**Minutes of the Pitcombe Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 9th September 2025**

**Present:**  Cllr Groom, Cllr Hutton, Cllr Shylan,

**In attendance:** 2 Members of the public, Cllr Trimnell, Mrs Fone, Footpaths Officer, Mrs Tuck, clerk

Cllr Groom opened the meeting and welcomed those in attendance.

**2025.71 Apologies** Cllr Hartnell,Cllr Trimnell gave Cllr Power’s apologies.

**2025.72 Declaration** **of Interest –** Cllr Shylan – Lancombe Lane work.

**2025.73 Minutes of the last meeting:** Cllr Groom asked that Councillors read the minutes and approve them via email and for them to be signed at the next meeting.

**2025.74 Matters Arising:** Pitt Bridge outside Manor Farm, the hole has been filled in and is falling apart again, there is another hole there now. Cllr Hutton contacted Wessex Water who told him there was a hydrant on the side of the road where the water is running down the road, the hydrant is intact,.

2/3 weeks ago someone dug across the road but that was to put a water meter in, The bank has been chewed up to get the bales in.IS there a spring there- there’s a gully under the road which is blocked – there is a system in place but it needs attention. Cllr Shylan will ask about this.

Grove Farm/Grove Cross there is no news on the drains. Clerk to Email about imperfect road surface around drains on A371. Pitcombe Bridge there has been a bat emergence seen and that has stopped all work on the bridge for the foreseeable future until a survey is done and Natural England will issue a license, its disappointing but there’s nothing we can do.

Speed on A371no work taking place – its not a priority.

**2025.75 To receive reports:** Cllr Power’s report has been forwarded. Transformation Partner for Council was announced to help them save £190million by 2029/30, £101million of that in the next 8 months, They need to save money over the whole Council area. They have 3 months to identify the savings and make them in time for the budget for next year. There is a parking charges consultation for 6 weeks from October which was too late for Cllr Power’s report, Cllr Trimnell has heard nothing from Highways, clerk to send email from Highways to Cllr Trimnell.

Cllr Trimnell took photos of the caravan and shopping on A371 at the bottom of Strutters Hill. Planning has gone into emergency measures for three months, there is only one email address and we are not to contact them for the time being as they are so far behind. They are trying to get all new applications through, there is only one enforcement officer who has been withdrawn to work on applications. Cllr Trimnell will email them and keep us updated. Planning Officers have been told to only visit sites in exceptional circumstances.

Find and send emails re planning 1 ref caravan at bottom of strutters hill you must report items on the website first and get a reference number before you can email quoting the report number.

* 1. **Planning applications, footpaths and road closures.**
1. **To consider new Planning** **applications**

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|  | **Application number** | **Proposal** |  **Location** |
| a) | 25/02012/FUL | Retain general purpose agricultural building (retrospective) | Nettlecombe Farm, Hadspen |
| b) | 25/02011/FUL | Change of use of land for a three-year temporary permission for a mobile home to be occupied by an agricultural worker | Nettlecombe Farm,Hadspen |
| c) | 25/02004/TEA | Notification of intent to install 1No. 20m 'telegraph' monopole, 3No. antennas, 2No. 0.3m dishes, 1No. GPS Node and 3No. ground-based equipment cabinets and ancillary development thereto. | The Newt Cattle Hill Bratton Seymour BA7 7NF |

1. **25/02012/FUL** Retrospective permission for the barn put up 2 years ago last January.to keep food stock in but there is little in there, the lights are still on- where is the rainwater going does it have effects on the flooding in Hadspen? It is visible form the road and the right of way -biodiversity checklist – the EA are not interested. There is paperwork in the application but inconsistencies in the application for drainage and sight lines that we are not happy with. It’s a live planning application so we can comment on it. Cllr Groom and Cllr Hutton will take a walk up there and email clerk to respond to planning before Friday 12th.
2. **25/02011/FUL** The mobile home arrived this afternoon before planning permission has been granted there is no evidence to support a second worker, there are not 300 cattle on site that need to calve every day there are not 420 acres up there half of this is on a site in Evercreech, There are inconsistencies what is recorded and what we believe in aural community. Cllrs Groom and Hutton will also take a look at this on Thursday Cllr Trimnell remind Councillors that they could only object on technical planning reasons. The Council is concerned that we are unable to verify the information given by the Consultant. ( on the planning application for the house there was no biodiversity) Put minutes on the website– decision on application.

 **c) 25/02004/TEA** The Newt this is a notification of interest – noted.

 **ii, Update on Planning applications currently under consideration by Local Planning Authority**

23/03193/LBC and 23/03192 FUL Gants Mill – awaiting decision

 25/00385/LBC Shatwell Yard, awaiting decision.

**Iii Outcome of Planning applications considered at previous meetings:** None

**Iv Foot paths** Lancombe Lane We have been sent an alternative quote to Cllr Shylan’s but not a third quote Keir were asked to quote but haven’t so Clerk has asked Tom Yeoman from Ditcheat to quote. Mrs Foneis prepared to meet them if required. Rights of Way have no funding and no manpower to do the work. Mrs Fone asked it the Council were prepared to contribute to this. We need to see what it will cost. Cllr Hutton had sent an email regarding a vehicle trying to go up Nettlecombe Lane. There was confusion to its purpose but it was a survey vehicle a consultation by Somerset Council for The Department of Transport on condition of certain highways including Nettlecombe Lane.

**v Temporary Road Closures** None

**2025.77 Correspondence**

Another email has been received on speed of traffic on Cole Road but it is going to cost too much to do anything about it, if we ant a speed limit lower than 30 mph the Parish Council would have to pay for it, which we cannot afford to do, traffic calming needs evidence of speeding. There is a SID which is put up by Bruton School for girls nursery and Sexeys Car Park sometime. Clerk to contact Bruton Town Council to see if we can obtain the reports form the SIDs.

**2025.78 Finance**

 a. Cheques for approval were agreed,

 b. Financial report was given and approved The clerk can authorise this alone as it is not removing money form the account it was agreed to move £12,00 across to the business account.

**2025.79 Council Matters –**

a) Flooding – The Council wish to thank Lucie and Ed for huge efforts and what they are doing. The Flood report has bee received and mentions a Learning Seminar on riperian responsibilities to be held on 24th September. Clerk to put this on the website,

b) Defibrillators Cllr Shylan to check the one outside the village hall as light is not visible.

c) Salt bins Cllr Hartnell to check the salt levels

d) Pitcombe Bridge see above

Cllr Trimnell mentioned that BSG has damage to the roof where someone tried to steal lead off the roof and ridge tiles are moved/missing for about 2 metre, which she can see from her house. There is concern that the old School is not being kept secure- a velux window is open, the fabric is being neglected and it needs protecting. Clerk to email to Mr Tusson at Kings School.

***2025.80 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 9.10pm**

**Date of the next Parish Council meeting: Tuesday 14th October 2025 at 7.30pm at Hadspen Village Hall**