

Pitcombe Parish Council

Minutes of a Pitcombe Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 9th June 2020 via Zoom.

Present: Chair R. Waller, Councillors M.Groom, C. Donald, R. Currie

Clerk: Holly Callow

Also Present: Councillors R. Bastable and A. Groskop

There were 2 members of the public present at the start of the meeting.

The public session opened at: 19:31

A member of the public wanted to make the Council aware that a Parish resident had been parking dangerously on a verge, had erected an illegal mirror and had Ragwort weed growing on their land which was spreading into other people's land and causing concern due to the effect the weed can have on horses if consumed.

A third member of public joined at 19:36

A second member of the public wished to note their concern regarding the lime trees which had recently been felled. They also wanted to raise concerns regarding APP/R3325/C/18/3219307. Chair Waller informed the public that both topics were on the agenda.

A fourth member of the public joined at 19:38

The public session closed, and the meeting formally opened at: 19:43

1. **Apologies:** PCSO T. Russell and Councillors L. Donahue and A. Wells had sent apologies.
2. **Declarations of Interest:** None declared
3. **To approve the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 12th May 2020.**

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 'r' number in Somerset had increased from 0.6/0.7 to 1 due to the Covid-19 outbreak at Weston Super Mare Hospital. Councillor Groskop was due to attend a Unitary Authority meeting and would report back to the Council.
- ii District Councillor Robin Bastable reported that Simon Fox from the SSDC planning department had presented on a new system for validating planning applications. SSDC planned to implement the new system by early July and hoped it would make the process simpler for both SSDC and local councils as applications would be received as soon as they had been validated. There was also a new document regarding enforcement protocols, the aim was to respond to any enforcement within 35 days. If the new processes worked as planned, Councillor Bastable believed it would be a great improvement. The one concern was that the person working in enforcement was due to leave around July and at the time SSDC were not planning to replace him which could cause problems for local councils.

It was **agreed** to take item 5 b at this point as Councillor Bastable could report fully on the situation.

APP/R3325/C/18/3219307 The enforcement notice had been quashed by the appeal inspector. The appeal inspector had agreed with the enforcement notice but there was a problem with the wording as it did not fully cover what he viewed when he visited the site, so he had no choice but to quash it. However SSDC fully intended to re issue the enforcement notice with the correct wording which should result in no room for error or further appeal. Councillor Bastable suggested that the Council should write to the enforcement officer to ask for a progress report and request that the matter was resolved and also include the concerns regarding the cars parked on the verge. Councillor Bastable also planned to contact SSDC regarding this matter and ask for a progress report.

ACTION: The Clerk was asked to send an email to SSDC asking for a progress update and voicing concerns regarding the use of the verge for parking. The Clerk was asked to send a second email reporting the presence of Ragwort.

Meeting adjourned at 20:05 as Zoom meeting time ran out

Meeting resumed at 20:13

- iii PCSO Tim Russell had sent his apologies and provided a report.

Councillor Groom commented that the trend graph had no timeline so was not particularly useful. At one point 6 crimes had been recorded but the council had not had sight of that specific report. Councillor Currie reported that a car had been vandalised near Sunnyhill.

The council discussed views on the usefulness of the police report. Chair Waller suggested the council write to the police to inform them that it did not understand the report and had not seen the PCSO for a year, The council wished to politely request that a police representative attend the next meeting and explain the report.

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ACTION: The Clerk was requested to send an email to the Inspector in Wincanton.

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

- i Outcomes of applications considered at previous meetings:
 - a) **19/02827/FUL** - Construction of polytunnel, stationing of 3 further containers for storage purposes and stationing of mobile home for accommodating seasonal workers at Grove Cross Barn, Cary Hill, Castle Cary, BA7 7NU - **Application Permitted with Conditions**

Noted

- b) APP/R3325/C/18/3219307 - APPEAL BY: Mr T Palmer SITE AT: Land at Old Embankment, Mill Lane, Pitcombe, Bruton

Discussed during item 4iii

- ii. New Planning Applications:
 - a) **20/01357/FUL** - The erection of new butchery/charcuterie, food storage/delivery and workshop buildings (Use Classes B2/B8), erection of new warehouse/office building (Use Classes B8/B1) and associated access and landscape works at Land Adjoining Tor View Farm Galhampton Hill Galhampton Yeovil Somerset

Councillor Donald informed the council that this was a brownfield site and in the neighbouring Parish of North Cadbury. Councillor Groskop suggested that the plans may cause an increase in traffic to the site further resulting in an increase traffic at the crossroads of the A371 and A359.

RESOLVED: The Council had no objections to the application itself but would like to express concerns regarding the possible increase of traffic causing more danger at the crossroads of the A371 and A359.

- b) **20/01503/HOU & 20/01504/LBC** - Demolition of single storey rear lean-to extension and erection of single storey rear and side extensions to dwelling; associated internal alterations; associated landscape works, including new access route and parking at Hadspen Lodge Hadspen Estate Hadspen Castle Cary BA7 7NG

RESOLVED: It was proposed and unanimously agreed that the council had no objections to this application

- c) **20/01438/FUL** - The erection of a new agricultural building to house cattle and store hay and straw at Land Pitcombe Hill Pitcombe Bruton Somerset

The majority of councillors had no objection to moving the barn, although some concerns were expressed about what would then be stored at the bottom of the hill and the possible unsightliness of this. Councillors discussed possible landscaping so that the new barn would not spoil the landscape. The council would like to request any existing treeline is preserved.

RESOLVED: It was proposed and unanimously agreed that the council had no objections to this application, however the council would like to request that any existing treeline is preserved.

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

Noted.

- ii. To approve the cash book and bank reconciliation for April 2020.

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

- iii. To approve payments of:

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|----------------|---------------------------------|---------|
| Holly Callow | Salary May 2020 | £199.13 |
| Holly Callow | Expenses May 2020 | £12.46 |
| HMRC | Income Tax RE H Callow May 2020 | £21.00 |
| Came & Company | Insurance 2020-21 | £218.00 |

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

iv. To note receipt of the precept (£6848).
Noted.

8. Council Matters:

i To hear an update regarding 'Bruton's Safer Walking and Cycling Group' (LD)
It was **agreed** to defer this matter to the next meeting when Councillor Donahue would be present.

ii To consider whether any further action is required regarding the TPO at Rodbards Barn.
Chair Waller summarised the events which had taken place. TPOs had been secured on remaining trees following some felling and the landowner had been made aware of this via email and telephone conversations from both the council and the Tree Protection Service. The landowner had further been advised that any further felling would be unacceptable and the felling which had previously taken place may have breached regulations. Councillor Currie had reported the matter to the Forestry Commission and it was under investigation, he informed the council that the remaining tree stumps and wood that had been cut down could not be removed from the site under the TPO. Councillor Currie also voiced concerns regarding the unsafe use of machinery and tools near a public bridleway.
Councillor Groskop said that it was worth considering asking the landowner to replant trees once the forestry commission had reached an outcome.
It was suggested that the council follow up the complaint Councillor Currie had made to the Forestry Commission as this had not been made in his official role as a member of the council.

RESOLVED: Councillor Currie was asked to send the relevant information to the Clerk so she could email the Forestry Commission noting that the council formally support the investigation.

iii To consider conducting a survey of trees in the Parish to discover which are already subject to TPO.
Councillor Donald volunteered to conduct a survey and investigate the requirements for TPOs. Councillor Groom reported that there were very few TPOs in place in the Parish, he suggested getting some advice from the Forestry Commission or the Tree Officer at SSDC as to the best process of investigation. Councillor Currie reported that a member of the public used to be a part of a local tree organisation which could perhaps be reinstated.

ACTION: Councillor Donald was asked to liaise with the Tree Officer at SSDC and discover what course of action could be taken to protect more trees in the future and report back at the next meeting.

iv To approve the action required to implement the previous in principle decision to redirect the footpath at Cole Manor to its original course.
Chair Waller reported that the footpath had always officially continued its original course and that the diversion had never been official. The landowner should be informed that they had the obligation to maintain the diversion which is currently in an unsafe state of repair and so it would make sense to resume the original footpath. Councillors Donald and Groom suggested writing to the estate agents as the property was on the market.

ACTION: The Clerk was instructed to write to the landowners to advise them firstly that the original footpath had not been permanently diverted and the Council would like to reinstate the signage, and secondly that they held the responsibility of maintaining the steps on the diverted path. The Clerk was also asked to email the estate agents to ask them to amend the particulars as they were incorrect in relation to the position of the footpath.

Chair Waller reported that many footpath signs in the Parish had been knocked down by vehicles and Eve Wyn was happy to reinstate any such signs. The Council were asked to investigate any absent signs and report them to the Clerk. The same request would also be included in the Pitcombe News. Councillor Currie raised the issue of way posts, and it was agreed that these would also be investigated.

9. Items for report and for the next agenda

- Councillor Groom requested that the issue of flytipping was added to the next agenda and to the Pitcombe News.
- To discuss whether the meeting in September will be held virtually or in person.

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

The meeting closed at 21:05

Signed:

Date: