

Pitcombe Parish Council

30 July 2003

**Minutes of the Meeting of Pitcombe Parish Council held in Hadspen Village Hall on
Tuesday 8th July 2003.**

Present: Cllrs. Bell, Brook, Elliott, Holt, O’Leary, Smith, Taylor.

In attendance: County Cllr. Carroll, District Councillor Alexandria Winder. Mr Peter Wyatt (Item 6)
Mr Philip Wainwright, Environmental Health Officer, SSDC,
Philip Hickman, Chemsearch

Mr

In the chair: Cllr Brook.

- 1 To approve the minutes of the Meeting held on 10th June 2003.
Confusion had occurred in understanding the resolution of item 15.3. Council intended that the offer of a grant to the Village Hall Trustees should be deferred until after further discussions with Peter Wyatt. As the Clerk had already written to Mr Wyatt, in principle offering a grant of £1,500, he would write again clarifying the situation. The clause “and he was asked to write to Peter Wyatt to confirm that the Council would be prepared to offer a grant of £1,500 to the Parish Hall Committee” to be deleted from the minutes.
Minutes approved.
- 2 To approve the Minutes of the Special Planning Meeting held on 23rd April 2003.
Minutes approved.
- 3 Matters arising from the minutes.
 - 3.1 Previous Minute 10.1 Sheepwash Grit Store.
The Clerk had written to Mr Higgins, with a copy to Cllr Carroll. The gritstore was now very thoroughly banded.
 - 3.2 Previous Minute 10.1 Ownership of verges to Green Lane.
Cllr. Smith had spoken to Mr Tom Hobhouse, whose understanding is that the verge to a road is in the ownership of whoever owns the adjacent land. The verge should however not be incorporated into the field. It is believed that this has happened in this case. The Clerk was asked to write to Nigel Abbott, Solicitor to the County Council, with a copy to Nigel Farrow, to draw attention to the situation, and to make reference to the previous similar occurrence.
- 4 Apologies for Absence.
None.
- 5 Declarations of Interest.
None.
- 6 Public Participation.
None
- 7 Development Plans for Hadspen Village Hall. (Mr Peter Wyatt)
After considerable discussion, the Trustees had decided that the way forward was to refurbish the current Hall, putting a new shell round the present building, replacing the roof and windows. New toilets and heating would be

installed, and it was hoped that a new access could be obtained from the road, allowing one-way approach for vehicles. Architects were being approached to draw up detailed plans, and tenders would be sought hopefully by December. Submissions for grants would be by June 2004, with the joint County/District Council Village Hall scheme likely to be the major one. Cllr. Carroll mentioned that there could be a separate earlier grant to cover the cost of land acquisition. The previous request to the Parish Council for an indication of a grant by June 2003 had now been overtaken. The earliest time that construction could commence would be April 2005. Mr Wyatt was thanked for attending the meeting.

Reports from Portfolio Holders.

8 Crime and Disorder Cllr Bell

The Annual Report from the Avon and Somerset Police had been received.

9 Environment, Health Cllr. Elliott

9.1 Travellers, Rodge lane

The County Council Officer had spoken to the District Council Planning Enforcement Officer, who would speak to the landowner. Cllr Elliott had established that it was not illegal to use motor vehicles on the lane.

9.2 Knap Hollow

Mr Meyer is following up ownership of the paddock. Further information on ownership has been passed to Mr Meyer.

10 Highways Cllr Holt

10.1 Speed limit proposals for C125.

Cllr Holt had spoken to Colin Fletcher, who had confirmed that a blanket 30MPH speed limit would not be acceptable between Cole and Hadspen/Wagon and Horses, and that the large roadside signs would be required at each change of speed limit. Repeater signs, at 200m intervals, would be 300mm diameter. No road markings would be required.

Council was reluctant to agree to the installation of numerous large roadside signs. Cllr. Carroll reported that alternative means of indicating speed limits were being considered by Central Government for 'environmentally sensitive areas'. This would permit road markings rather than roadside signs, which would be more acceptable in Pitcombe. It was **agreed** to postpone any decision on the introduction of speed limits until this had been clarified.

Cllr Holt would confirm what the proposals were for speed limits on Lime Kiln Lane, and between Hadspen and the Wagon and Horses.

10.2 'Cycling Byways' Roadsigns.

Cycling Byway roadsigns had appeared recently. Cllr Carroll reported that it was not clear who had erected them, and there had been no consultation. This was being followed up through County Highways.

11 Parish Tidiness Cllr. O'Leary

11.1 To agree site for new notice board.

Cllr Smith had received responses favouring the siting of the replacement notice board in Old Station Lane. She was waiting confirmation from County Highways that this would be acceptable.

Cllr O'Leary showed the replacement board to the meeting. It was made from marine ply, and was cork lined. He was thanked for his efforts to get the board made so quickly.

11.2 Litter from McDonald's.

The response from McDonald's had been less than hoped for.

There were natural concerns over the safety of people engaged in litter collection. The clerk mentioned an organisation named 'Keep Britain Tidy' which might be able to offer advice and assistance on litter collection

12 Slurry Lagoon Cllr Smith. Mr Wainwright and Mr Hickman attended for this item.

Cllr. Smith reported that following a site meeting with the District Council Environmental Health Officer, Mr Wainwright, he had written to the Environmental Agency, to inform them that the appalling odours being given off constantly from the lagoon constituted a 'public nuisance' thus breaching the condition in the Planning Consent, and requested the Agency to revoke the licence for the lagoon.

Mr Hickman, Chemsearch, had been asked by Fieldfare Associates, for the operator of the lagoon, to introduce methods to control the odours. He believed that between his visits on 2nd June and

1st July, the odour had been reduced by 50-60%, although this was not an objective measurement. This was disputed by Councillors and residents, and whatever the reduction, the odour was still unacceptable. A 'fogger' had been

installed to disperse a chemical odour control agent into the atmosphere. This was currently an odourless material but an added fragrance was being considered. Mr Hickman would give evidence on the health and safety aspects of the odour control agents to Mr Vernon. It was accepted that more than one fogger would be required to cover for different wind conditions. Mr Hickman was confident that the odour could be controlled to a negligible level by the end of July.

We are waiting a response from the Environment Agency.

13 Footpaths, Trees Cllr Taylor

It was reported that footpath WN22/9 was currently overgrown with maize, and had been reported to the Footpaths Officer. WN22/13 and 22/15 are also impassable, and will be reported to mr Atwell, District Council.

14 General Matters Cllr Brook

The list of Councillors names and addresses would be produced by the Clerk for display on Notice boards. Telephone numbers would not be included.

Cllr Brook had examined the Inspector's Report on the Deposit Draft of the SSDC Local Plan. The only reference to Pitcombe referred to a local objection to remove the Pitcombe Development Area. The Inspector had indicated that no change would be made to the draft deposit.

16 Planning Applications

1.1 03/01672/FUL Jasmine Cottage, Lancombe Lane First floor extension.
Council had no observations to make.

1.2 03/01786/COU Bruton School for Girls classrooms to dwelling for Housemistress, and dormitories. COU of
Council had no observations to make.

2 Planning Determinations

03/01043 Land adjacent to Sunny Hill Cottages, Mill Lane Erection of two semi-detached Dwellings
Approved.

17 To approve Accounts to be Paid.

The following accounts were **approved** for payment:

18	Clerk's Salary and Office Expenses, May-June 2003	£192.70
19	Hire of Hall, Sept '02-May '03	£45.60
1.1	Councillors' Training Courses (To Cllr Elliott)	£18.90
1.2	R Dale, construction of Parish Notice board	£259.57

2 To Approve the Annual Return and Statement of Assurance for the External Audit

Council noted that the External Auditor had examined the financial transactions for the year ended 31st March 2003, and had signed the report. Council authorised the Chairman to sign the statement of Assurance on behalf of the Council.

20 Correspondence

- 1.1 SSDC Restructuring of Development Control Services
- 1.2 Avon & Som Police Annual Report of Police Authority (Iain Bell)
- 1.3 Mendip PCT Change of Address; Board Meeting (Jenny)
- 1.4 CVS News (?)
- 1.5 SSDC Homelessness Strategy (Jenny?)
- 1.6 CPRE Countryside Voice (Roy)
- 1.7 SSDC Disposal Scheme for unwanted cars (Richard)
- 1.8 Wincanton Sports Centre Public Meeting; future plans
- 1.9 SCC Launch of 'Somerset Highways' (Erica)
- 1.10 NALC Annual Conference, Cardiff, 2-5 October.
- 1.11 SS PCT Board Meeting, 19th June (Jenny)
- 1.12 SSDC Storage of vehicles at Knap Hollow (copied to Jenny)
- 1.13 Deputy Prime Minister New Ethical Framework regulations. (Charles)
- 1.14 Standards Board New edition of "How do I Register Interests..."
- 1.15 SALC Consultation on "Providing Indemnity to Authority Officers and Members" (to Charles)

FAQ's

The Clerk noted that the Government was anxious to persuade Parish Clerks to attain a higher level of training. This would be a requirement for parishes which wished to attain 'Quality Parish Status'. The Clerk informed the meeting that he did not intend to attempt to fulfil the steps required for qualification. He did not intend to complete the current four-year Council term, and suggested that the Council should begin looking for a replacement within the next 12 months.

- 1.16 Som. Rural Youth Partnership Newsletter (Erica)
- 1.17 Som. PFA Newsletter (Erica)
- 1.18 SCC Additional Co-opted (Minor Local Authority) Governors

2 Any Other Business.

- 2.1 It was reported that footings for buildings had been laid down at the riding stables. The Planning Enforcement Officer to be requested to investigate.
- 2.2 Cllr O'Leary offered to donate a second notice board to the Council, to replace the Hadspen notice board, which was nearing a state of collapse. Council agreed to accept the generous offer.

Date of next meeting: 12th August