**Minutes of the Pitcombe Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 13th May 2025**

**Present:**  Cllr Waller, having resigned at the Annual Parish Council Meeting stayed on for the evening to Chair this meeting. Cllr Groom, Cllr Hartnell, Cllr Hutton, Cllr Shylan, Mrs E Craigie.

**In attendance:** Mrs Fone, Footpaths Officer, Lucy Trimnell, Somerset Councillor and Mrs Tuck, clerk.

Cllr Waller opened the meeting at 7.50pm.following the APCM. when members of the public were given time to speak, A question was asked about Mr Garretts’s barn, the clerk was able to tell the meeting following a phone conversation with Mr Garret that we would soon receive retrospective planning permission for the barn which had appeared 2 years ago.

**2025.41. Apologies** were received from, Somerset Councillor T Power, Mrs Annette Hobhouse and Mrs Reader, Flood Warden.

**2025.42 Declaration** **of Interest –** None

**2025.43 Minutes of the last meeting:** Minutes of the March meeting had been updated and were signed, Minutes of the April meeting were read, they need an address added and will be signed at the next meeting.

**2025.44 Matters Arising:** Any update on the bridge at Pitcombe? Cllr Trimnell had chased bridge repairs, there is no start date when repairs will be completed, but its thought to be in the 2026 budget,

a specialist contractor will complete the work, it will need strengthening work so access will be provided..A tunnel under the road in Cole for badgers keeps collapsing.

**2025.45 To receive reports:** Cllr Power’s report has been emailed to Councillors, clerk also forwarded to Parish News. Cllr Trimnell advised the meeting of the news tonight that Yeovil Maternity Unit is to close f0r 6 months due to the safety of babies in the special care unit, the nearest units for maternity will be Bath, Dorchester and Musgrove Park. The Pharmacy consultation is on the website, please give feedback, the more the better.

**2025.46 Planning applications, footpaths and road closures.**

1. **To consider new applications** None received

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

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

**iv. Footpaths** Mrs Fone had shared a document that afternoon, there is no money in County budgets for rights of way. There are 6 fulltime workers who have had their hours cut. There are problems with a Bridle way up towards Ansford through the valley which starts in Bruton, access is difficult to cut the upper part as there are horses in there, its impassible and a topper is need to take out the nettles. Lancombe Lane will not be resolved by rights of way because water was diverted at the top and there is now a greater flow of water than previously which has eroded the footpath, it is not possible to get machinery in there to repair the damage as there is a massive drop. Mrs Fone reported that Mr Garret had said he had diverted the water to prevent flooding below but water now races down the lane causing damage to it. Cllr Shylan and Mrs Fone will take a look at it, see what it needs and how much it will cost to repair it. Could the CU money be used to enhance wellbeing?

**v. Temporary Road Closures** None advised.

**2025.47 Correspondence** letter from PKF clerk to discuss with Ewan Jones of SALC

**2025.48 Finance**

 a. Cheques for approval were agreed,

 b. Financial report was given and approved

**2025.49 Council Matters –**

a) Flooding Ms Reader had provided a report to Councillors via email. Cllr Hartnell was to meet the Rivers Authority but he waited 40 mins after the appointed time and they didn’t come so he went home.

Himalayan Balsam is being picked, research shows its better to strim it before it goes to seed, its being pulled at Rye Ash but would be easier to strim it. Hemlock had been seen opposite the water treatment unit, not been seen there before, Mr Ed Sandeman has offered to take Mrs Hobhouse’s place as Flood Warden for Hadspen. Mrs Hobhouse was thanked for her work as Flood Warden and Lucie Reader the flood warden for PItcombe was thanked for her work and report.

b) Defibrillators The clerk to register defibs to the circuit and to ensure the Mr Currie is removed form the information held.

c) Bruton School for Girls update Cllr Trimnell stated that Somerset Council were looking at it with a view to turning it into an SEND school for this part of the County and that she had attended the viewing but not the meeting that discussed it. At present students in our area are bussed/taxied all over the county costing the Council a lot of money. Should it be turned into an SEND school the Charity Commission would only need to amend the conditions to cover boys form 7-18years. Clerk had received an email from 2 ladies interested in buying Cumberledge to turn it into a woman’s refuge for over 55’s and a community centre, but the ladies contacted Knight Frank the agent who had told them the whole site was under offer subject to the completion of the Charity Commission work. The Clerk contacted Mr Tusson at Kings who started that the site wasn’t under offer however it was decided that the clerk reply saying there is no point int hem attending a Council meeting at this time.

 g) Barclays online banking update leave until we have a new Chairman.

***2025.50 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.*

Mr Waller resigned and Mr Hartnell thanked him for Chairing tonight’s meetings so they could go ahead.

**The meeting closed at 9.25pm**

**Date of the next Parish Council meeting: Tuesday 10th June 2025 at 7.30pm at Hadspen Village Hall**