

Pitcombe Parish Council

Minutes of the Pitcombe Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 13th October 2026 at 7.30pm

Present: Cllrs J Duffy, M Groom, N Hartnell and J Wyatt

In attendance: Lucy Trimnell Somerset Councillor, Mrs Tuck, clerk and 1 member of the public.

The Chairman opened the meeting at 7.30pm

2026.70 Apologies Cllrs M Hutton, R Shylan, E Sandeman, Somerset Councillor Tom Power.

2026.71 Declaration of Interest – Cllr Duffy reminded Councillors that he had declared an interest in Bruton School for Girls and Sunnyhill for Good CIC in an email dated 23rd June, 2026. He advised this as the Clerk had reported to him that Helen James, a trustee of BSG, had contacted her questioning declarations of interest on the minutes. He reminded Councillors that if there is a conflict of interest they needed to declare an interest at the start of the meetings. Cllr Groom felt that there was not a conflict of interest with Cllr Duffy and BSG as it was a not for profit company, that no decisions were made at council meetings we were just being updated for information.

Declarations of interest was discussed, Cllr Wyatt was questioned about his business partner, who is retired from Knight Frank the estate agents selling BSG but he stated there was no conflict as the person in question had retired from that business.

2026.72 Minutes of the two last meetings. The minutes from the July meeting had been amended and were approved by the Council, Cllr Groom had not signed them at the September meeting as he wasn't at the July meeting and whilst the approval for Cllr Shylan to do work at Cole was minuted an amount for the value of the work was not stated. The invoice for the work had been broken down and involved 5 visits to the site and the work done at those visits. The flood is no longer in the road, its very clear that Cllr Shylan had found the fault and repaired it, the water is now flowing under the road as it should have been before. Cllr Groom had asked the clerk to chase the email trail with Wessex Water and send it to him, however there wasn't one, Cllr Duffy's contact had been via telephone. There is still a problem, Wessex Water are declaring it is not mains water that had been flooding the road. Cllr Duffy's tests showed differently that it was chlorinated water. It was agreed to contact Wessex Water to agree to an independent test. One of the Wessex Water workers had shown Cllr Shylan a map of the map of the mains water network, which showed the mains tuns directly underneath the flooded area. Cllr Duffy will contact Cllr Shylan and contact Wessex Water.

2026.73 Matters Arising Cllr Hutton confirmed that he had checked the grit bins, they were all full of compacted grit. No one has expressed an interest in becoming Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator, clerk to put in Parish News again,

2026.74 To receive reports: Cllr Power's report was received at 7pm tonight and was forwarded to Councillors. Cllr Trimnell advised of a flood resilience fund of £50m from Defra, it's a capital grant which is available to Somerset but must be spent within the next 2 years open to 40 towns and parishes in Somerset affected by floods. Projects are to be proposed by prevention action groups. Cllr Trimnell asked about flooding in Pitcombe and wondered if we could put in a grant application for road signs to enable us to close the road in times of floods, and sand bags to help prevent homes flooding, how do we do it and how do we co-ordinate our residents. A united system is needed to work out residents journeys when roads are flooded. Cllr Trimnell to research this..

Somerset's Contact page on 23rd September states they had an additional half a million pounds, to clear gullies more frequently. The Resilience day on 21st October is well worth attending. The County are reviewing parking charges which will change in September/October 2027 they are looking at charges in Bruton and are raising car park charges in general by 10% and charging on Sundays, which are currently free, later in the year, these charges are in reply to a best value notice served by the Government. The MPFT fundamental plan – direct school issues £100m needed to cover lots of issues that are frightening, - money for clearing the SEND overspend of £1m.

Somerset have pulled the learning disability grant, someone made a big mistake 1200/1500 people are in receipt of funding they shouldn't have, they been through a number if those and not recouped any money as yet. The £20m transformation programme seems to have been stalled.

2026.75 Planning applications, footpaths and road closures

i. To consider new planning applications

26/00156/FUL	Erection of new ecosphere structure to house a succulent plant collection together with related services and visitor facilities, as an extension to the existing visitor attraction at The Newt in Somerset; associated access, landscape and drainage works, including temporary construction access from Cary Edge Lane	Land OS 3426 Hadspen Estate Bratton Seymour Wincanton Castle Cary
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The above was left until next month.

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

None advised.

iii. Outcome of Planning applications

26/01771/PAMB Land Os 9364 Part Cole Bruton Somerset BA10 0PJ Prior Approval for the change of use of an agricultural building and land within the curtilage to form 1 Class C3 dwellinghouse with associated building operations reasonable necessary to convert the building **Application Refused**
 26/01476/S73A, Sunny Hill Villas Sunny Hill Bruton Somerset BA10 0NR, S73 application to vary conditions 4 (Bat Licence), 5 (Bat Protection) and 6 (External Lighting) of approval 23/01786/FUL for Change of use of land to residential, joining of existing 2 dwellings to form a single dwelling; erection of rear extension; erection of detached 3 bay carport/garage with store above; modification of 2 dormer windows; formation of access and parking and turning area. **Application permitted with conditions**

v. Temporary Road Closures: None Advised

vi. **Highways** Nettlecombe Lane Cllr Shylan, defer to November meeting. It needs to be cleared to the top, hedges are overgrown, it's a bridle way and should be cleared as should Hells Larder Lane.

b) Road/ flooding at Cole RS till next month.

2026.76 Correspondence

Fire and rescue services Consultation part of the Parish Plan,

Parishes youth help

Invite from Sarah Dyke to 3rd Flooding Symposium at Keinton Mandeville 15.10.26 6-9pm - noted

Somerset Wildlife Trust, climate action plan

Closure of the Hyper Acute Stroke Unit (HASU) at Yeovil District Hospital (YDH).pt article in Parish Magazine about it..

South East LCN Highways Working Group will now take place on Tuesday October 20th between 10:30 and 12:30 at the Market Place, Castle Cary. Highways meeting in January is 26th Jan, items for agenda to be in by 19th January, we need to flag this and get the bridge at Cole as an item at this meeting.

Heating Oil Support to go in Parish News,

2026.77 Finance

a Pitcombe PCC grant application request - granted

b Cheques were approved for Trebor, Clerk, HMRC and Pitcombe PCC Grant.

c. Financial Report given

2026.78 Council Matters –

a) Flooding – no update this month, but very little rain.

b) Neighbourhood plan update Cllr Wyatt keen to say what parishioners have said. On this. Cllr Duffy will ensure Councillors see the results as soon as he can it will be complete after 4th November so will be on the agenda on 10th November.

c) Bruton School for Girls – update from Cllr Duffy

d) Parish online ready for us to transfer across.

e) Somerset Preparedness survey

f) Councillor training courses no one wanted to attend any of these courses.

2026.79 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. On receipt of Neighbourhood plan survey to discuss finances and how parishioners want money spent.

The meeting closed at 9.00pm

Date of the next Parish Council meeting: Tuesday 10th November 2026 at 7.30pm at Hadspen Village Hall