

Pitcombe Parish Council

Minutes of the Pitcombe Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 11th November 2025

Present: Cllr Groom, Cllr Hutton, Cllr Hartnell, Cllr Shylan,

In attendance: 5 Members of the public, Mrs Tuck, clerk Cllr Trimnell arrived late having attended another council first.

Cllr Groom agreed to Chair the meeting, opened the meeting and welcomed those in attendance explaining that we had to cancel the October meeting as we had not been quorate. The Council currently only has 4 Councillors – we need 3 to attend so a meeting can go ahead, last month due to unforeseen circumstances we only had 2 Councillors who could attend.

2025.81 Apologies Cllr Power, Mrs Fone, footpaths officer

2025.82 Declaration of Interest – Cllr Shylan – Lancombe Lane work.

2025.83 Minutes of the last meeting: were read and an amendment requested so these will be signed at the December meeting.

2025.84 Matters Arising: The road between Cole the bridge over the River Pitt has been repaired again. The water running over the road needs to be repaired Wessex Water say there is no hydrant. There is a pipe under the road which may be blocked but Highways can't repair whilst the water is running over it or is it a spring? Cllr Hutton will contact Wessex Water again.

Grove Cross to Grove Farm, CCTV cameras were put in 4 weeks ago by Council. The clerk has emailed Somerset highways about the road surface around the drains with no response.

No news about bat emergence from Under the river bridge. Mr Jennings has put a gate across Lancombe Lane to stop motor bikes, he spoke about people's lack of respect for animals with people frightening his sheep, people are walking their dogs off the lead in Rye Ash Field whilst his sheep are in situ, despite him putting up 3 new signs. If this continues he will padlock the gates at both sides of the field.

The Chairman of Bruton Town Council has agreed we can have use of their site but said we have to get Highways to agree the site and put a pole up, which we will have to pay for. Clerk asked to enquire of Highways about cost of a pole on the triangle opposite the noticeboard on the triangle.

Cllr Hartnell reported he hasn't yet checked the salt bins but will do so.

2025.85 To receive reports: Cllr Power's report has been forwarded. There will be a final decision next month on the Somerset Boundaries. There is to be a change in delivery days on some green garden waste bins, 45,000 bins when they started – now up to 60,000 so rearranging collections. Transformation has started they have to make savings of £190m. The Planning emergency is over, they have 1600 applications down to 1200. Lucy and Tom are only allowed to use one email address to contact planning and Highways are not responding to them at all.

2025.86 Planning applications, footpaths and road closures.

i. To consider new Planning applications

	Application number	Proposal	Location
a)	25/02636/FUL	part retrospective Erection of a general purpose agricultural	Nettlecombe Farm, Ridge Lane, Cole, Bruton BA10 0PL

Councillors were unable to comment on the application as their planning website was not working and they couldn't view the application, we didn't understand why it had come in as a new application – part retrospective when it's already listed as awaiting a decision. Clerk to email Nick Toop of planning.

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

25/02636/FUL part retrospective Erection of a general purpose agricultural building – Nettlecombe Farm, Ridge Lane, Cole, Bruton BA10 0PL 21.11.2025 **awaiting decision**

25/00384/FUL & 25/02674/Doc1 Biodiversity net gain Shatwell Yard, Shatwell Lane Yarlington **Awaiting decision**

iii. Outcome of Planning applications considered at previous meetings:

25/0085LBC Shatwell Yard, Yarlington Demolition of Barton Barn **Permitted with conditions.**

25/384/FUL Shatwell Yard, Yarlington redevelopment of existing commercial buildings and yards **Permitted with conditions**

25/01963/HOU Enlargement of existing chalet bungalow and a first floor extension at Wayside Sunnyhill, BA10 10NU – **Permitted with conditions**

iv Foot paths Lancombe Lane e have 3 quotes for repairs, Lucie Reader has concerns that when repaired the water will cascade down Lancombe Lane and flood Pitcombe and asked if we could call on expertise on how flood management will work after repairs/. Mr Garrett stated that where before the crops on his field were all arable now the fields are all grass and will absorb more water. Clerk to ask Paul and Zoe if they can assist by advising use what needs to be done. The 3 quotes are vastly different, they are not all quoting for the same jobs. Clerk was asked to contact 2 of the persons and send them the job specification and ask them to itemise a quote against that job spec, and to email results to Councillors.

v Temporary Road Closures tto257235S - WW - Ansford Hill, Ansford 18th November 20th November 2025 Wessex Water to replace communication pipe relay

2025.87 Correspondence email from Kier ref signposts for Pitcombe at bottom of Strutters Hill, and Pitcombe Sign clerk to email Kier forwarding John Nicholson's email where he stated the Contractor would pay for new signs as a gesture of goodwill.

2025.88 Finance

- a. Cheques for approval were agreed, for the hire of the village hall, the clerks salary and tax and a new battery for the defib.
- b. Financial report was given also the budget v spend with the first look at budget for next year which needs to be set at the January meeting. The clerk still has to move money from the current account to the savings account.

2025.89 Council Matters –

- a) Flooding Lucie's flood report as useful Thank you seeds and stuff is still growing, the balsam is dying a lot of stuff is difficult to get to, deep bits or river you can't walk through
- b) Defibrillator- new battery required HVH Clerk to order one and let Cllr Shylan know when it arrives
- c) BSG update Clerk advise of response from last email to LST at Kings, clerk to ask Bruton Town Council what they know.
- d) SID update Chair of BTC said yes we can share their sid but we will have to contact council, ask them to fit a pole for the sid to be attached to which we will have to pay for. Clerk to email and enquire of cost for this.

2025.90 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. Regular Chairman MG offered to do it next month we hope we have one prospective new Councillor to join our team, still need another 2 new Councillors who can be co-opted.

Mr Garrett expressed his frustrations and views of the councils objections to the planning application.

The meeting closed at 9.15pm after the meeting the Councillors discussed the pay rise for the clerk and agreed to pay her the new rate for 25-26 and back pay.

Date of the next Parish Council meeting: Tuesday 9th December 2025 at 7.30pm at Hadspen Village Hall