

Minutes of the Pitcombe Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 11TH February 2025

Present: M Groom Vice Chair took the chair in the absence of Cllr Waller, A Hobhouse, E Craigie
In attendance: Lucie Reader, Flood Warden Pitcombe, 2 Members of the public, Lucy Trimnell, Tom Power Somerset Councillors and Mrs Tuck, clerk.

The Chairman opened the meeting at 7.30pm. Paul Rawson from the Newt gave a presentation of a planning application that will come up shortly for Shatwell Farm, as none of our Councillors had been able to get to the on site presentation. He also explained work the Newt had done recently around Shepton Montague to help prevent flooding, with new areas of water retention and diverting water through woodland.

2025.11. Apologies were received from Cllr Waller, Cllr Hutton, Cllr Hartnell, Cllr Shylan, and Mrs Fone footpaths officer.

2025.12 Declaration of Interest – Cllr Hobhouse declared that her husband is on the board of Governors of Kings Bruton and Bruton School for Girls.

2025.13 Minutes of the last meeting: Minutes of the January meeting had a typo to correct and will be signed at the next meeting. Cllr Groom not happy to publish the minutes on the website until they have been approved at the Council meeting.

2025.14 Matters Arising: Edward Hobhouse has taken the role of Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinator for the Parish and will put an invitation in the parish news magazine for residents to join the scheme if they so wish. There are many benefits in joining a scheme, from the information in receiving Community Alert messages to stay informed of what's happening in the area, to the possibility of reduced insurance premiums. PCSO Mandy Ware has made contact as our new PCSO covering Mya's maternity leave and has been invited to join us at meetings. Cllrs Waller and Hutton completed the LCN survey – all happy for it to be sent off. Action clerk. Clerk reported back on her recent visit to Mr Wells, and will have further conversation with him next week as we haven't seen that he has emailed Bristol and Somerset defibs. Clerk happy to do the online reports for Mr Wells on completion of checks .Footpath report check its been emailed to Mrs Fone - Clerk

2025.15 To receive reports: Cllr Power's report has been emailed to Councillors, clerk also forwarded to Parish News. Cllr Groom asked about the highways which have a lot of damage, once reported the pot holes are marked within a couple of days and repaired, however its just a quick shot of tarmac and its not always staying in place or holes may appear beside the original hole. Keep on reporting. Full Council papers for tomorrow as have to reduce budget further. .Lucy chased up the Pitcombe Bridge repairs - replied 30th January to say they are happy to meet with the Parish Council, they checked the load carrying capacity of the bridge and they are hoping to repair it this summer, If we receive an email advise Cllr Trimnell.

2025.16 Planning applications, footpaths and road closures.

i. To consider new planning applications

25/00076/HOU. The Old School House Pitcombe A replacement outbuilding (ancillary annexe) to contain bedrooms, bathroom, living space, and garden storage, and will mirror the footprint and height of the existing building. No objections

ii. Update on Planning applications currently under consideration by Local Planning Authority

None

ii. Outcome of Planning applications considered at previous meetings:

None advised

iv. Footpaths The footpath report still to be emailed to Mrs Fone and Councillors.

v. Temporary Road Closures ttr0429767S - Strutters Hill, Pitcombe The works are expected to commence on **2nd March 2025** and last for **7 hours (08:30 - 15:30)** to enable **Openreach** to replace a pole.

2025.17 Correspondence

- a) SALC community health and wellbeing – reach out to people at the Pitcombe Plan coffee morning.
- b) Keir enhanced highways maintenance awaiting date
- c) Local plan – call for Land sites – nothing available
- d) The Pit – Rye Ash Cllr Hartnell asked if it should be dredged, the reply is no not dredged but clear of debris involving land owners
- e) Somerset Local plan invite to attend workshop
- f) Complexities of care planning – Cllr Hobhouse may attend 27/2/25 – Cllr Trimnell said it is possible to watch these sessions back if you can't got they are all recorded and some very useful information.
Can we put a link on our website?
- g) Devon and Somerset Fire Brigades not attending auto fire alarms – none in our area.?
- h) South East Somerset LCN on the Local plan was on 2nd Feb
- i) Tuesday 22nd April Cllr Hobhouse would like to attend SALC course on Planning Applications – clerk to book.
- j) Self Service Flood report – Cllr Hobhouse happy to report after each event to say how the Parish was affected so the EA can build a larger picture. Cllr Groom reported that on 27th January the water level in Cole was higher than last May.
- k) Great British Spring Clean 21st March- 6th April, nice idea think people may partake.
- l) Had request form SCAT for funding – grant approved but we would like some flyers or a poster to advertise the service in the community please. Clerk will email them.

2025.18 Finance

- a. Cheques for approval were agreed .
- b. Financial report was given and approved
- c. Budget breakdown as there were only 3 Councillors in attendance it was decided to leave this until the March meeting.

2025.19 Council Matters –

- a) Section 19 Flood Report** Lucie Reader wasn't happy with the Section 19 report for Pitcombe, following a conversation with Cllr Henry Hobhouse that afternoon he advised to send an email to Cllr Oakes at Somerset Council and to copy him in, Lucie had sent a draft to Councillors for discussion tonight. It was felt the draft was a little harsh and Cllr Craigie agreed to meet with Lucie the following day to compose a new email, when done it would be circulated to Councillors who were at the meeting and once approved, the clerk would send it as requested..
- b) LCN Priorities Survey** completed – Clerk to check with Cllr Waller and send it off.
- c) Village Plan coffee morning Saturday 22nd March** – Posters out to advertise event.
- d) Barclays Bank account** Clerk spoken to Barclays who are going to set us up for online banking – no charge. The clerk can post payments, only needs one Councillor to approve it but before any of this can take place each signatory needs to call Barclays to register – Clerk to send instructions via email to each signatory.
- e) Website Jimmy Flynn** – spoken to JF who is currently on holiday he has no plans to retire in next 6 months, his son at Milborne Port Computers has full access to all his work should it be needed. JF, Cllr Hobhouse and clerk meeting 24th Feb to discuss current website. It was decided not to change to a new gov.uk website and emails for the next year as it will affect both the Church and the Village Hall having to have new websites as they currently share ours.
- f) Parish online** Agreed not to continue with subscription at the present time.

2025.20 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 9.20pm

Date of the next Parish Council meeting: Tuesday 11th March 2025 at 7.30pm at Hadspen Village Hall