

# Pitcombe Parish Council

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14 August 2003

**Minutes of the Meeting of Pitcombe Parish Council held in Hadspen Village Hall on  
Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> August 2003.**

Present: Cllrs. Brook, Elliott, Holt, O'Leary, Smith.

In attendance: District Councillor Winder.

In the chair: Cllr. Brook

- 1 To approve the minutes of the Meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> July 2003.  
**Minutes approved.**
- 2 Matters arising from the minutes.
  - 2.1 Previous Minute 3.2: Ownership of verges to Green Lane  
The Chairman had reviewed correspondence from several years ago, from Mr Henry Hobouse Snr., in which he had offered to transfer ownership of the verges to the Parish Council. This had never been completed. The Chairman would contact Mr Hobhouse to review the position.
  - 2.2 Previous Minute 9.1: Travellers.  
There had been discussions between the District Council and Mr Henry Hobhouse. Mr Meyer had been informed that the caravans would be leaving after the apple picking season ends.
  - 2.3 Previous Minute 9.2: Knap Hollow.  
The cars had all been removed from Knap Hollow.
  - 2.4 Previous Minute 20.1: Reported Development at the Riding Stables  
The District Council had been informed that this was Phase 2 of the development approved in 1990. The Chairman to request a copy of the 1990 approved plans. The Chairman will arrange a meeting between Councillors and Mr Hobhouse to discuss this and other matters.
  - 2.5 Previous Minute 10.2: 'National Byway' Cycling signs.  
A letter had been received from the County Council explaining the situation. The National Byway is a network of leisure cycling routes throughout the country, of which 112 miles are in Somerset. The scheme is part-funded by the County Council and is a response to the UK Government's sustainable development strategy. There had been no detailed local discussions on implementation, and a number of concerns had arisen.
- 3 Apologies for Absence.  
Cllrs. Bell, Taylor.
- 4 Declarations of Interest.  
None.
- 5 Public Participation.  
Dr Pheby raised his concerns over the National Byway Cycling signs, one of which had appeared outside his house. Cllr Holt will raise concerns with Mr Greenhalgh, SCC

## Reports from Portfolio Holders.

### 6 Environment, Health (Cllr Elliott)

Cllr Smith had contacted a resident (Miss Thick), concerning a boundary hedge, planted by the District Council, when the properties in Old Station Lane were built. The hedging stock used was not appropriate for the location, and was throwing up suckers in the garden. The hedge had not been maintained by the Council in the past seven years. The situation was unclear, as the ownership of the strip of land remained with the original developers. Local residents would not like to see the screen disappear.

Cllr Winder agreed to discuss the situation with SSDC Planners.

### 7 Highways (Cllr Holt)

A copy of a letter from SCC Highways to Miss Elliott, Hillview, had been received, referring to a request to extend the 30MPH limit past Hillview, on Strutter's Hill. It was believed that there were proposals to introduce a 20MPH limit outside Bruton School for Girls, with a buffer 30MPH zone. The Parish Council did not oppose this extension (as was stated in the letter). Cllr Holt to discuss with Mr Greenhalgh, SCC.

A letter had been received from Mr Andrew Jones, referring to damage to the river bridge, in Pitcombe. It was not quite clear who was responsible for repairs, but this was being pursued as a matter of urgency.

### 8 Parish Tidiness (Cllr O'Leary)

Recycling boxes had now been received in the Parish.

### 9 Slurry Lagoon (Cllr Smith)

The licence to operate the Slurry Lagoon had now been revoked by the Environment Agency. The operator had been given a brief period to spread the residual contents on land. Some spreading had taken place, but it was not complete, and the remaining contents had to be carted away. The smell over the previous week had been intolerable.

### 10 Footpaths, Trees, CPRE (Cllr Taylor)

Nothing to report.

### 11 Law and Order (Cllr Bell)

Sgt Rooke, Wincanton Police, had reported that there had been a spate of vandalism in Bruton. It was important to build up a complete picture of all incidents, and all residents were urged to report any incidents which might occur to the Police.

### 12 General Matters (Cllr Brook)

Nothing to report.

### 13 Planning Applications

13.1 03/02005/FUL Erection of Dwelling, adjacent to Cumberledge House (reserved matters)  
Council believed that the proposed six-bedroom house represented over-development of the site, and was not consistent with neighbouring dwellings. There was concern that existing mature trees would be damaged in the course of construction.

13.2 03/02056/FUL Erection of Dwelling for Principal, Bruton School For Girls, (Strutters Hill)  
Council had no objections.

13.3 03/02218/FUL Construction. of Silage Bay Lily Farm, Cattle Hill  
The proposal was for a large new silage bay at some distance from the existing farm buildings. There was concern that this could result in creeping development if other buildings were later required near the silage bay. To be discussed with Shepton Montague PC, who were also considering the Planning Application.

### 14 Planning Determinations (*Approved*)

14.1 03/01672/FUL Erection of First Floor Extension Jasmine Cottage, Lancombe Lane

### 15 Broadband Access in Somerset.

There was currently no access to broadband data transmission through the local telephone network. Council generally supported the current drive to extend broadband to rural areas of Somerset and encouraged residents to register their interests with BT.

### 16 Councillors' Allowances.

Council **noted** the newly published regulations, and did not intend to pay allowances.

17 Code of Practice for Handling Complaints:

There is currently no procedure for handling complaints which may arise against parish councils, as the Local Government Ombudsman scheme had no jurisdiction. Councils have been urged by NALC to adopt a standard Code of Practice for dealing with complaints.

Council **resolved** that any complaints should be dealt with by the whole Council. Council **adopted** the Standard Code of Practice for Handling Complaints (2003) shown in Appendix I

18 Correspondence.

18.1	SSDC	Millennium People	(to Cllr Holt)
18.2	DEFRA	Rural Service Standard 2003-08-04	
18.3	CPRE	Rural Matters, Planning Update	(to Cllr Taylor)
18.4	SCC	Highways Services	(to Cllr Holt)
18.5	Police Authority	Strategy Plan for 2003-04	(to Cllr Bell)
18.6	SCC	Bringing Broadband to All	
18.7	Env. Agency	Parrett Catchment Area Abstraction Management Strategy	
18.8	SCC	National Byway Cycling Signs.	(to Cllr Holt) (Also letter from Derek Pheby)
18.9	SALC	Councillors' Allowances	Code of Practice for SALC AGM (27 <sup>th</sup> September)
		Complaints (to Cllrs Smith and Brook)	
18.10	Sth Som PCT	Board Briefing	(to Cllr Elliott)
18.11	SCC Highways	to Mr J Elliott, 3, Hill View	(to Cllr Holt)
18.12	SSDC	Survey of Almshouses	
18.13	Safer Sth Som. Partnership	Safer neighbourhoods Conference	(to Cllr Bell)
18.14	SSDC	Standards Committee Minutes	

19 Any Other Business.

Nothing

Date of next meeting: September 9<sup>th</sup>.

## Appendix I

### CODE OF PRACTICE FOR HANDLING COMPLAINTS (2003)

#### Before the Meeting

- I The complainant should be asked to put the complaint about the council's procedures or administration in writing to the clerk or other nominated proper officer.
2. If the complainant does not wish to put the complaint to the clerk or other proper officer, they may be advised to put it to the chairman of the council.
3. The clerk shall acknowledge the receipt of the complaint and advise the complainant when the matter will be considered by the council
4. The complainant shall be invited to attend the relevant meeting and bring with them such representative as they wish.
5. 7 clear working days prior to the meeting, the complainant shall provide the council with copies of any documentation or other evidence, which they wish to refer to at the meeting. The council shall similarly provide the complainant with copies of any documentation upon which they wish to rely at the meeting.

#### At the Meeting

6. The council shall consider whether the circumstances of the meeting warrant the exclusion of the public and the press. Any decision on a complaint shall be announced at the council meeting in public.
7. Chairman to introduce everyone.
8. Chairman to explain procedure.
9. Complainant (or representative) to outline grounds for complaint.
10. Members to ask any question of the complainant.
11. If relevant, clerk or other proper officer to explain the council's position.
12. Members to ask any question of the clerk or other proper officer.
13. Clerk or other proper officer and complainant to be offered opportunity of last word (in this order).
14. Clerk or other proper officer and complainant to be asked to leave room while Members decide whether or not the grounds for the complaint have been made. (If a point of clarification is necessary, both parties to be invited back).
15. Clerk or other proper officer and complainant return to hear decision, or to be advised when decision will be made.

#### After the Meeting

16. Decision confirmed in writing within seven working days together with details of any action to be taken.

Adopted by Pitcombe Parish Council on 12<sup>th</sup> August 2003.