest: None**
3. **To approve the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 12th November 2019.**

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

4. The council received reports from:

- i County Councillor Anna Groskop reported that they were currently in Purdah and concentrating on the budget. Bruton library was continuing to flourish with many volunteers helping and book signings taking place. The success of the Brewham Road application had disappointed many residents and there was more development proposed on the other side of the road.
- ii District Councillor Robin Bastable had sent his apologies.
- 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:

- 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 at Colestile Farm, Pitcombe. **Application permitted with conditions.**

Noted.

- b) 19/02228/COL - Certificate of lawfulness for the existing and continuous occupation of the dwelling for a period in excess of 10 years at 4 Grove Mead, Castle Cary. **Application Permitted.**

Noted.

- c) 19/02560/FUL - Erection of a single storey glasshouse on north east elevation of laundry house at Hadspen House. **Application permitted with conditions.**

Noted.

- d) 19/02624/HOU - Erection of single storey extension to side/rear with raised terrace. Proposed loft conversion with new dormer windows at Romansleigh, Cole Road, Bruton. **Application permitted with conditions.**

Noted.

ii New Planning Applications:

- a) **19/02827/FUL** - Construction of polytunnel, stationing of 3 further containers for storage purposes and stationing of mobile home for accommodating seasonal workers.

Councillors had visited the site and viewed letters of objections from a neighbour. Councillor Wells commented that local businesses should be encouraged within the Parish of Pitcombe. Councillor Donahue agreed and commented that any issues with access would not become any more severe as there were no additional deliveries planned. Chair Waller stated that highways would address any concerns regarding access to the site. The council also discussed the fact that the neighbours' concerns had been addressed by the applicant.

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

One member of the public and Councillor Anna Groskop left the meeting at 19.51.

- iii Other planning matters: None to report.
- iv Temporary Road Closures: None to report.
- v Path Diversions: None to report.

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

None to report.

7. Finance.

- i. To review the Budget vs Spend sheet.

Councillors reviewed the Budget vs Spend and spoke briefly about the Church Grant as the funds have not yet been requested for 2019/20.

ACTION: The Clerk was asked to write to the Church and enquire when they planned to request the funds set aside within the 2019-20 budget.

- ii. To approve the cash book and bank reconciliation for October 2019.

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

- iii. To approve payments of:

Holly Callow	Salary November 2019	£220.13
Holly Callow	Expenses November 2019	£11.27
SALC	Clerk Training	£30.00

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

- iv. To consider quotes obtained regarding the refurbishment of fingerposts

Councillors Wells reported that of the nine fingerposts identified by The Newt only four are within the Parish of Pitcombe, he had assessed the condition of said fingerposts and found that some are aluminium rather than cast iron. Some of the signs refurbished by The Newt seem not to have been fully restored and Councillor Wells is awaiting a response from The Newt regarding this. Councillor Wells estimated that to replace and fully refurbish the fingerposts it would cost approximately £1800 including VAT. The council noted that there was also a highway marker that could be refurbished; Councillor Wells will conduct research regarding how this would be done.

RESOLVED: It was proposed and agreed that the council would obtain quotes in order to refurbish the fingerposts in Pitcombe using funds from reserves.

- v. To consider any grant applications received for 2020-2021

The council had received an application from the Church Graveyard and agreed to continue to support it.

RESOLVED: It was proposed and unanimously agreed that the council would approve the grant application for the Church Graveyard.

- vi. To review the Draft Budget for 2020-2021 discussion and agree any amendments required

ACTION: The final review will be deferred until the meeting in January when more councillors are present.

8. Council Matters:

- i. To discuss plans for the 75th anniversary of VE Day in response to an email from SSAFA, The Armed Forces charity.

There had been no communications from residents in reply to the request for ideas published in the Pitcombe news. The council discussed the size of the parish and whether there were enough residents who would attend such an event, however they felt it was important to do something. Councillor Wells informed the council that SSAFA support service men and women's family, but have lost some of their charity income to other charities; he therefore suggested the parish do something to fundraise for SSAFA. Chair Waller suggested approaching the Church to see if they would do a service and the Village Hall Committee to ask if they would like to take the lead organising an event such as a Parish Coffee Morning. Councillor Wells further suggested that the local cadet force and schools could get involved.

RESOLVED: Chair Waller would draft a letter to the Church and Village Hall Committee to suggest aforementioned ideas. The Clerk will then send the letter.

- ii. To agree any further action to be taken following a response to a letter sent by the council regarding plastic pollution and agricultural waste on Pitcombe Hill.

The council had received no written response, but the owner of the farm attended the last parish meeting and voiced his reply when the meeting had closed. This response did not quell the council's concerns regarding plastic pollution. The council discussed the possibilities of contacting either the farmer's mediation service or the environment agency. The councillors found this a difficult decision as it wants to support farming and appreciates the hard work farmers undertake, but do not want to see plastic pollution. The transportation of bedding straw before burning was also still a concern.

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ACTION: The Clerk was asked to research the contacts and process for reporting concerns to both the farmers mediation service and the environment agency. The matter will then be discussed at the next meeting and the appropriate action will be decided upon by the council.

9. Items for report and for the next agenda

- i. Chair Waller had been approached by a resident who had raised concerns regarding overgrown hedges on Nettlecombe Lane. This will be added to the next agenda for discussion.

10. Date of the next Parish Council meeting: 14th January 2020 at 7.30pm

The meeting closed at: 20:27

Signed:

Date: