

Pitcombe Parish Council

21 November 2003

Minutes of the Meeting of Pitcombe Parish Council held in Hadspen Village Hall on Tuesday 11th November 2003.

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

In attendance: County Cllr. T Carroll, District Councillor Alexandria Winder, District Councillor G Chinnock, Ms Helen Rutter, Area Development Manager, SSDC Area East.

In the chair: Cllr. Brook

- 1 To approve the Minutes of the Meeting held on 14th October 2003.
Minutes approved.
- 2 Matters arising from the Minutes.
None.
- 3 Apologies for Absence.
None.
- 4 Declarations of Interest.
Cllr. Brook declared a personal and prejudicial interest in Item 13.2: Planning Application for change of use of a small area of land at Hadspen Farm.
- 5 Public Participation.
Mrs Pheby reported that another car had collided with the bank near Plaichetts House, and had caused damage.
- 6 Area East Developments.
Ms Helen Rutter, Area Development Manager, SSDC Area East, is visiting all Parish and Town Councils. There has been a major restructuring in South Somerset District Council over the past nine months. A number of council services had been centralised in Yeovil, and the functions of the Area Offices had been reduced, although it was hoped that the best aspects of the 'Area' system had been retained. Ms Rutter and her team would be the first point of contact for parish council enquiries.

Government imposed initiatives would require further changes in the future, including electronic response to the majority of enquiries.

Cllr Brook thanked Ms Rutter and Cllr Chinnock for attending the meeting.
- 7 Reports from Portfolio Holders.
Environment, Health (Cllr Elliott)
Ownership of the 'ransom strip' at Old Station Lane was being further investigated by County Highways, and it was possible that the County owned it. Mr Meyer, the Planning Enforcement Officer, had been informed of the presence of a caravan at Knap Hollow, and would keep this under review, together with the caravans used by the seasonal apple pickers. Residents at Shatwell were concerned about a possible change of use of land, and this is being followed up.
- 8 Highways (Cllr Holt)

A number of complaints have been received about abandoned farm vehicles and equipment in Pitcombe. This is being followed up with County Highways and the Police. A car had scraped the side of Cole Farm Barn and had caused minor damage. The car had been removed some hours later, but no details were known. It is important that in all road traffic incidents, the registration numbers of the vehicles involved should be noted and reported (to the Police or neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinators).

9 Parish Tidiness (Cllr O'Leary)

'Litter Pickers' are on order from the District Council, and will be followed up by the Clerk.

Kerbside Recycling collections are to start earlier in the day. Plastic and glass still have to be recycled at District Council collecting points.

10 Slurry Lagoon (Cllr Smith)

The Slurry Lagoon is now empty, and is not causing smells, although some ploughing of slurry residue spread on fields still needs to be done. It was agreed that Cllr Smith would make representations to the Environment Agency to confirm the permanent suspension of all operations,

Cllr Carroll had had further discussions with the County Planning Department on the re-instatement of the bridleway near the lagoon, which was a condition of the Planning Approval. The matter is now in the hands of the County's solicitors.

11 Footpaths, Trees, CPRE (Cllr Taylor)

The possibility of a permissive footpath between the church and Strutters Hill is still being followed, but would be a long-term project.

12 Law and Order (Cllr Bell)

Nothing to report.

13 General Matters (Cllr Brook)

Nothing to report.

14 Planning Applications

14.1 03/02902COU 1, Grove Mead Erection of Stable block and tack room
Council supported this application.

14.2 03/02880COU Hadspen Farm Change of use of land (80 m²)
Cllr Brook left the room for this item and Cllr Smith took the chair.
This application related to a small patch of land and involved realignment of a fence. The change would improve access. Council supported this application.

14.3 03/03052 Bruton School for Girls Provision of synthetic hockey pitch and floodlighting.
Concerns were expressed over the height of the lighting standards and that no time limits had been proposed in the application. Council agreed that a time limit of 9.00 p.m should be requested (similar to other floodlighting schemes at Sexey's School) and that the District Council should require best possible guidance standards to be followed to limit light spill.

14.4 03/03077/COU Hadspen House Construct open-air swimming pool.
Council had no comments to make.

15 Planning Determinations

03/02218 Lily Farm, Cattle Hill Silage storage bay. *Approved.*

16 To approve a Budget for 2004-2005, and to approve a Precept.

See Appendix for details.

It was not intended to transfer further money to the Village Hall Fund this year, and together with other changes, expenditure in the current year was likely to be about £160 less than budgeted, resulting in a small surplus of about £40. It was **agreed** to request a precept of £2950 for 2004-05, which would result in a Band D Charge of about £17.85 an increase of about 5%. Council **approved** the proposed budget for 2004-05.

[To see Budget, Click Here](#)

17 To approve Accounts to be Paid

Council **approved** the following accounts for payment:

17.1.1	M J Millican	Salary and Office Expenses, September-October	£159.39
17.1.2	Moore Stephens	Audit Fee	£58.75
17.1.3	PCC	Annual Grant towards Churchyard Maintenance	£630.00
17.1.4	Village Hall Committee	Annual Grant	£460.00

18 Annual Audit:

Closure of the audit for 2002-03 has now received from Auditors and has been notified on Parish notice boards.

19 Correspondence.

- 19.1 SSDC 'Wake up to Waste' information on reducing waste. (Cllr O'Leary)
- 19.2 SCC Highways Services Newsletter (Cllr Holt)
- 19.3 Air Ambulance Appeal for Funds
- 19.4 SALC Agenda, 8th December; Minutes; Legal Topic Notes, Councillors Allowances .(Cllrs Brook and Smith) It was noted that the current system of allowances for Councillors is withdrawn from 31st December, and in the absence of a new resolution, the Parish Council will not have a power to pay mileage allowances. No allowances have been paid in recent times to Councillors.
- 19.5 SSDC Changes to recycling collection times
- 19.6 CPRE Transport Campaign news (Cllr Holt) Countryside Voice (Cllr Taylor)
- 19.7 CVS Community News (including information on various grant schemes)
- 19.8 SCC Local Transport Plan: Progress Report (Cllr Holt)
- 19.9 SSDC 'Moving Parish Projects Forward': One day conference
- 19.10 SSDC Dog Waste Bins (Cllr O'Leary)
- 19.11 SSDC Annual Parish Council Workshop, 19th November (Cllr Brook)
- 19.12 SSDC Flax, Hemp and Rope project (Cllr Brook)
- 19.13 SCC Somerset Youth Project: 'Celebrate Youth' event, Dec 3rd (Erica)
- 19.14 Community Council 'Altogether Now' roadshow, February.
- 19.15 Victim Support Appeal for funds. (Cllr Brook)
- 19.16 CPRE Rural Matters (Cllr Taylor)
- 19.17 'The Local Channel' Hosting for Website (Cllr Brook)
- 19.18 Dillington House Free residential training for those who would like to play a greater role in their communities.

20 To Set the Date of the Next Meeting

It was **agreed** that the scheduled meeting for December would be cancelled. The next meeting will be held on 13th January 2004.

21 Any Other Business.

None