

# Pitcombe Parish Council

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30 July 2003

**Minutes of the Meeting of Pitcombe Parish Council held in Hadspen Village Hall on  
Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> June 2003.**

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

In attendance: District Councillor Alexandria Winder.

In the chair: Cllr Smith.

- 1 To approve the minutes of the Meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> May 2003.  
The date of the meeting was corrected to 12 May 2003. The minutes were corrected to show that Cllr Brook was proposed as Chairman by Cllr Smith, and seconded by Cllr Elliott, and that Cllr Smith was proposed as Vice-Chairman by Cllr. O'Leary and seconded by Cllr Elliott.  
**Minutes approved.**
- 2 To approve the Minutes of the Special Planning Meeting held on 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2003.  
As no members of the meeting were present, item carried forward to next meeting.
- 3 To review the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> May 2003  
**Minutes noted.**
- 4 Matters arising from the minutes.  
Cllr Brook, through the chair, wished to express his apologies for not having thanked the members, retiring members and officers of the previous council for their valuable service over the past four years.
- 5 Apologies for Absence.  
Cllrs Brook, Taylor. County Cllr. Carroll.
- 6 Declarations of Interest.  
None.
- 7 Public Participation.  
None.
- 8 Highways: (Erica Holt)
  - 8.1 Drains, Lime Kiln Lane. No progress, to be raised at the next meeting
  - 8.2 To agree speed limit proposals for C125.  
A meeting had been held with Colin Fletcher, County Highways, who had tabled proposals for speed limits along the C125. 20 MPH limits would be introduced in the vicinity of Bruton School for Girls, 30 MPH limits through the settlements of Cole and Hadspen, and 40 MPH limits from Sunny Hill to Honeywick. A sample of the very large 30MPH roadside signs was shown, 600 x 1200 mm. Smaller repeater signs at intervals of 200m were also required, and 300mm round signs on subsidiary roads. Colin Fletcher wanted to agree the outline of the proposals, before producing detailed implementation plans, as some other Parishes had declined to accept the schemes when the nature of the signing had been explained.

The Council was concerned at the plethora of large signs which would be required, and asked Cllr Holt to

contact Colin Fletcher to see if a simple 30 MPH limit along the length of the C125 from Cole to Ansford would be acceptable. Cllr Holt to check on the size of repeater signs, and whether coloured pads and road markings at speed limit changes were a requirement.

9 Slurry Lagoon. (Sue Smith)

The SSDC Environmental Health Officer had been very helpful, and because of the severe nuisance with smell, the lagoon had been closed for any use (either in or out) until further notice. There was still a considerable stench from the remaining contents of the lagoon, and the operator was proposing to use an additive to control the odour. SSDC would not allow operations to restart until it can be demonstrated that odour can be effectively controlled.

In three weeks time, residents from the worst affected areas would be invited to a meeting between the operator and SSDC to review the findings. Any smells during this time should be carefully logged.

Currently only 'washings' from milk processing were allowed to be spread directly onto land.

10 Travellers, Rodge Lane (Jenny Elliott)

The County Officer, Paul Gault, had been contacted, and he had visited the site last week. For any stay in excess of four weeks, Planning Approval was required. The bridleway was being used for motor vehicles, and Cllr Elliott would contact County Highways to determine whether this breached regulations. Council **agreed** to ask Cllr Elliott to contact Paul Gault and ask him to take action to move the travellers.

The Clerk to contact Mr Higgins, County Highways, concerning the Sheepwash grit store area.

Cllr Smith to follow up progress on transferring ownership of the Green Lane grass verges to the County Council.

11 Neighbourhood Watch. (Iain Bell)

Cllr Bell reported that there were now three Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinators: Sue Chamberlain, Higher Hadspen, Alan Whittaker, Hadspen, and Jill Craig, Pitcombe. An induction meeting would be held for the Co-ordinators shortly.

12 Planning Matters.

12.1 Planning Applications

12.1.1 03/01043 Land adjacent to Sunny Hill Cottages  
Erection of two semi-detached dwellings (Amended plans)

The District Council had noted the previous objections of the Parish Council, but were minded to accept the proposal if agreement could be obtained with the applicant to re-site the dormer windows on the rear of the roof, rather than on the front.

The Parish Council re-iterated its previous objections: that the development is too large and obtrusive, that two access roads are unnecessary and could permit future development on the school playing fields. Council noted that the amended plans showed the dormer to the rear of the roof, but in this position it now overlooked the Girl's School playing field.

12.2 Planning Determinations (*Passed unless otherwise indicated*)

12.2.1 03/00332 Carpenters, Mill Lane Extension.  
12.2.2 03/00343 Honeywick House Greenhouses, pergola, retaining wall.

12.3 Other Planning Matters

None.

13 Provisional Map of Common Land and Open Country.

Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000. No areas of Common Land or Open Country are shown for Pitcombe.

14 Cars parked off Knapp Hollow.

It was reported that up to 10 cars were parked in a paddock at Knapp Hollow. The SSDC Planning Enforcement Officer was following this up with Land Registry. Registration numbers had been reported to the Police.

15 Correspondence

15.1 Countryside Agency Provisional Map of Registered Common Land – Appeals procedure  
(Roy Taylor)  
15.2 SCC Guide to Road Safety in Somerset (Erica Holt)  
15.3 Peter Wyatt Hadspen Village Hall: Request for grant towards renovation.

The Chairman of the Hadspen Village Hall Committee had written to the Parish Council to confirm that it is now applying for grants from various bodies to fund a major refurbishment for the existing Village Hall, and requested confirmation of a grant from the Parish Council. The Clerk noted that the Parish Council had set aside £150 per year over the past 10 years for this purpose, 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. Peter Wyatt would be invited to a Parish Council meeting in the near future to give further details of the plans.

- 15.4 SCC Somerset Waste Local Plan; Revised draft. (Jenny Elliott)
- 15.5 SS NHS Stakeholder Conference, 16<sup>th</sup> June (Jenny Elliott)
- 15.6 List of Parish Councillors – Council agreed to publish a list of Councillors and portfolios.
- 15.7 Safer Sth Som. Partnership Conference, Grants available for small projects. (Iain Bell)
- 15.8 SSDC Model Code of Conduct, Register of List of Interests received.
- 15.9 SSDC Rural Housing Awareness Event 5<sup>th</sup> July

16 Any Other Business.

- 16.1 Litter: Cllr O’Leary had written to McDonalds to complain about the quantity of food containers littering Pitcombe. He was planning to organize some sort of ‘blitz’ on cleaning up litter.
- 16.2 Ludwell’s Elm, (Cllr. O’Leary): The grass had been cut. The plaque commemorating the planting of the tree, which marked the Bruton-Williamsburg Tercentennial, would be returned to Bruton Town Council.
- 16.3 Notice board: The Ludwell’s Elm notice board had been removed, and a new board would be ready for erection in a few weeks time. Site to be agreed at the next meeting.
- 16.4 The Clerk to supply headed notepaper (or a computer file of the heading) to members of the Council.
- 16.5 Training Courses: Cllrs Elliott and Holt would attend Training Events for new councillors. Council would cover the cost of the courses, although there was no provision in the budget for training, as it had generally been free in the past.
- 16.6 Land off Hurn Lane: It was noted that there were now two cars and a lorry parked here. To be discussed with Shepton Montague Parish Council (Cllr Brook).