

Pitcombe Parish Council

Minutes of the Pitcombe Parish Council, Meeting held on Tuesday 12th December 2023.

Present: Councillors R. Waller, M Hutton, M Groom, A Hobhouse, Mrs S Fone footpath officer.

In attendance: 3 members of the public and Mrs Tuck, clerk.

The Chairman opened the meeting and Welcomed Cllr Hobhouse to join us as a Councillor. to the public,

2023. 89 Apologies were received from Cllr Harftnell, Cllr Fysh and County Cllr Tom Power.

2023.90 Declaration of Interest – Cllr Hobhouse declared that her husband is a Trustee of Bruton School for Girls and Kings Bruton.

2023.91 Minutes of the last meeting: Minutes of the last meeting were approved.

2023.92 Matters Arising: BSG. The Parish Council's statement was submitted to Mrs Fenton at Bruton School for Girls. The Chairman has had a meeting with the Senior Planning Officer but there is nothing we can do at the moment until such times as the buildings are sold and planning is applied for. The Clerk has applied to List Old House with Historic England, the application number 1488337. Confirmation has been received that the Old railway cutting has an SSI with Somerset Wildlife Trust.

2023.93 To receive reports Cllr Power had emailed to say his report would be out later in the week.

2023.94 Floods, Lucie Reader - Lucie's experience with flooding is mainly with Pitcombe, she has attended a number of the flood meetings and has sent around her notes from these. The Rotary Club had a workshop and they have flood packs – modern day sand bags which they will supply to Parish Councils in exchange for a donation of £40 for the Council to distribute where needed, there are various different bundles available. This is a Somerset wide project. There were 4 houses in Pitcombe that flooded and 2/3 in Hadspen. Lucie will get a link with The Rotary Club. The environment agency will have a workshop on Community Telemetry and a discussion took place as to where a solar powered warning kit would be fitted and who would pay for the data cloud. The EA would identify suitable places where the gauge would work they liaise with landowners but look for public property first. Lucie had supplied photos/stories to flooding@somerset site. Somerset Rivers Authority have an interactive map. There is a flood working group @LCN and emergency plans are in place. There is a workshop on 8th January at the market house in Castle Cary, MH has the date in his diary. Producing an emergency plan across the whole LCN? Lucie had found a map on Parish Online - which shows land ownership are we part of it?

2023.95 Planning applications, footpaths and road closures.

i. To consider new planning applications

	Application number	Proposal	Location
a)	23/02858/COL	Lawful Development Certificate for the proposed stationing of a mobile home within garden to provide ancillary accommodation. Notification only	Honeywick Honeywick Road Hadspen Castle Cary Somerset BA7 7LP

ii. Update on Planning applications currently under consideration by Local Planning Authority all applications are still awaiting decisions - None advised

iii. Outcome of Planning applications considered at previous meetings: None advised

iv. Footpaths Mrs Fone reported on local footpaths, the lower half of the bridleway has been cleared going up but horse tape is encroaching on the bridleway makes it difficult to pass, an agreement to put the tape in as long as its removed at tenant's expense. The Riding gate won't be put in until the situation is cleared. Martin Jennings has replaced a metal gate along Church path, 1st gate from the Church, 2nd hinge is broken and needs fixing.

Various parishes are employing a lengthsman – could be an LCN employee, a maintenance man, or Parish Steward, where each parish would contribute towards his salary maybe a day, or half a day a

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week and he could do odd jobs for us like repairing the gate hinges cutting back the hedges and other jobs that need doing like clearing upgrowth around gauges on rivers. The map of landowners should be open to the public but isn't can be found via Parish Online.

v. Temporary Road Closures None advised

2023.96 Correspondence

Community Review Project – are we out of time, have we got the resources for it. It has to be in place by the end of 2024. CCS has a survey monkey questionnaire to help write the report – is there any funding towards it. Hot topics like flooding – get organisations in place to help with funding. See note on Community review future plan.

Asset and service devolution Councillors were given the report to study before the next meeting. AH and MH attending briefing. MH view we need more information of what things are going to cost all contracts have a length of time to run we have no idea what we will be expected to pay for. How much would we have to pay for an exercise? How much does it cost to clear a drain, many drains do we need to clear each year? County will be sending more information out soon but full details will not be out until February but the deadlines for setting the precept are strict and need to be applied for in January. Do we need to increase the precept by 1/3 or 1/2? Contact local Parishes to see what they are doing? Shepton Montague are putting precept up from £3,000pa to £6,000 pa. Is there a co-ordinated response from LCN or a recommended sub group of LCN for devolved services. We are paying Council Tax and will get nothing for it, we will have to pay for services that used to be free. Can we cost services we need to use? How much per gully to clear it, how and to repair a pot hole, how much would our share be? RW to contact Scott Weach to enquire.

2023.97 Finance

- a. Cheques for approval PKF Littlejohn, clerks salary and HMRC.
- b. Financial report, Budget v spend – 1st look at precept 2024/25. Councillors were given the budget v spend and this years figures to peruse prior to the next meeting when we need to make a decision.

2023.98 Council Matters:

- a) New Barn at Nettlecombe Hill Farm, also know as land east of Ridge Lane update enforcement reported, acknowledgement received but we are not making any progress.
- b) Civil Contingency response done
- c) Report back from LCN meeting received
- d) Pitcombe Rock Drains to next meeting
- e) Grit Bins – check to next meeting

2023.99 Items for 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.

Pitcombe Rock Drains

Grit Bins - check

2023.100 Date of the next Parish Council Meeting: Tuesday 13th February 2024

The meeting closed at 9:50 pm

Anne Tuck

Clerk - Pitcombe Parish Council clerk@pitcombepc.org.uk