

Pitcombe Parish Council

Minutes of the Pitcombe Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 9th July 2024

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

In attendance: 6 Members of the public Somerset Councillor T Power and Mrs Tuck, clerk.

Chairman opened the meeting at 7.30pm

2024.53 Apologies were received from Cllrs Mark Groom, Neville Hartnell, Somerset Councillor Lucy Trimnell

2024.54 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).

2024.55 Minutes of the last meeting: Approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

2024.56 Matters Arising: Cllr Power had Communicated with John Nicholson Somerset Highways who informed him it will be September before we get a price list for Highways services. We will still make our own enquiries, Cllr Shylan can give us some names of companies to contact. We will investigate the cost of jetting drains, sweeping the road, cutting the verges. For now highways visited Hadspen today and checked 5 drains.

2024.57 To receive reports: Cllr Power will send his report via email but things went quiet because of the election. The planning meeting that should have been today has been deferred to the end of the month.

2024.58 Planning applications, footpaths and road closures.

i. To consider new planning applications

	Application number	Proposal	Location
a)	22/01174/FUL	Proposed erection of an agricultural storage building	Land At Mill Lane Pitcombe Bruton Somerset BA10 0PQ
b)	24/01203/FUL	Demolition of existing agricultural buildings and associated yards and landscape restoration of cleared area; replacement farm buildings and yard area with associated new access link to existing farm track, drainage infrastructure, and landscape works	Manor Farm, Pound Lane, Yarlington, Q Wincanton Ba9 9DG

a) concerns over the drainage from a floods prospective, is there going to be storage of roof water? More should be done to reduce run off, extra planting, The field is a buffer but there are concerns that eventually it will want to be used for domestic development. The comments made last time this application came before Council still stands the only difference in the application is that the barn has moved position. No attempt appears to have been made to assess the impact on ecology on the site as recommended by planners last time. It was decided to Oppose this application.

b) This application is outside our area but is very close to our boundary, Cllr Hutton was concerned for additional transport travelling through our parish to visit the site. This will have an impact on national trails such as The Macmillan Way, the building cannot be allowed to block these rights of way, Yarlington was flooded recently so should Galhampton and North Cadbury Parish Council want this to go to a full planning committee then we will support them in this. We have concerns over increased traffic and we would like the planning department to take the beauty of the area into consideration, Finally we question the location of the new building in an area of prime agricultural land as opposed to using land and buildings already owned.

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

ii. **Outcome of Planning applications considered at previous meetings:** 19/02566/R3C Land Os 8400 Green Lane Pitcombe Bruton Somerset BA7 7LX Infill of disused slurry lagoon with inert waste
Decided A very old update from 2019 had been received – we think this was an error.

iv. Footpaths Mrs Fone Footpath 22/9 Rodbers Barn Pitcombe Hill, to the Parish Church an electric fence has been fixed to wooden posts. The Parish Council has the power to contact the landowner (Mr Paul Jennings) there should be an accessible route through his property. This has been reported on an interactive map.

WN22/11 Knapp Hollow there is a broken 5 bar gate, there was a gap left to allow passage, the rights of way team wanted to put a hunting gate there but the new owners don't want it, they have put barbed wire up to the gate so now the gate cannot be opened, making the bridle way totally impassible. Parish Clerk to contact the landowner Mr Michael Berry and request removal of obstruction, the gate needs to function or have a field gate. Cllr Craigie talked about the bridle path from Lancombe Lane, it was cleared by the rights of way team 2 years ago, it can't be walked now because of water, Mr Martin Jennings is a landowner on one side and has helped to clear the lane in the past, write to him to ask if he can help us clear Lancombe Lane again?

Some footpath signs are down at the fork between contentious bridle path, bridle path on the way to Cole bridle path opposite Cllr Hobhouse's gate, there used to be a sign at the bottom and at the other end. Paul Jennings land down to the Church from Lancombe Lane

v. Temporary Road Closures None advised

2024.59 Correspondence

None

2024.60 Finance

- a. Cheques for approval were agreed.
- b. Financial report and Budget v spend was emailed to Councillors.

2024.61 Council Matters –

a) Cllr Hobhouse and Lucie Reader have been busy, Cllr Hobhouse hosted a planning meeting for Pitcombe Parish and Shepton Montague, reports triggered by section 19 in the River Pitt catchment area. Communities were shown what occurred in May 23 floods, the meeting went on into the night. There is to be a meeting with The Newt on 24th July to see what they experienced. The report should be completed in the autumn and published before Christmas.

5 Flood signs have been purchased for Hadspen and will arrive tomorrow. Cllr Hobhouse has had permission to site the rain gauge for Hadspen on the flat roof of the village hall, someone local is going to programme it for her. Cllr Hobhouse and Lucie Reader would like approval from Parish Council to adopt the draft emergency and mitigation food plans. When we get the section 19 reports these plans will be updated. Cllr Craigie thanked both ladies for all their work. The Parish Council agreed to adopt these plans they were happy in principal but asked if the could both be named similarly, The volunteers putting the signs out and helping will be covered by the Councils public liability insurance. Cllr Hobhouse would like to see more scrutiny with regards to flooding in the planning applications with the lead local flood authority Cllr Hobhouse has drafted a letter to go to landowners at heads of valley or with watercourses running through the valley asking for help to slow the flow and embrace responsibilities re water courses. The flood alleviation pond needs clearing/dredging – Cllr Hobhouse to send to them on behalf of PC if the Council agrees, There are problems in Pitcombe caused by planters and raised borders which get swept along with flood water. Pitcombe needs a different letter worded differently Lucie will think about this.

b) Volunteer in Community to do neighbourhood watch – No one has come forward yet.

c) Road Sign to Pitcombe at the bottom of Shutters Hill – Cllr Shylan sent his team out to do a quote, there were no footings so they repaired the sign whilst they were there. Invoice to follow. Thank you

d) 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.

e) Parking at the Elm Field by Film Crew. Film crew should have finished now,

f) Skylarks – There appear to be fewer skylarks on top of the hill this year - research shows numbers

drop at the end of June then come back again, they are sensitive to farming practises and are an endangered species. If the environment is right they'll stay, its possible for farmers to enter a scheme but once you commit you're in it for 10 years, as a farmer you can draw money for this but if you fail to keep it up you can be fined.

2024.62 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.*

A371 update

Rodbers Barn

Parish Online? MH to trail and report back in September.

The meeting closed at 9.30pm

the budget is being squeezed and grants cut the money is down 38% this year on last year and will be cut another 30% next year. All revolves around money.

Date of the next Parish Council meeting: Tuesday 10th September 2024 at 7.30pm at Hadspen Village Hall