

Pitcombe Parish Council

Minutes of a Pitcombe Parish Council Remote Meeting held on Tuesday 10th November 2020 via Zoom.

Present: Councillors Waller (Chair), Currie and Donald.

Also present: District Councillor Robin Bastable (from 20:04)

Clerk: Zöe Godden

There was one member of the public present at the start of the meeting.

19:32 – The Chair allowed a public open session

A member of the public reported that nature cameras had been located on land behind her property and was concerned that their property was being videoed. The Chair advised the member of the public to contact a solicitor for expert advice.

19:34 - One member of the public joined the meeting.

The Chair welcomed the additional member of the public and explained what had happened so far in the meeting.

19:37 – The Chair brought the public open session to a close.

The meeting started at 19:37.

- 1. Apologies:** Apologies had been received from Councillors Donahue and Groom, District Councillor Robin Bastable and PCSO Tim Russell.
- 2. Declarations of Interest:** There were no declarations of interest.
- 3. To approve the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 13th October 2020.**

**RESOLVED: It was proposed and agreed to approve the minutes as presented.
Two votes for; one abstention.**

4. To consider candidates for co-option to the one Parish Councillor vacancy.

The Clerk reported that there had been one application for the Parish Councillor vacancy from Mr Michael Fysh and that a statement of eligibility had been satisfactorily completed. The Chair explained that a Councillor needed to nominate Mr Fysh, after which, Councillors would vote to either co-opt Mr Fysh or not.

My Fysh was nominated by Councillor Currie and seconded by Councillor Donald.

RESOLVED: It was unanimously agreed to co-opt Mr Fysh to the Parish Council.

Councillor Fysh would sign a declaration of acceptance of office form at a later time. Councillor Fysh participated in the meeting as a Councillor from this point forward.

5. To receive reports from

- i County Councillor Anna Groskop** was not present.
- ii District Councillor Robin Bastable** had sent his apologies.
- iii PCSO Tim Russell** had sent his apologies and provided a report, which is attached to these minutes.

The Clerk was instructed to contact PCSO Russell to express the Council's concern at the ongoing thefts in the Parish and to ask what steps were being taken to tackle this problem.

Action Parish Clerk

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

i Outcomes of applications considered at previous meetings:

- a) **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 – **Granted with conditions**

Noted.

- b) **20/02026/COL** - Application for a Lawful Development Certificate for the existing use of land as residential garden; the stationing of a shepherd hut within the garden; and a residential outbuilding at Land Adjacent Rockville Pitcombe Rock Pitcombe Bruton Somerset BA10 0NY – **Granted with conditions**

Noted.

- c) **20/02503/FUL & 20/02504/LBC** - Demolition of single storey rear lean-to extension and erection of single storey rear and side extensions; associated internal alterations; associated landscape works, including new access route and parking; use of building as short-stay guest accommodation (revised proposal following approval of 20/01503/HOU and 20/01504/LBC) at Hadspen Lodge Hadspen Estate Hadspen Castle Cary BA7 7NG – **Granted with conditions**

Noted.

- ii. New Planning Applications: **20/03086/TPO** - Application to carry out Tree Surgery works to No 1 Tree show as T3 within South Somerset District Council (PITC 1) 2007 Tree Preservation Order at The Manor House, Cole, Bruton

RESOLVED: It was proposed and unanimously agreed that the Parish Council has no objections to this application and is happy that the SSDC Tree Officer has the expertise to make the correct decision.

iii. Other planning matters:

- a) To follow up on issues on Land at the Embankment and agree any action to be taken.

The Chair noted that the most recent email from SSDC stated that a planning application had been received for the site and was going through SSDC's validation process.

20:04 – District Councillor Robin Bastable joined the meeting.

Councillors discussed the situation.

20:07 – The Chair allowed a public open session.

A member of the public reported that vehicles were being parked on the junction opposite the site while the owners tended their animals each day. It was felt that this was dangerous because the parked vehicles impaired visibility for drivers using the junction. There was concern that, if the livestock were moved to the other end of the site, vehicles would be parked in a dangerous manner at this location.

20:08 – The Chair brought the public open session to a close.

Councillors acknowledged the issues at the site and considered whether to take any action but **agreed** to wait to receive the planning application.

b) To note information received from SSDC on the key planning issue of Phosphates.

Noted. The Chair explained that and planning applications that might increase the amount of phosphates into water courses would have to address this risk. This would be especially relevant for large housing developments or applications that would lead to a significant increase in the number of livestock on a site.

c) To note that SSDC is now able to demonstrate a six-year housing land supply.

Noted. District Councillor Bastable explained that the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) stated that, without the ability to demonstrate a five-year housing land supply, there was a presumption in favour of development, meaning that developers did not have to meet many of the other requirements of the NPPF. Following a review, SSDC was now able to show that adequate land had been identified to accommodate the predicted increase in population numbers for the coming five years.

iv. Temporary Road Closures: None to report

v. Highways:

a) To note a report of a road accident on the A371 at Grove Farm and agree any action to be taken.

The Chair reported that the recent accident had been serious and resulted in a telegraph pole being knocked down. The Chair had raised this with County Highways but had not received a response. The Clerk was instructed to contact County Highways again to request a response.

Action Parish Clerk

b) To note that County Highways will be making improvements to the A359/Redlynch Road junction.

Noted.

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

There were no additional reports.

8. Finance.

i. To consider a draft budget for 2021-22 and agree any changes required.

Councillors noted the draft budget. No changes were suggested. The Chair said that the budget should be approved at the December meeting and instructed the Clerk to contact all Councillors to ask them to ensure they attended the meeting in December if they had any comments to make.

Action Parish Clerk

ii. To review the Budget vs Spend sheet.

Noted.

iii. To approve the cash book and bank reconciliation for October 2020.

The Chair explained that the Clerk had not received the bank statements, despite the bank having been informed of the change of Clerk. It was **agreed** to defer this matter to the next meeting.

iv. To approve payments the following payments and agree two Councillors to sign cheques:

Hoblake Services	Locum Clerk work to 29 th October 2020	£149.41
SALC	Responding to Planning Applications training (RW)	£25.00
St Leonards PCC	Grant 2020/21	£1000.00

RESOLVED: It was proposed and unanimously agreed to approve the payments as presented. Cheques would be signed at a later date by Councillors Donald and Waller.

Action Cllrs Donald and Waller

The Clerk was instructed to deliver the cheque book and invoices to Councillor Waller's house the following day.

Action Parish Clerk

9. Council Matters:

- i To consider approving the following new policies: Health and Safety and Expenses; to consider re-adoption of the current Sick Absence policy.

The Chair explained that these three policies were referenced in the Clerk's contract of employment.

RESOLVED It was proposed and unanimously agreed to adopt the new Health and Safety and Expenses policies and to re-adopt the Sick Absence policy as presented.

Action Parish Clerk

- ii To nominate a councillor(s) to respond to a consultation on Standards in Public Life. Councillors noted the opportunity to make comments but **agreed** that they did not wish to comment at this time.

10. 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.

The Clerk was instructed to add the following matters to the December agenda:

- To consider how to deal with the deteriorating condition of the bridge in Pitcombe.
- To note receipt of a file from the previous Chair of the Floodwatch Group and consider any action to be taken.

11. Date of the next Parish Council meeting: 8th December 2020 at 7.30pm

The meeting ended at 20:54.

Zöe Godden

Zöe Godden
Parish Clerk
12 November 2020