

Pitcombe Parish Council

Minutes of a meeting of Pitcombe Parish Council held on Tuesday 12th November 2019.

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

Clerk: Holly Callow

Also present: Councillor R. Bastable

There were 8 members of the public present at the start of the meeting.

Public session opened at: 19:30

A member of the public stated that they were pleased that the council is considering refurbishing the fingerposts.

A member of the public told the council that they were planning on submitting a planning application for 8 units on a farm in Pitcombe. The owner of the farm was also present and explained that they needed to invest in some of the buildings on the farm, some of which are over 40 years old. They would like to relocate the buildings due to the current distance between the food storage sheds and the cattle. The traffic between the buildings is deteriorating the lanes and does not make for efficient working practices. They would therefore like to demolish the current food storage buildings and relocate them closer to the cattle. The further benefit of this would be that the buildings would be more secure as they would be further away from the road, meaning there would be less chance of cattle and machinery theft. The aforementioned 8 units would be built on the site of the current food storage buildings.

There was a general discussion during which members of public voiced their concerns and discussed the appeal APP/R3325/C/18/3219307 to be considered by the council during the meeting, the consensus was that the appeal was not supported.

Public session closed at: 19:45

The meeting opened at: 19:45

1. **Apologies:** Councillor Anna Groskop and PCSO Tim Russell.
2. **Declarations of any Interest:** None
3. **To approve the minutes of the Parish Council meetings held on 1st October and 8th October 2019.**

RESOLVED: It was proposed and unanimously agreed to approve the minutes as presented withstanding a change of the use of word 'farm' to 'dairy unit' in the open public session on minutes dated 8th October. Councillor Robin Bastable also asked for the last line of 4 ii to be removed from minutes of 8th October as this was not a correct account.

4. **To receive reports from**
 - i County Councillor. Anna Groskop has sent her apologies. .
 - ii District Councillor Robin Bastable reported that the planning department were trying to recruit more staff as there was a shortage of qualified officers.
 - iii PCSO Tim Russell had sent his apologies but sent a report stating that there were no reported crimes since the beginning of October but that patrols are continuing. Crime continued to be mainly opportunistic tool and small machinery theft, the recommendation was to keep property locked and secure.
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) **19/02560/FUL**– Erection of a single storey glasshouse on north east elevation of laundry house at Hadspen House

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

- b) **19/02624/HOU** - Erection of single storey extension to side/rear with raised terrace. Proposed loft conversion with new dormer windows on Cole Road, Bruton.

There was a discussion regarding the size of the property and the position of the property, it being set back from the road. There had been no objections from neighbours and the property was not in a conservation area.

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

- iii Other planning matters:
 - a) To note receipt of appeal **APP/R3325/C/18/3219307** and for the council to agree a response

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The council expressed their disappointment that this appeal has not been communicated to either the council or to the local neighbours. There was a discussion regarding the appeal and the general opinion of the council was that they did not support it. There was further discussion relating to the original planning application and that the applicant has not carried out the instructions of the enforcement notice. Chair Waller suggested that the council would make a representation to the authority in response of the appeal and all were in agreement. It was decided that the response would address three specific points including 1. That the Council's comments of the original application still stand. 2. That breaches have been made by the applicant. 3. That there are ongoing concerns for the grounds of the appeal.

RESOLVED: It was proposed and unanimously agreed that Chair Waller would draft a letter to encompass the above three points and circulate the letter to all Councillors before sending to the planning officer.

- iv Temporary Road Closures:
 - a) Hadspen to Cole. Proceeding along Hadspen to Cole from the junction with Nettlecombe Hill, northwards for a distance of 220 metres. Works are expected to commence 20th November and last 3 days.

Noted.

- v Path Diversions – None

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

None to report.

7. Finance.

- i. To review the Budget vs Spend sheet.

ACTION: The Clerk is to remove the 'May 19 Election' line as it is no longer in use.

- ii. To approve the cash book and bank reconciliation for September 2019. The cash book and bank reconciliation were checked by Councillor Currie.

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

- iii. To consider appointing Tim Light as the internal auditor for 2019-20 without seeking further quotes, to ensure continuity for the new Clerk when dealing with her first Annual Governance and Accountability Return.

RESOLVED: It was proposed and unanimously agreed to appoint Tim Light as the internal auditor for 2019-20.

- iv. To consider the draft budget for 2020-21 and agree any amendments required

It was agreed that the council would revisit the budget once quotes for the fingerpost refurbishment had been obtained.

ACTION: The Clerk is to add the Budget to the next agenda.

20:34: 5 members of the public left.

- v. To approve payments of:

Holly Callow	Salary October 2019	£220.13
Holly Callow	Expenses October 2019	£27.86
SALC	Clerk Training x 2 and Councillor Essential Training x 1	£85.00
Viking Direct	Printer ink, paper, mouse, mouse mat and post it notes	£49.39

The Clerk made the council aware that she had made a mistake and not included the VAT in the cost of the Viking invoice, bringing the total to £59.27.

RESOLVED: It was proposed and unanimously agreed to approve the payments with the addition of the VAT on the Viking invoice and that Councillors Waller and Donald would sign the cheques.

8. Council Matters:

i To hear an update from Councillor Wells regarding contact with local schools on environmental issues. Councillor Wells attended a meeting with Sunnyhill School, as it is a very busy term they would like to help but will do so next term. Councillor Wells is awaiting a response from Sexey's School. It was **agreed** that this matter would be deferred to an early 2020 meeting once the new school term has commenced.

ii To hear an update on the site visit to Pitcombe Hill (RW) Chair Waller reported that the meeting with John Nicholson (JN) had taken place during which councillors expressed concerns covered in 5 iii b on the minutes dated 10.09.19. JN expressed surprise at the use of Ridge Lane, but was not

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displeased that it was being maintained. JN said he would research any history of the use of the road and contact the resident who is using it to discuss said use. Chair Waller surmised that the Council has now drawn these matters to the attention of highways and it was **agreed** that the matter could be revisited in a few months once JN has had responded.

- iii To consider any quotes obtained by Councillor Donahue and compare with a quote previously received from The Newt regarding the remaining fingerposts to be refurbished.

Councillor Donahue has spoken to Shepton Montague Council regarding their fingerpost refurbishment which they are doing themselves. They have reported that it is hard work, but more cost efficient. Anyone working on the posts would need to hold chapter 8 training. A discussion was held regarding the benefits and disadvantages of completing the work as a council, versus outsourcing the work. Chair Waller will write a piece in the Pitcombe news to gauge public perception. The council **agreed** that they would like to refurbish the fingerposts in principle, but that the decision is dependent on costs and availability.

ACTION: It was proposed and unanimously agreed that Councillor Wells would obtain three quotes for the refurbishment of the fingerposts.

- iv To discuss provision of internet as a community resource at the Village Hall (RC)
Councillor Currie had attended a Village Hall Committee meeting and fed back that it would be useful to have wi-fi and boosters for local residents in the village hall. There was a discussion regarding whether this would benefit the Parish or just the village hall users.

ACTION: Councillor Currie will complete further research and present it at the next meeting.

- v Following an email from a resident, to discuss the possibility, cost and legal requirements of a safety traffic mirror to enhance vision at the junction of Sunny Hill Road and Old Station Lane.
Councillor Wells had previous experience of these matters and told the council that highways do not generally support mirrors due to the dangers posed such as light reflection. He further commented that they can only be erected on private property; highways will hold the erector responsible for any accidents it may cause.

RESOLVED: It was proposed and unanimously agreed that the council cannot support this due to the lack of support from highways. Chair Waller would respond to the resident and inform them of the council's decision.

- vi To discuss plans for the 75th anniversary of VE Day in response to an email from SSAFA, The Armed Forces charity.
The council discussed the importance of the date and believe that something should be done to commemorate it. Chair Waller will present the idea in the Pitcombe News and see what the general opinion is. It was **agreed** that this would be deferred to the next meeting.

9. Items for report and for the next agenda

None

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

Meeting closed at 21.07

Date:

Signed: