

Pitcombe Parish Council

Minutes of the Pitcombe Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 10th September 2024

Present: Councillors R. Waller, M Groom, M Hutton, A Hobhouse, E Craigie, R Shylan

In attendance: 1 Member of the public Somerset Councillor T Power, Mrs Fpne, Footpaths Officer and Mrs Tuck, clerk.

Chairman opened the meeting at 7.30pm

2024.64 Apologies were received from Cllr Neville Hartnell, Somerset Councillor Lucy Trimmell

2024.65 Declaration of Interest – Cllr Hobhouse declared that her husband is on the board of Governors of Kings Bruton and Bruton School for Girls.
Cllr Power declared an interest in the planning item a).

2024.66 Minutes of the last meeting: Approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

2024.67 Matters Arising: Cllr Power asked the clerk to forward the email to him from Cllr Anderton ref LCN Highways meeting. Update on two planning applications 24/712 and Mr Garrett's enforcement visit, and also his house application - Tom will look into these. Planning is an issue, why is the department not running are staff getting support?

2024.68 To receive reports: Tom's report had been emailed to Councillors earlier today. Dimmer Waste Disposal site has gone quiet, the motion to shut it has not been brought up at Somerset Council. There is to be a new recycling centre at Evercreech. Cllr Hobhouse enquired what plans there are to improve Adult Social Care, could Parish Councils be emailed the aims and objectives of the policy as prices are going through the roof. Plea for foster carers could be put in the Parish magazine and on the website. Are there people in the Parish needing help with pensions credit? Patient Participation Group with the Drs surgeries, need to be vigilant and refer people to Citizens Advice with the telephone number for anyone facing difficulties. They do have a drop in sessions every Wednesday for 10 -3pm in the Balsam Centre in Wincanton.

2024.69 Planning applications, footpaths and road closures.

i. To consider new planning applications

| | Application number | Proposal | Location |
|----|--------------------|----------|----------|
| a) | none | | |

ii. Update on Planning applications currently under consideration by Local Planning Authority-, 23/01786/FUL Sunny Hill Villas Sunny Hill Pitcombe Bruton Somerset BA10 0NR Change of use of land to residential, joining of existing 2 dwellings to form a single dwelling; erection of rear extension; erection of detached 3 bay carport/garage with store above; modification of 2 dormer windows; formation of access and parking and turning area **awaiting decision**

24/01285/COL Alders Lancombe Lane Pitcombe Bruton Somerset BA10 0PG Application for a Lawful Development Certificate for the proposed stationing of a mobile home within residential garden for ancillary use **awaiting decision**

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

iv. Footpaths Both items of concern from a previous meeting have been attended to, fence across the land by Pitcombe Church has been removed and Bridleway at Knapp Hollow, gate has been taken off hinges and put in the hedge so the 10ft gap allows riders to go through, Rights of way are in a sorry state, Eve Wynn covers areas as far as Chard. Lancombe Lane was discussed in the past Martin Jennings has cut Lower Stretton, the nettles have regrown and are 2 ft high. Mrs Fone had clambered up and got to the point where the water flowed down. Tree roots are across the path, 3 ft of soil was missing below them and there is a steep slope, it's a right of way but impossible to get machinery up there to do anything about it. Cllr Shylan offered to take a look at it. It was suggested the gorse be cleared out and returned to grassland, however residents don't want quad bikes to have access to the land and we need to be mindful if doing anything above Pitcombe that it doesn't divert water more than it is, could field drains be put in at the top opposite the dairy?

v. Temporary Road Closures None advised

2024.70 Correspondence Letter from Somerset Council about paying for bins to be emptied from April = clerk will send what 3 words location for the dog waste bin. Cost to the Council will be just under £8 each time its emptied.

2024.71 Finance

- a. Cheques for approval were agreed,
The clerk was asked to send a grant form to Mrs Hartnell for the PCC, can they investigate someone else to cut the grass, Diocese of Bath and Wells offers Parishes support to have wilder Church yards- are we funding the whole budget for grass cutting or just contributing to it? Has the Environment Officer at Bath & Wells been consulted to encourage wildlife?
- b. Financial report and Budget v spend were given to Councillors.

2024.72 Council Matters –

a) Cllr Hobhouse stated there is a new portal and we are a month away from being able to log onto it. Reach out to John Sykes re Programming rain gauge. A good Hadpsen response from residents to make sure things are as good as they can be -they cleared vegetation, scraped and swept roads cleared gullies, the signs are ready in the shed. Lucie hasn't pinned Martin down to identify landowners need a strategy for that. Flood wardens must be under the Parish Council so they are covered by insurance, they are Andrew and Lucie from Pitcombe and Annette and Rosie from Hadspen. There is training and a newsletter, they will need PPE. The if there is a real problem with Himalayan Balsam, Bruton reservoir, Gants Mill and everyone down stream have it really bad. Need a reminder in June /July to get on top of it. Wessex Water are on the bit where it is self- seeding and Ewan Jones is trying to persuade Wessex Water to clear it. The water quality is clearing over the last 6-8 weeks in the Pitt, can we have a report and the trend over time – is it getting better or worse? The flood resilience stuff arrived, Lucie thanked the Council for contributing towards it. There are huge 'snakes' to put across the road to divert water away from the cottages. A visit arranged by WAG to see what they did to slow the flow. There was to be an announcement to Farmers with recompense to slow the flow by one flow measure. The Parish is really concerned about flooding and think all planning applications need to refer to flooding and see what the applicant is doing in their build to slow the flow. Old Vicarage has lots of water coming out of the driveway onto the A359. We will continue to send photos and videos of this to planning. Clerk to chase the previous photos sent as had no response.

Andrew and Lucie Community telemetry workshop persisting with new system to see the benefits \Shepton Montague is on there and Bratton Seymour hill the Pitt will be there shortly. The Pilot project costs £600 per gauge per year. Section 19 report, pilot stage, piggy back on it, there may be costs at some stage and it may be wise to put something in the budget next year, say £1000.

b) BSG update we submitted our consultation and haven't been advised of any update. Our effort to list Old House with English Heritage has been refused, they stated listed buildings are usually private and not open to the public – do we appeal, decided it probably wasn't worth it but we had tried.

c) No one has come forward to be the Neighbourhood watch volunteer despite adverts in the Parish News all we can do is ask anyone we think may be interested.

d) Black 8 communication , it was agreed we would communicate with local parishes via the clerks and share any large planning applications that may affect them, ie BSG or The Newt, as yet we have nothing to share. Clerk agreed to check the planning portal twice a month and email Sarah Maude if anything is found.

e) Drains on A371 Cllr Hutton has had reply positive news but not yet been allocated, The jetting unit has a large amount of work and they are unable to commit to anything further at this time until all the jetting is done. Cllr Hutton has shared this info with Sarah Dyke and has a case ref number. Put on next agenda. Cllr Power offered to take this up and see what he could find out.

f) Rodbers Barn – non agricultural activity on site Cllr Shylan will investigate.

g) Parish Online, Cllr Hutton has not yet subscribed it was a 90 day free trial so decided not to do it in the summer and will start in September and report back.

h) An email had been received by a Pitcombe resident about traffic calming between Sunnyhill and Sexeys as they are concerned about speed of traffic through there. Councillors discussed the road, there are already traffic humps and they didn't think road narrowings and chicanes were appropriate, but would enquire about a 20mph speed limit through there. For further information see Local Transport note 0107 traffic calming on Dept of Transport Website. Clerk will ask Castle Cary Town Clerk how they went about getting 20mph in the town. A Hadspen resident (Hadspen Cottage) has had cars go through her garden hedge more than once, due to cars speeding around the bend by the village hall - what can we do -slow sign or chevrons? ask John Nicholson.

2024.73 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 9.30pm

Date of the next Parish Council meeting: Tuesday 8th October 2024 at 7.30pm at Hadspen Village Hall