

# Pitcombe Parish Council

**Minutes of a Pitcombe Parish Council Meeting to be held on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2021 via Zoom.**

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

**Also present:** District Councillor Robin Bastable and County Councillor Anna Groskop

**Locum Clerk:** Zöe Godden

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

**The meeting started at 19:33.**

The Chair explained that he would allow the member of the public to speak at item 5 ii d.

1. **Apologies:** Apologies had been received from PCSO Tim Russell.
2. **Declarations of Interest:** There were no declarations of interest.
3. **To approve the minutes of the Parish Council meetings held on 12<sup>th</sup> January and 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2021.**

**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 CV-19 numbers had decreased. Those in the 50-60s age group would be vaccinated from May. More vaccination centres were being set up which accounted for fewer numbers at some centres.
- ii **District Councillor Robin Bastable** reported that SSDC was supporting the vaccination programme by seconding staff to assist. Councillor Currie said that he had been told by an officer at SSDC that charges would soon be made for SSDC officers to send emails. Councillor Bastable said he was fairly sure that this was not correct.
- iii PCSO Tim Russell had sent his apologies and provided a report. Councillor Currie proposed that the Parish Council should write to the Police and Crime Commissioner to express concern at the low level of staffing locally and to ask how the increase in the police aspect of the precept had been spent.

**RESOLVED: It was proposed unanimously and agreed that the Chairman would draft a letter to the PCC to ask the above questions.**

*Action Chairman*

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

- i Outcomes of applications considered at previous meetings: None
- ii. To consider the following new planning applications:

	<b>Application number</b>	<b>Proposal</b>	<b>Location</b>
a)	20/03015/HOU	Construction of detached single storey garage/workshop/greenhouse to front of property.	The Hackney Stable Pitcombe Hill Pitcombe Bruton

**RESOLVED: It was proposed and unanimously agreed that the Parish Council has no objections to this application but would like to know if any assessment has been made on the impact the construction would have on the adjacent river.**

b)	20/03089/FUL	Alterations and the erection of extensions and new garage to an existing house and the conversion of a former residential student boarding house to form 7 No. dwellings and associated access and parking.	The Old Vicarage Strutters Hill Pitcombe Bruton
<p>Councillors discussed the application at length. While it was agreed that it would be advantageous for the site to be developed, Councillors felt that the proposal would cause an unacceptable increase in traffic movements. The proposed vehicular access was felt not to offer safe visibility. Concerns were raised over permission needed to use the proposed path and the impact on additional run off of rainwater with an increase to paved surfaces which might exacerbate flooding risks in Pitcombe. Councillors also noted that the design and access statement stated that Pitcombe was part of the Parish of Bruton, meaning that the claim that the additional housing was required to meet targets in the SSDC Local Plan were not accurate because no additional housing was needed in Pitcombe.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b> It was proposed and unanimously agreed that the Parish Council is in favour of the principle of the development of the site but objects to the application on the grounds that it represents over-development of the site, which will lead to an unacceptable increase in traffic and that the sightlines for vehicles exiting the site are not safe enough for traffic accessing this busy stretch of road. The Parish Council expressed concern regarding the footpath as it was not clear whether residents and their visitors would have the legal right to use it without an easement being put in place. Concern was also expressed about the impact of increased rainwater run-off from the site. It was further noted that the number of bedrooms proposed differed in different documents. In addition, point 13.1 in the Planning Design and Access statement refers to housing need in Bruton when, in fact, the site is in the parish of Pitcombe, which is designated as a rural settlement in SSDC's local plan policy SS2 and is therefore subject to much tighter controls than the market town of Bruton.</p>			
c)	20/03567/FUL & 20/03568/LBC	Single storey glazed extension to recently constructed Pool Barn and associated landscape adjustments; addition of single storey lean-to plant room, enclosure to rear service stair, dovecote masonry work to west gable end, and siting of historic cider press with timber shelter	Shatwell House Shatwell Lane Yarlington Wincanton
<p><b>RESOLVED:</b> It was proposed and unanimously agreed that the Parish Council has no objections to this application.</p>			
d)	20/03655/HOU	Proposed two storey rear extension to dwelling.	4 Old Station Lane Pitcombe Bruton BA10 OPT
<p><b>20:13 - The Chair allowed a public open session.</b></p> <p>The applicant reported that the application had been discussed with neighbours. One neighbour had requested that no windows should be installed in the side of the extension that faced their house. There had been no other objections.</p> <p><b>20:14 – The Chair brought the public open session to a close.</b></p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b> It was proposed and unanimously agreed that the Parish Council has no objections to this application.</p> <p><b>20:15 – One member of the public left the meeting.</b></p>			
e)	21/00057/HOU	Proposed link extension. Proposed alterations to existing rear, single storey extension. Proposed dormer windows to rear.	Red House Sunny Hill Pitcombe Bruton BA10 ONN
<p><b>RESOLVED:</b> It was proposed and unanimously agreed that the Parish Council has no objections to this application.</p>			

- iii. To note a response from SSDC regarding the reported breach of planning regulations relating to the shepherd's hut on land rear of Mill Lane Cottage.

**Noted.** SSDC had reported that the shepherds hut had been removed and had closed the case. Councillors thought that the hut remained on the site and would check.

- iv. Temporary Road Closures: Station Road, Bruton for a distance of 40 metres on 1<sup>st</sup> March until 2<sup>nd</sup> March (1 night) between 22:00 and 06:00.

**Noted.**

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

Councillor Donald reported that trees on the steep bank in Lime Kiln Lane were resting on telephone lines and was concerned that the trees and loose earth could slip into the road during wet weather. The Chairman agreed to contact a local resident who might be able to help.

**Action Chairman**

The Chairman reported that he had spoke to SCC's Footpaths Officer about some issues that had been raised locally. She was taking appropriate action and would communicate with a local resident who had raised some of the concerns.

## **7. Finance**

- i. To review the Budget vs Spend sheet.

**Noted.**

- ii. To approve the cash book and bank reconciliation for December 2020 and January 2021. Councillor Currie had checked the bank reconciliations before the meeting and found them to be accurate.

**RESOLVED:** It was proposed and unanimously agreed to approve the cashbook and bank reconciliations as presented. The reconciliations would be signed by the Chair at a later date.

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

Staff	Salary January 2021	£199.82
Staff	Expenses January 2021	£28.99
HMRC	Income tax January 2021	£50.00
Milborne Port Computers	LiveDrive backup annual fee	£48.00

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

**Action Cllrs Groom and Waller**

## **8. Council Matters**

- i. To note that a councillor vacancy has been declared in line with legislation.

**Noted.**

- ii. To hear an update on the condition of the bridge in Pitcombe.

Councillor Currie reported that he had been in touch with SSDC and been advised to contact English Heritage to ask that the bridge is listed. Councillor Currie said that maintenance of the bridge would still fall to SCC even if it was listed but that repairs would have to be made with stone rather than modern materials.

**RESOLVED:** It was proposed and unanimously agreed that Councillor Currie could proceed with the application to have the bridge listed.

iii. To hear an update on Gleam membership.  
Councillor Donahue had researched the comprehensive information on the Gleam website, read some good case studies and spoken to the Chair of the organisation. Gleam was a pressure group working to protect green lanes and bridleways. The website was very useful and members could speak to representatives for advice. Annual membership was £15.

**RESOLVED: It was proposed and unanimously agreed that the Council should join with an annual membership at £15 per year.**

**Action Parish Clerk**

#### **9. Exclusion of Press and Public**

To consider exemption of press and public for the remainder of meeting under Public Bodies Admissions To Meetings Act 1960, Section 1 (2) on the grounds that discussion of the following business is likely to disclose confidential information relating to the engagement of a Parish Clerk.

**RESOLVED: It was proposed and unanimously agreed to exclude the press and public for the remainder of the meeting.**

**20:43 – District Councillor Bastable left the meeting.**

#### **10. Recruitment**

To note that a suitable applicant from the previous round of recruitment has accepted the role of Parish Clerk and to approve their engagement.

**RESOLVED: It was proposed and unanimously agreed that Patrick Pender-Cudlip should be recruited as the new Clerk to the Parish Council.**

#### **11. 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.*

No items were reported.

**12. Date of the next Parish Council meeting: 9<sup>th</sup> March 2021 at 7.30pm**

**The meeting ended 20:50.**

*Zöe Godden*

Zöe Godden  
Parish Clerk