

Pitcombe Parish Council

Minutes of the Pitcombe Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 18th March 2025

Present: Cllr Waller, Cllr Groom, Cllr Hutton, Cllr Hobhouse, Cllr Shylan

In attendance: 2 Members of the public, Lucy Trimnell, Somerset Councillor arrived after another meeting and Mrs Tuck, clerk.

The Chairman opened the meeting at 7.30pm.

2025.21. Apologies were received from Cllr Craigie, Cllr Hartnell, Somerset Councillor T Power Mrs Fone footpaths officer and Mrs Reader Flood Warden.

2025.22 Declaration of Interest – Cllr Hobhouse declared that her husband is on the board of Governors of Kings Bruton and Bruton School for Girls.

2025.23 Minutes of the last meeting: Minutes of the February meeting were approved and signed, also the January minutes signed after typo had been corrected.

2025.24 Matters Arising: Neighbourhood Watch 14 people had responded, there had been 3 alerts issued since Mr Hobhouse had become co-ordinator. Defibs will need new pads in the next financial year allow £200. Made contact with PCSO Amanda Ware and she was given the date of the February and March meetings – invite to next meeting. Police have a drop in sessions at Galhampton Country Store on Saturday 22nd 10-12 noon to encourage people to label their property. Community Bus flyers -clerk to forward to Ant Hodges for the Parish News magazine and the website.

2025.25 To receive reports: Cllr Power's report has been emailed to Councillors, clerk also forwarded to Parish News. Cllr Trimnell arrived and told us she has been on a site visit to manor Farm, Yarlinton. Cllr Trimnell reported that on Somerset's schedule of works for highways. there is nothing listed for Castle Cary, Wincanton or Bruton areas, for drains or resurfacing. Cllr Hutton has been told in an email that the repairs to drains and resurfacing of the bend on A371, Hadspen Barn to Grove Farm is scheduled for 2026/2027.

2025.26 Planning applications, footpaths and road closures.

i. To consider new planning applications

25/00384/FUL Shatwell Yard, Shatwell Lane, Yarlinton, Redevelopment of existing commercial buildings and yards at Shatwell Yard and existing dwelling at Dairy Cottage, including demolition and replacement of buildings and conversion of existing buildings to provide 18 hotel suites, family suite at Dairy Cottage, and ancillary services, function room, and associated access, parking and landscaping, including new access, reception, and parking area for existing adjacent hotel. This development is partly in Pitcombe Parish – concerns are noise from function room, traffic effects turning off and on A371 and local roads. Following discussion the Council agreed they support the application but have concerns over access off and onto the A371 suggest highways do an impact report and safety mitigations be put in place.? Secondly concerns over light and noise pollution from the function room, noise travels in the summer evenings. Thirdly we request all planning applications should contain structural mitigation for increased flood risk built into all planning applications

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

iii. Outcome of Planning applications considered at previous meetings:

25/00076/HOU 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. | The Old School Church Lane Pitcombe Bruton Somerset BA10 0PE **Permitted with conditions**

24/00712/FUL Land East Of Ridge Lane Hadspen Castle Cary Somerset BA7 7LW Formation of new access and erection of agricultural worker's dwelling. **Permitted with conditions**
The Councillors have concerns that the long list of conditions will not be adhered too. A building has already been built without planning application, we know enforcement attended but were not told the outcome of this and still no planning or retrospective planning has been submitted for the large barn. Clerk to contact planning/enforcement about this.

22/01174/FUL Land at Mill Lane Pitcombe Bruton Somerset BA10 0PQ Proposed erection of an agricultural storage building **Permitted with conditions**

iv. Footpaths Explore Somerset is where problems with footpaths is reported, 2 items are highlighted there, one is resolved. A problem with an electric fence is not showing as dealt with. Lancombe Lane going down into Pitcombe is impassable, this needs the landowners support both sides of the lane it's recognised as a green lane This needs resolving also who updates the website – check with Mrs Fone - There is a sign at the top of Lime Kiln Lane (restricted by way) (going down Hell Ladder Lane) .

v. Temporary Road Closures Station Road Bruton closed 7th April 5 days.

2025.27 Correspondence

Age concern posters – to parish news Magazine and post link on website
Somerset Day Choral evening song at Taunton Minster 4th May at 5pm

2025.28 Finance

- a. Cheques for approval were agreed, apart from a payment to PKF Littlejohn the auditors which the clerk was asked to query.
- b. Financial report was given and approved
- c. Budget breakdown the clerk had completed the breakdown for the next year and ran through it with Councillors, we still don't know how much we will have to pay out for highways issues but if its more than allowed it was agreed to take the cost out of reserves.. After talking to Bruton Town Council Cllr Waller asked the clerk to query having to pay for the emptying of the dog waste bin as it stands on council land.

2025.29 Council Matters –

- a) Village Plan coffee morning Cllr Waller will attend also Cllrs Hobhouse, Craigie Hutton and Groom. Councillors could arrive about 9.30am to help set up the hall. Cllr Waller will start with a power point then split in to groups for discussion. Nicky Bolton will do the refreshments.
- b) Defibrillators The clerk reported she had another email, this time from the British Heart Foundation requesting our defibs to be registered and monthly updates to be put online. The clerk has emailed both Bristol and Somerset Defibs and the British Heart Foundation asking for the website address and the call sign for the defibs.
- c) Bruton School for Girls update Cllr Waller had met with Mr Tusson who advised him that the nursery school would be closing in July as it was no longer viable.
Bruton Town Council had heard from The Charity Commission following their submission as had some of the other people who had written to them, asking for more information. The latest proposition is that the school should be used for a SEND school, the County are in favour of this. The final out come is held up until the Charity Commission reach a conclusion.
- d) Report back on meeting with J Flynn, Website, Laptop, etc, The Clerk, Cllr Hobhouse and Mr Flynn met at the Clerks home. There were problems posting items on the website using the free software on the computer and Mr Flynn recommended the purchase of Microsoft office for the computer which would cost in the region of £80 annually. The Council agreed to pay this and the clerk will arrange it with Mr Flynn.
- f) Flooding As Ms Reader was unable to attend the meeting she had sent a report which had been sent to Councillors. Thank you Lucie. Cllr Waller had met with Nathan from Kier who gave a positive description of what he could do relating to flooding, cleaning roads, help with flood retention ponds, seasonal routine sweeping, however Cllr Waller sent him 2 emails without replies.
The LFA hasn't responded to questions about the flood relief pond for the new landowners, not sure how much further Lucie has got. Revise plan in agenda - ?approach The Newt? need to tie up with Lucie and someone join her in those discussions.
- g) Barclays online banking update Barclays only require the clerk plus on signature for their online – banking does this comply? The 1972 act says signed by two members of the council. we currently have 2 signatures? Unity Trust bank account allows for 2 signatures but charges £6 month for its account. Clerk was asked to ask SALC for their advice.

2025.30 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.
Cllr Waller had heard about bleed kits on the news and asked for this to be put on the next agenda.

Mr Shylan mentioned the caravan behind the fence at the bottom of Strutters Hill which needs moving on.Lancombe Lane Mr Shylan to look at it and report back at next meeting
Sexeys parents parking. Cllr Waller to write to the new Head and clerk will contact PCSO

The meeting closed at 9.20pm

Date of the next Parish Council meeting: Tuesday 8th April 2025 at 7.30pm at Hadspen Village Hall