

Pitcombe Parish Council

Minutes of a Pitcombe Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 14th January 2020.

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

Clerk: Holly Callow

No members of the public were present.

The meeting opened at: 19:32

1. **Apologies:** Councillors Anna Groskop and Robin Bastable and PCSO Tim Russell.
2. **Declarations of any Interest:** None
3. **To approve the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 10th December 2019.**

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

4. To receive reports from

- i County Councillor Anna Groskop had sent her apologies.
- ii District Councillor Robin Bastable had sent his apologies.
- iii PCSO Tim Russell had sent his apologies and provided a report stating there had been one theft during December and January. There was a discussion regarding a stolen and abandoned van at Grove Cross over the Christmas period and the Clerk was instructed to contact PCSO Tim Russell to ask whether this was the theft which had been reported.

ACTION: The Clerk was asked to email PCSO Tim Russell regarding the abandoned van at Grove Cross and to ask for more details of the one theft included on the report.

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

- i Outcomes of applications considered at previous meetings:
 - a) SCC/3650/2019 - Infill of disused slurry lagoon with inert waste at Pitcombe Hill, BA10 0PF. **Application Approved.**

Noted.

- ii New Planning Applications:

- a) **19/03319/S73** - Application to remove condition 1 (agricultural tie) of planning approval 8558 dated 29/04/1950 at 4 Grove Mead, Castle Cary, BA7 7NH

Chair Waller drew the Councillor's attention to the fact that the council had agreed to the removal of an agricultural tie on a previous application, suggesting that this set a precedent. Councillor Groom stated that within the application the lawyers had suggested the tie should be removed, there was some discussion regarding the process of removing an agricultural tie.

RESOLVED: It was proposed and unanimously agreed that the council recommend approval of this application.

- b) **19/03396/FUL** - Erection of single storey timber building to provide storage and charging facility for electric buggies and bicycles, following localised adjustment to land levels at Land Adjacent Shatwell House, Shatwell Lane, Yarlinton, Wincanton, BA9 8DL

The council commented that no resident had objected to this application and as such, they had no objections.

RESOLVED: It was proposed and unanimously agreed that the council recommend approval of this application.

- c) **19/03285/LBC** - The erection of a single storey glazed extension to Threshing Barn to provide enlarged hotel reception area at Shatwell House, Shatwell Lane, Yarlinton, Wincanton, BA9 8DL

The council commented that no resident had objected to this application and as such, they had no objections.

RESOLVED: It was proposed and unanimously agreed that the council recommend approval of this application.

- d) **19/03284/FUL** - The erection of a single storey glazed extension to Threshing Barn to provide enlarged hotel reception area at Shatwell House, Shatwell Lane, Yarlinton, Wincanton, BA9 8DL

The council commented that no resident had objected to this application and as such, they had no objections.

RESOLVED: It was proposed and unanimously agreed that the council recommend approval of this application.

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

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- v Path Diversions: None to report.

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

None to report.

7. Finance.

- i. To review the Budget vs Spend sheet.

The council noted that two grants have been requested this month. It was also noted that the website costs have been taken this month.

- ii. To approve the cash book and bank reconciliation for November 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 December 2019	£169.53
Holly Callow	Expenses December 2019	£19.63
HMRC	Income Tax RE H Callow December 2019	£50.60
Milborne Port Computers	Domain Charges	£114.00
SALC	Councillor Training	£60.00
Parochial Church of Pitcombe	2019-20 Grant	£1,000.00
Friends of Castle Cary Library	2020-21 Grant	£100.00

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

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

Councillor Wells informed the council that at the last meeting he had reported that the council were only responsible for one full refurbishment and two partial refurbishments which involved replacing individual finials. The quotes had not yet been received and the matter would be deferred to the next meeting.

ACTION: The Clerk was asked to add this matter to next agenda once three quotes had been received.

It was agreed to take item 8 ii at this point.

- v. To note that interest rates will be reducing from 0.2% to 0.1% on the Barclays Business Savings account from January 2020.

Noted.

- vi. To finalise the Draft Budget for 2020-2021.

It was **agreed** that fingerpost signs cost would be taken from reserves and that the precept request would not increase from 2019-2020.

Councillors requested more explanation regarding the reserves section at the bottom of the budget spreadsheet.

ACTION: The Clerk will email councillors with an explanation of the figures included in reserves on the budget spreadsheet.

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.

Chair Waller explained this has been deferred until all Councillors were present to discuss at the January meeting. Chair Waller had contacted the Church and Village Hall Committee to ask if they would like to organise any events. Councillor Currie reported that there would be a Village Hall Committee meeting taking place on 15th January, and that the discussion would be fed back to the council. There was some discussion regarding the type of events which could take place, and whether it was appropriate for the council to organise them. It was noted that other local council's were not organising any events. Councillor Groom commented that it would be nice for the community to organise something but does not believe that the council should be involved, the feeling was echoed by other councillors.

RESOLVED: The council had passed this matter to community groups and noted that they would be happy to support and assist as required.

- ii. To consider the refurbishment of footpath signs as well as highway fingerpost signs.

Councillor Wells informed the council that SSDC is responsible for the maintenance of footpath signs; he had a contact for

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the footpaths warden and was happy to handle this matter.

ACTION: Councillor Wells will report the diminished state of the footpath signs to SSDC.

- iii To discuss concerns raised by a resident regarding overgrown hedges on Nettlecombe Lane and agree any action.

ACTION: Councillor Wells will report this to SSDC.

- iv To discuss hedge cutting plans for 2020.

Chair Waller proposed that two verge cuts should take place, one in spring and one in late autumn. There was some discussion regarding the variance in rates at which hedges and verges can grow dependant on weather and conditions.

RESOLVED: It was proposed and unanimously agreed that hedge and verge cutting will take place in accordance with guidance, and that the decision for the cuts to be made can be decided by the Chairman outside of council meetings.

- v To discuss the stile on the footpath at the entrance below Old Station Lane towards Cole.

ACTION: It was agreed that this matter would be deferred until the next meeting when a related matter would be discussed.

- vi To discuss an email received from SALC regarding an allocation of Buckingham Palace Garden Party tickets for former Chairmen, and to decide whether to provide nominations.

Councillors **agreed** that John Knight be nominated.

ACTION: Chair Waller will ask John Knight if he is available, if so the Clerk will send the nomination.

- vii 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 discussed the fact that there is still plastic pollution on the hill. Councillor Wells had met with the farmer and seen his licences. The farmer had moved the plastic wrapped bales to a barn for unwrapping in the hope of containing the plastic, however new plastic pollution had been sighted on the 14th January. The council discussed the fact that they had not received a written response to the letter that was sent. It was suggested that the council write to the farmer again and ask that he responds in writing before the next council meeting.

ACTION: The Clerk was asked to write a letter asking for a written response before the next meeting.

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.

- To consider the situation in respect of the diverted footpath from Cole Lane to Pitcombe Village.
- To discuss the local Neighbourhood Watch scheme.

10. Date of the next Parish Council meeting: 11th February 2020 at 7.30pm

The meeting closed at: 21:08

Signed:

Dated: