

Pitcombe Parish Council

Minutes of a Pitcombe Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 12th January 2021 via Zoom.

Present: Councillors Waller (Chair), Currie, Donahue, Donald, Fysh (from 20:13), Groom and Wells

Also present: County Councillor Anna Groskop

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 a farm in Bridge Lane was causing light pollution that was causing irreparable damage to plants and animals in the ecosystem. The member of the public further reported the misuse of green lanes, ancient droves and footpaths and suggested that the Parish Council should join an organisation called Gleam. Finally, the member of the public reported that pigs being kept on land at Mill Lane were causing unpleasant smells as well as waste and pest issues, and asked the Parish Council to help with this because it was understood that pigs should be kept 400m from neighbouring properties.

Regarding the light pollution, the Clerk was instructed to write to the landowner to remind them that lighting was supposed to be limited to the times the milking parlour was in use only and also to report the issue to SSDC.

(Action Parish Clerk)

It was **agreed** that Councillor Donahue would look for more information on Gleam and report back to the next meeting.

(Action Cllr Donahue)

The Chair said the issue of pigs on land at Mill Lane would be dealt with at agenda item 6 i).

19:49 – The Chair brought the public open session to a close.

The meeting started at 19:49.

1. To consider disregarding section 85 of the Local Government Act 1972, to enable retrospective approval of apologies from Councillor Wells due to increased workload as a result of the CV-19 situation.

It was **agreed** to defer this matter and to instruct the Clerk to contact SSDC's Monitoring Officer to ask if there was a route around the usual casual vacancy process due to the current CV-19 crisis. Councillor Wells confirmed his willingness to continue serving on the council and the consensus among councillors was a desire that he should be able to if possible.

(Action Parish Clerk)

2. Apologies: Apologies had been received from Councillor Fysh and District Councillor Bastable.

3. Declarations of any Interest: There were no declarations of interest.

4. To approve the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 8th December 2020.

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

5. To receive reports from

- i **County Councillor Anna Groskop** reported that she had sent CV-19 updates to the Clerk, which had been forwarded to Parish Councillors. Councillor Groskop that the new variant of the CV-19 virus was more virulent and spread more easily, thereby affecting more people, so it was important to take precautions. Vaccinations had started for those aged 80+. In relation to the matters raised in the public open session, Councillor Groskop said that light

pollution and smells from livestock should be reported to the Environment Agency.

- ii **District Councillor Robin Bastable** had sent his apologies.
- iii **PCSO Tim Russell** was not present.

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

- i Outcomes of applications considered at previous meetings:

20/03450/AGN - Notification of intent to erect a storage building for hay, straw, farm machinery and sheep farming related equipment at Land At Mill Lane Pitcombe Bruton Somerset. – **Declined**

The Chair noted that concerns had been raised locally about changes made to the entrance to the site of this application and that the Clerk had reported this to SSDC via its online reporting form. In relation to the report in the public open session of smells on the site caused by the presence of pigs, the Clerk was instructed to report this to SSDC.

(Action Parish Clerk)

20:13 – Councillor Fysh joined the meeting

20:15 – The member of the public left the meeting.

- ii. To consider the following new planning application:

20/03162/HOU	Erection of a first floor extension to side of dwelling and alterations	4, Grove Mead, Castle Cary BA7 7NH
RESOLVED: It was proposed and unanimously agreed that the Parish Council has no objections to this application.		

- iii. To note that the Clerk has informed SSDC of activity taking place on the site of the declined application 20/03450/AGN.

Noted.

- iv. To note that the Clerk has written to landowners concerning the condition of Nettlecombe Lane and Church Path.

The Clerk was instructed to forward the letter to Eve Wynn at SCC.

(Action Parish Clerk)

- v. Temporary Road Closures: Mill Lane for approximately 60 metres on 20th and 21st January between 08:00 and 17:00.

Noted.

- vi. Highways: To note a complaint from a member of the public regarding inconsiderate parking near The Newt.

The Chair explained that traffic queues had been caused due to the volume of traffic approaching Grove Cross from the direction of Yeovil and that it had been noted that vehicles had parked on the green verges at this location. The Clerk was instructed to write to The Newt to alert them to these problems.

(Action Parish Clerk)

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

20:39 – Councillor Donahue left the meeting.

Councillor Donald reported that a bull was being grazed in a field with a footpath running through it. There was some discussion about the matter and Councillor Donald said she would look into this further.

(Action Cllr Donald)

Councillor Currie reported that he had identified an organisation called The Ancient Monument Society, which would be able to offer advice and assistance in the issue of the condition of the bridge over the River Pitt. Councillor Currie also reported that SCC engineers had visited the bridge. The Clerk was instructed to contact County Highways to ask for an update on any proposed work that they might be considering to improve the condition of the bridge.

(Action Parish Clerk)

RESOLVED: It was proposed and unanimously agreed that Councillor Currie should follow up with The Ancient Monument Society to ask for help.

(Action Cllr Currie)

8. Finance.

- i. To review the Budget vs Spend sheet.

Noted.

- ii. To note that, in line conjunction with the Chairman, the Clerk has temporarily signed up for a Parish Council Zoom account for one month.

Noted.

- iii. To consider paying for a Zoom account, costing £11.99 per month, to be funded from the Village Hall Rental budget.

The Chair noted the NALC national guidelines regarding online meetings. The Clerk confirmed that the Zoom account was set up on a rolling monthly basis, so could be cancelled at any time.

RESOLVED: It was proposed and unanimously agreed to pay for the Parish Council's own Zoom account, to be funded from the Village Hall Rental budget.

- iv. To approve the cash book and bank reconciliation for December 2020. It was **agreed** to defer this matter to the next meeting.

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

Staff	Salary December 2020	£199.82
Staff	Expenses Nov & Dec 2020 & part Jan 2021	£60.24
HMRC	Income tax December 2020	£50.00
Milborne Port Computers	Domain charges (pitcombepc.org.uk)	£120.00

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

9. Council Matters:

- i. To note that Bruton Town Council wishes to involve the Parish Council in its Footpaths Working Group. (CD)

Councillor Donald reported that she had responded to the initial email from Bruton Town Council and would be happy to follow this up.

- ii. To note receipt of information from Somerset County Council on the final One Somerset business case.

Noted.

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.

Nothing was reported and no items were suggested for the next agenda.

11. Date of the next Parish Council meeting: 9th February 2021 at 7.30pm

The meeting ended at 20:58.

Zöe Godden

Zöe Godden
Parish Clerk

DRAFT