

Pitcombe Parish Council

Minutes of the Pitcombe Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 13th February 2024

Present: Councillors R. Waller, N Hartnell, M Hutton, A Hobhouse, R Shylan

In attendance: 5 Members of the public and Mrs Tuck, clerk.

The Chairman opened the meeting welcomed Cllr Shylan to his first meeting as Councillor and gave the members of the public the opportunity to talk. Residents of Pitcombe were very concerned about more flooding should the BSG site be built upon and requested that the Council contact planning and Kings Bruton to inform them before such times that the school site is sold for building land. Concerns were that should the nursery end be built upon it could cause further water to run down Pitcombe Rock, Water is already coming out of the Old Vic site and flooding the A359 before running down into Pitcombe the drains can't cope. Mitigation was in place to ensure this didn't happen but it has, the flooding and water pouring down Pitcombe Rock has caused significant damage to properties in Pitcombe. Each time it floods the bridge in Pitcombe is becoming weaker, there are 7 dwellings across the bridge and 2 residents over 80 who are vulnerable.

2024.13 Apologies were received from Cllr M Groom, Cllr Lucy Trimmell, Cllr Tom Power, Mrs S Fone,

2024.14 Declaration of Interest – Cllr Hobhouse declared that her husband is on the board of Governors of Kings Bruton and Bruton School for Girls.

2024.15 Minutes of the last meeting: Cllr Hobhouse mentioned that her declaration of interest hadn't been noted, minutes were taken by another Councillor last month as Clerk was sick, will be noted in future. The minutes were approved by Cllr Hobhouse, and seconded by Cllr Hartnell.

2024.16 Matters Arising: Cost of highways repairs was mentioned, we await to hear the answer, Cllrs Waller and Hartnell have checked the grit bins and they are Ok for salt for this year in each location The clerk will update the website, she now has the login and password to enable this to be done.

2024.17 To receive reports: County Councillors report had been emailed by Cllr Power today, and was read out at the meeting and forwarded to Councillors. The local Household Recycling Centre at Dimmer is in threat of closure due to the shortfall in the county budget. Residents and Councillors are asked to sign a petition about this. The Council decided that we should write to our County Councillors and Cllr Henry Hobhouse and copy our MP

2024.18 Planning applications, footpaths and road closures.

i. To consider new planning applications

	Application number	Proposal	Location
a	23/03073/COU	Change of use agricultural land to extend the graveyard	Pitcombe Church, Pitcombe Lane, BA10 0PE
b/ c)	23/03193/LBC 23/03192/FUL	Conversion of disused Mill buildings (part of) to a single dwelling house with staff flat and ancillary use of outbuildings, with associated demolition, alteration, extension, replacement of modern buildings, together with landscape, access and flood	Gants Mill, Gants Mill Lane Bruton Somerset BA10 0DB
d)	24/00080/HOU	Erection of single storey side/rear extension	Rosemount Cole Road Bruton Somerset BA10 0DD

a) With reference to the Graveyard extension Cllr Hartnell has noticed that the surveyors report says Pitcombe Parish Council have commissioned the report, this should read The Parochial Church Council. Clerk to advise. It was decided to support his application.

b/c) Gants Mill, Cllr Waller had already been on a site visit with Cllrs from Bruton Town Council, The architect for this development was a the meeting and talked to Councillors, questions were asked it was unanimously agreed to support his application. Cllr Shylan decided her would like to look at the Mill so the architect agreed the clerk could pass on his telephone number to Cllr Shylan.

d) Rosewood Cole Road, The Council support this application.

ii. Update on Planning applications currently under consideration by Local Planning Authority - None

iii. Outcome of Planning applications considered at previous meetings:

23/02858/COL Honeywick Honeywick Road Hadspen Castle Cary Somerset BA7 7LP Lawful Development Certificate for the proposed stationing of a mobile home within garden to provide ancillary accommodation. **APPROVED**

iv. Footpaths –

v. Temporary Road Closures. ttr0746314S - Galhampton Hill, Castle Cary The works are expected to commence on **6th March 2024** and last for **38 days** to enable **Conemasters Ltd to carry out phased works to install new road over bridge and abutments for new estates on behalf of Beaver Bridges Ltd. Phase 1 - 06th, 08th, 13th, 15th and 20th March 2024 Phase 2 – 22nd and 29th March 2024, and the 05th and 12th April 2024 Road will be open at all other times**

2024.19 Correspondence A371 Cllr Hutton had sent a response but had not had a reply.

2024.20 Finance

- a. Cheques for approval all agreed
- b. Financial report, Budget v spend was given.

2024.21 Council Matters -

- a) Picombe Bridge Whilst the bridge remains a concern its not a high priority to County. The bridge was built in 1687, we heard the passion of the residents about the bridge, should the bridge collapse there are 7 properties affected that will not be able to have access – two of the residents are over 80 years old. Councillors have asked to meet, need to request a date in advance when they are scheduled to come so Councillors can meet with them on site for our understanding. It should be inspected every 2 years but is being inspected more frequently- when was it most recently inspected? Make them aware of the report which has been referred back to Nick Jacklin Lucy picked it up and has gone back to him. Bridges department of highways is liable if the bridge collapses.
- b) LCN Meeting 22nd February Charlton Musgrove Village Hall – 7pm Cllr Waller and Cllr Hutton attended.
- c) Pitcombe Rock Drains, 3 drains in the village have been reported and they have come out 3 times Drains on the Rock are not on the list!, Pitcombe Farm house has been blocked for 12 months, residents are clearing the drains and they are filling up again. the drain at the bottom of the void was going to be removed before covid. The water comes down the hill so fast it goes over the top of the drains. There was a scheme of work 4 years ago. A conversation was held with Paul Ellison of SRA. Need to ask Council the frequency of clearing the drains and gullies in Pitcombe, Hadspen and Cole.
- d) Lengthsman proposal to clean drains and gullies – salary £50,000pa - need to go in with other parishes, they will be covered under the Kier contract so would already be insured. More information next month.
- e) Bruton School for Girls update – Not a great update, Parishioners from Pitcombe were worried about further flooding if the land is built upon and asked if flood mitigation could be written into an advance legal agreement before any sale. Cllr Waller to draft email to John Hammond at Planning Cllr Clerk asked to email Louis Tusson with regard to the video on you tube and mark Robbins email asking about security of the site.
- f) Flood Action update bringing the community together, liaising with other Parishes re a flood action plan, here was a thorough briefing and something will be put in the parish news. Knowle Lane telemetry went into action 2 weeks ago. Cllr Hobhouse spoke of the Hadspen valley, it's been flooded 3 times in 30 years, always in May, unless we meet the trigger point of the number of houses flooded we won't get a response, Hadspen, Pitcombe and Shepton Montague need to get together and maybe they will meet the trigger point. Whatsapp group in Hadspen – talk about how it could help, some people have already cleared the drains few weeks ago. Write a community action plan, landowners have responsibility to keep waterways clear of vegetation. Government

looking at how they can keep insurance in place for flooded properties – The Somerset Prepared newsletter has best practises. Matrix mitigation Lucy in Pitcombe, Annette in Hadspen. A Pitcombe flood action group was started years ago to clear the river over the years. Cllr Hobhouse has gathered a lot of information and would like Councils support – what do the community think? All councillors happy to support Cllr Hobhouse, Tim Cook of Civil Contingencies was writing a report after the meeting held in September. Cllr Hobhouse to chase The Rivers Authority and copy in Lucy Trimnell for support or Nick Toop if not forthcoming.

Cllr Hutton said he met with Lucie at a flood planning meeting in Decemebr. Cllr Hutton had slides and info from that workshop but Cllr Hobhouse had not received them, they came through the LCN network, he also had really good information from Somerset Prepared how to write plans and engage the community.

g)Road Sign to Pitcombe at the bottom of Shutters Hill – PCSO still trying to find out about this.

2024.22 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 meeting closed at 10.10pm

Date of the next Parish Council meeting: Tuesday 12th March 2024 at 7.30pm at Hadspen Village Hall

Please note the date of the April Meeting has been changed from Tuesday 9th to **Tuesday 16th April**, same time, same place.

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