

# *Pitcombe Parish Council*

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## **Minutes of the Pitcombe Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> January 2025**

**Present:** Councillors R. Waller, N Hartnell, M Groom, M Hutton, A Hobhouse, E Craigie R Shylan,  
**In attendance:** Bel Deering from Somerset Prepared, Lucie Reader, Flood Warden Pitcombe, 1 Member of the public, and Mrs Tuck, clerk. Lucy Trimmell, Somerset Councillor attended from 8.15 following an online meeting.

The Chairman opened the meeting at 7.30pm. Bel Deering, on behalf of the Somerset Prepared Partnership (including The Fire Service, The Police, Somerset Council, The Environment Agency, Somerset Rivers Authority and organisations and agencies across the area gave a presentation speech which had been part of Robert Drewett's, the Lord Lieutenant of Somerset's speech, on the presentation evening after which she presented Lucie Reader with her award, a certificate, a gift card and a framed picture of a Somerset Scene. Thanks were given by Lucie and the Chairman Thanked Bel for coming.

**2025.01. Apologies** were received from Somerset Councillor Tom Power

**2025.02 Declaration of Interest** – Cllr Hobhouse declared that her husband is on the board of Governors of Kings Bruton and Bruton School for Girls.

**2025.03 Minutes of the last meeting:** Minutes of the November meeting were signed following an amendment, December minutes had two points to amend enhance Highway management, Cllr Waller to contact Keir to express an interest and check on rates. LCN Online survey – Councillors need to respond to this individually as the deadline is 31.1.25.Cllr Waller and Cllr Hutton will complete it.

**2025.04 Matters Arising:** As no one else as come forward, Mr Edward Hobhouse has offered to be Neighbourhood Watch coordinator – Thank you.

**2025.05 To receive reports:** Cllr Power's report has been emailed to Councillors, clerk to forward to Parish News. Cllr Trimmell has emailed to ask for an annual bridge update for Pitcombe Bridge, not heard back yet, 16 people and a Farm are affected by this. A plan was submitted to Somerset Council regarding 92 parliamentary seats in Somerset, Some Councillors have voted against this, submission closes on 20<sup>th</sup> January so no time to amend at County Level, will have to see what the boundary commission gives Somerset.

### **2025.06 Planning applications, footpaths and road closures.**

**i. To consider new planning applications** - None

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

**ii. Outcome of Planning applications considered at previous meetings:**  
None advised

Cllr Hobhouse has prepared an excellent draft report of any outstanding planning issues we can keep up to date, Thank you we will keep it for our internal use and review the report at the March meeting.

**iv. Footpaths** The footpath report has been emailed, clerk to forward it to Councillors , someone needs to go through it with Mrs Fone.

**v. Temporary Road Closures** one forwarded for last week – no others received.

**2025.07 Correspondence** Email received from Jimmy Flynn ref Gov.Uk website and emails – Clerk to contact him to see how long we can continue as we are, how long he will be available to help us, will it still run on word press. Clerk needs to meet to solve problems with word press and uploading documents, Councillor Hobhouse offered to come as well.

### **2025.08 Finance**

a. Cheques for approval were agreed following on from comment about training last month SALC reduced their invoice to cover one course attended. Cllr Craigie to attend one in March.

b. Financial report was given and approved

The budget for next year was discussed, it was agreed to increase the precept by 2,5% and to review the individual budget line amounts next month. All in agreement, the breakdown to be discussed

at the next meeting.

#### **2025.09 Council Matters –**

a) Flooding – Lucy had emailed a report to Councillors

b) Village- Plan 3 people have come forward so far to be involved in this. It was agreed to hold a coffee morning in the village hall on Saturday March 22<sup>nd</sup> at 10.30 to give a presentation to tell the community what's involved, flooding will be a much bigger issue than the last plan, this will be advertised in the parish news and on the local whatsapp groups to engage more interest.

c) Drains a371 – The drain has collapsed and it will be repaired but no money in the budget till 2026/2027 to replace/repair the drain only to do a temporary repair. How long will that last? Good news the stop sign on the crossroads has been repainted this week.

d) Pitcombe Rock Falconry Cllr Waller visited Mr Wells to enquire about the defibrillators, he confirmed he is still checking them. Later that day an email was received saying the information has not been completed online. The clerk offered to visit Mr Wells to ask about this. Mr Wells is refurbishing the bridge, where it crosses the Brue, it has Victorian ironwork with oak posts to support it.

e) Pitcombe Phone Box delay until April

f) Flood funding . Cllr Hobhouse had written to the lead local flood authority to find out who is responsible for maintenance of Hadspen Flood Relief pond but awaiting response. Possibly could apply to the SRA for a grant to dredge the pond but would need landowner consent . Waiting response from LLFA for advice.

No final report issued yet for Section 19 flood investigation but expected Jan 2025.

Mr Shylan mentioned that Landowner was looking at re-establishing Carp Ponds upstream of flood relief pond. Mr Shylan would see whether there was documentation available that would support an application for a grant.

**2025.10 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.*  
*Barclays – online banking – or bank card for our account*

**The meeting closed at 8.50pm**

**Date of the next Parish Council meeting: Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> February 2025 at 7.30pm at Hadspen Village Hall**