

# Pitcombe

## Parish Council

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24 November 2002

**Minutes of the Meeting of Pitcombe Parish Council held in Hadspen Village Hall on  
Monday 11<sup>th</sup> November 2002.**

Present: Cllrs. Bell, Brooks, Bunting, Pheby, Taylor, Vernon.

1 To approve the minutes of the Meeting held on 9th September 2002.

Minutes **approved**.

2 Matters arising from the minutes.

The Clerk would write to the South Somerset PCT to ask them to confirm that, for public health matters, Pitcombe was part of South Somerset. Cllr. Pheby confirmed that she was receiving information from SSPCT.

3 Apologies for Absence.

Cllr. Jennings, County Councillor Tim Carroll

4 Declarations of Interests.

None.

5 Public Participation.

5.1 Martin Jennings reported that SSDC had carried out the dredging of the River Pitt in Pitcombe, but that in his opinion, the dredging had not been carried out far enough along the retaining wall.. The contractor had commented that this was because the wall did not have adequate footings. Cllr. Bell would discuss with Geoff Allen, SSDC.

5.2 Ken Elliot raised concern over increased volume of traffic along the C125 between Cole and Hadspen. The hedge had not been cut, and this increased danger, due to effectively reducing the width of the road. Rumble strips had been painted in the road near to Sunny Hill, but were not prominent enough effective in reducing speed. Mr Constantine hoped that any speed limits introduced would be introduced further back along the road to Cole Manor. The Clerk would enquire on the current situation on introducing extra speed limits on the C125.

The hedge replanted along the Green Lane near to the slurry pit was too close to the road. This had been reported to the County Planning Officer, and would be followed up.

Mr Elliot asked if the Chairman would consider writing a short summary of Parish Council activities for the Parish Magazine. Cllr. Taylor agreed to do this.

Mr Elliot complained about the appalling state of the road leading from Mill Lane to Pitcombe Church. Remembrance Sunday had been very well attended, but it had been difficult to park cars and get to the Church. The problem appeared to be flooding from the river, and inadequate drains. The Clerk to contact Highways.

6 Review of Expenditure, Budget Proposals for 2004, and to Approval the Precept for 2003-04 (see Appendix for details)

A review of current year's expenditure indicated that the surplus at the year end would be about £50, in line with the Budget, though this was mainly because the Golden Jubilee payment was made last year, rather than in the current year.

The PCC and the Village Hall Committee had requested grants for next year in line with grants budgeted in the current year. Next year was election year, and if an election for Parish Councillors took place, the Parish would be charged for 25% of the costs of the election, about £200. With a modest increase of the Precept to £2,800, a deficit of £125 was expected. This represented an increase of 3.7% in the Precept, or 62p in Council Tax over a year, for Band D property.

The Council **approved** a precept of £2,800 for the year 2003-04

7 Standing Orders.

NALC had issued a new set of Standing Orders, which could be customised for each Council. The National Association strongly recommended each council to adopt Standing Orders.

It was **agreed** to refer the Standing Orders to a sub-committee of the Chairman, and Vice Chairman.

8 Financial Regulations.

NALC had also issued proposals for Financial Regulations. Also to be referred to the Standing Orders sub-committee.

9 Freedom of Information Act: To Adopt a Publication Scheme for the Council.

To comply with the Freedom of Information Act, each local council has to adopt a Publication Scheme by the end of December. The Council **approved** the adoption of the Model Publication Scheme for Local Councils, and authorised the Chairman to sign the Declaration Form.

The Parish Council is ahead of many local councils, as it already publishes Minutes and Annual Accounts on parish notice boards, and on the Council website. In addition, Declarations of Acceptance of Office, and the Register of Members' Interests will be made available for inspection by request.

10 To approve accounts to be paid.

The following accounts were approved for payment:

10.1	M J Millican	Salary and office expenses, Sept-Oct 2002	£211.93
10.2	CPRE	Annual Membership	£25.00
10.3	Mr C Earl	Grass cutting Ludwell's Green, 2002	£130.00
10.4	Butterworths	Local Council Administration (Book)	£41.10

The Clerk was asked to thank Chris Earl for keeping Ludwell's Green and the adjacent area looking smart and tidy during the year.

11 Correspondence.

11.1	SSDC	Introduction of recycling service
11.2	Somerset Hedge Group	Somerset Hedge Week.
11.3	SSDC	Tree Talk (to Hamish Craig)
11.4	Mendip PCT	Board Meeting, and Trust Briefing (to Cllr. Pheby)
11.5	CPRE	'Countryside Voice'
11.6	SSDC	Almshouses in South Somerset Housing Accommodation Seminar, 21 November.
11.7	SSDC	Annual Parish Council Workshop, 14 <sup>th</sup> November (Chairman to attend)
11.8	Police Auth.	The Police Authority seeks new independent members.
11.9	SCC	Community Enterprise Newsletter.
11.10	Yeovil CVS	Community News

- 11.11 SSDC 'News and Views'
- 11.12 CPRE (Somerset) 'Somerset Matters'
- 11.13 SSDC Local Elections 2003.
- 11.14 SCC 'Your Somerset'
- 11.15 SCC Re-signing for overbridges.
- 11.16 Mendip PCT Annual Report.
- 11.17 SCC Somerset Waste Local Plan.
- 11.18 CPRE Planning Update (to Cllr. Bunting)
- 11.19 WS Atkins Temporary closure of Wyke Road, Ansford.
- 11.20 SALC Clerk's Salaries; Training Event, new legislation.
- 11.21 South West Reg. Assembly Questionnaire.
- 11.22 Countryside Agency Vital Villages Update; Parish Transport Grants; Local Heritage Projects.
- 11.23 SALC Area Meeting, 9 December (Marston Magna)  
Training Event on Recent Legislation (19<sup>th</sup> November)
- 11.24 SSDC Response to Pitcombe PC objection to local Plan (traffic management on C125) on SSDC had considered the Pitcombe PC objection to the Local Plan. While sympathetic, it was more appropriate to refer this to the County Council, which they have done.
- 11.25 SSDC Recreational Facilities Grants
- 11.26 SSDC A359 Yeovil Heavy Goods Vehicle Management Plan – Review.
- 11.27 Mendip PCT Trust Briefing (to Cllr Pheby)
- 11.28 Avon & Som Police Consultation Process
- 11.29 SSDC 'Heritage Matters' newsletter. (to Cllr. Bunting)
- 11.30 SSDC Standards Committee – Agenda
- 11.31 Bruton Sc. For Girls Decision to market building plots.

12 Any Other Business.

12.1 Parish Council Elections.

The Chairman drew attention to the date of the election for parish councillors, which would take place at the same time as elections for district councillors, on 1<sup>st</sup> May 2003. Nomination papers would be available in February/March next year; closing date for nominations 1<sup>st</sup> April 2003

- 12.2 Cllr. Pheby drew attention to a petition believed to be from Ansford Parish Council, to install traffic lights at the 'Wagon and Horses' crossroads.
- 12.3 Two pine trees had been blown down recently. Martin Jennings said that it was intended to replace them.  
Mr Elliot mentioned that as a result of storm damage, he had had to fell two trees.
- 12.4 The Chairman reported that Bruton Town Council were concerned at the fairs that had been held recently off Cole Road.

12.5 Dates for Future Council Meetings.

The Clerk proposed the following dates for next year's meetings:

2003

January 13 (already booked)

March 10

May 12 Annual Parish Meeting and First Meeting of newly elected Council.

July 14

September 8

November 10

2004

January 12

12.6 It was reported that at the site off Hurn Lane where soil had been spread, a lorry had been parked or abandoned. To be referred to the County Council Planning Department.

13 Clerk's Salary

The Clerk is paid on a scale agreed between the National Association of Local Councils and the Association of Local Council Clerks. The Clerk is currently paid at £7.43 per hour for two hours per week, on 'Spine Point 20'. (£64.57 per month)

New rates have been agreed w.e.f. 1 April 2002, and the Clerk is now able to progress to Spine Point 21. The new rate of pay is £8.12 per hour, a monthly rate of £71.37.

Council **agreed** to the new rate of pay for the Clerk with effect from 1 April 2002.