

Pitcombe Parish Council

Minutes of the Pitcombe Parish Council, Meeting held on Tuesday 14th November 2023.

Present: Councillors R. Waller, M Hutton, N Hartnell.

In attendance: County Councillors Lucy Trimnell 12 members of the public and Mrs Tuck, clerk.

The Chairman opened the meeting to the public, there were concerns about Bruton School for Girls Charitable status, about conflict of interests and of Kings School benefiting from the proceeds of the sale. BSG as a separate trust owns land as well. It was felt the trust should have independent directors few people have faith in Kings there's a conflict of interest.

The Chairman announced that there would be a public meeting hosted by Bruton Town Council, Pitcombe Parish Council and with representatives from Kings School on Monday 27th November at 7.30pm in the Bruton Community Hall where people could raise their concerns and ask questions.

A representative of Shepton Montague advised of a flood action group meeting via zoom the following day, Cllr Hutton cannot attend but has contacted the organiser.

Mr M Jennings is concerned about the state of the bridge in Pitcombe following recent floods and heavy rain. He and 6 other people live on the other side of the bridge if it fails Mr Jennings can get out via his tractor but his neighbours will be stuck. We were advised earlier in the year of repairs to the bridge but not given a timescale, Cllr Lucy Trimnell offered to chase the repair of the bridge and enquire about any interim work to be done.

2023.78 Apologies were received from Cllr Groom, Cllr White, Cllr Fysh and County Cllr Tom Power.

2023.79 Declaration of Interest – None

2023.80 Minutes of the last meeting: Were approved but the matters arising to be shortened to bullet points, to be signed at the next meeting.

2023.81 Matters Arising: BSG. There was a meeting on 10th November which Cllr Waller attended on the sale process. If you have points to raise you will still need to put them in writing to Nfenton@brutonschool.co.uk by 4th December. Cllr Waller will represent the Council at the meeting on 27th November^t, other Councillors can attend if they wish. Cllr Waller had sent suggestions to Councillors on how we respond as a Council These were discussed by Councillors and some amendments made to reflect the thoughts of the Councillors, which will be sent to The Trust.

The Clerk has applied to List Old House with Historic England, the application number 1488337. Ref the Old railway cutting we believe it has an SSI with Somerset Wildlife Trust, the clerk has written to enquire but no reply as yet.

Co-option of a new Councillor follows the resignation of Alan Wells. We followed the process and have had 3 applicants. We have consulted democratic services at Somerset Council hoping we could enlist two Councillors but the numbers are based on the number of residents in the Parish, so we are only able to appoint one new Councillor. One of the three had agreed to step down leaving two candidates. One has a business in the area but doesn't live here, the other lives in the area. Councillors decided to offer the position to Mrs A Hobhouse and to write to the other applicant asking to keep his details on file should the need arise to appoint another Councillor in the near future. Clerk to write to both applicants and send Mrs Hobhouse the paperwork she needs to complete.

2023.82 To receive reports Lucy Trimnell, Cllr Power's report not received for this month yet,. There are two main things; LCN meeting 6/12/23 venue to be confirmed. Each Parish has one seat and vote on this council. No Agenda is sent out and its important the Councils are represented.

County Finances are not in a good way. Things to be done to rectify the situation, releasing assets, reduction of services. Ways they may save money is reducing staff, verge cutting, toilets, ditch cleaning, drain jetting, Parish Councils may wish to take on some of these responsibilities. The Chair of Council advises setting the precept more than usual to cover excess costs ie verge cutting, if any over it may be kept on reserves.

2023.83 Planning applications, footpaths and road closures.

i. To consider new planning applications

	Application number	Proposal	Location
a)	23/00968/FUL	Erection of front dormer extensions to 1 and 2 Sunny Hill, installation of new boundary fence between the front gardens of 1 and 2 so that the existing vehicular access will serve only 2 Sunny Hill and installation of one additional vehicular access for 1 Sunny Hill connecting onto the private road adjacent to the southwestern boundary - revised information closing date extended to 15.11.23	Sunny Hill Villas Sunny Hill Pitcombe

The applicant of the above planning permission was at the meeting and explained what they wanted to do. Councillors decided to support this application.

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:

23/01712/ HOU **Honeywick**, Honeywick Road, Pitcombe Bruton Somerset BA7 7LP The erection of a new outbuilding to be used as an art studio and office space. **Application Refused.**

23/02432/TCA Hadspen Cottage, Hadspen Intent to carry out Tree surgery to 2 trees in conservation area. **Permitted.**

iv. Footpaths – very muddy but nothing to report.

v. Temporary Road Closures

tto254840E - SRM - Prestleigh Hill, The works are expected to commence on 27th November 2023 and last for 11 evenings to enable Sir Robert McAlpine to carry out reconstruction of the highway.

2023.84 Correspondence

Community Review Project – deferred until next month.

Asset and service devolution Councillors were given the report to study before the next meeting.

2023.85 Finance

Grants Church £1200, Cat Bus £200 Both these payments were agreed.

Cheques for approval, PKF Littlewood have billed us for admin work regarding at AGAR form this year, Cllr Waller asked the clerk to contact SALC to ask why this has been billed this year and not previously.

Financial report, Budget v spend were handed out, and approved Look at the budget for the precept at the next meeting.

2023.86 Council Matters:

- New Barn at Nettlecombe Hill Farm, also known as land east of Ridge Lane update enforcement reported, acknowledgement received – still no further news. Cllr Power agreed last month to look into this, awaiting his reply.
- Phone box Oliver Quarman, Finiest Finish confirmed his quote would stay the same as previously quoted, however the Council decided to wait until the better weather in the spring to have the phone box painted.
- Dog Bin -street scene chased re emptying and completed a 'report it' on Somerset Council website. They have not replied but the bin has now been emptied.
- The Newt/Emily Estate Planning The Chairman closed the meeting for a discussion with members of the public who had attended and with Mr Rawson of The Newt. When the meeting resumed The Council decided there was no harm in sharing information with other Parishes but we would take each planning application on its own merit. North Cadbury PC have a planning meeting on the 2nd Monday of the month at 2pm on site. Clerks to communicate any applications that come in, especially those relating to The Newt but with no ill intent to the Newt.
- Meeting with PCSO & report on meeting 7th November @Hadspen Hall with Police Commissioner. The meeting with Mya went well outside the Elm Field, with parents parking as usual in front of

her. She will take this up with her superiors.

The meeting with the Police Commissioner was useful but he had no concept of understanding problems in a small rural parish like ours. No opportunity to talk to the beat manager about A371 ran out of time. Cllr Hutton will arrange a meeting on site with John Nicholson to discuss the problems, the new drains have failed as the old ones did and the same will happen again.

f) Civil Contingency response. Lesley Knight emailed and asked for a response in September. How can they support us as a community. Drain clearances – people are checking the drains in Pitcombe but not Pitcombe Rock Drains.

2023.87 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

2023.88 Date of the next Parish Council Meeting: Tuesday 9th January 2024

The meeting closed at 9:15 pm

Anne Tuck

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