

Pitcombe Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of Pitcombe Parish Council held in Hadspen Village Hall on Tuesday 9th November 2004

Present: Councillors Bell, Brook, Elliott, Holt, Jennings, O'Leary, Smith

In the Chair: Councillor Smith

In attendance: District Councillor Alexandria Winder
Councillor Marlene Masters, Yarlington
Councillor Justin Robinson, Bruton

1. Public Participation

Mr Taylor raised the following points:

- a. Planning – Mr Taylor was concerned that a planning application had not appeared on last month's agenda and that no comment had been made by the Council. The Chairman stated that there had been some confusion due to holidays. Planning was on the agenda to be discussed at item 9.
- b. Slurry Lagoon – Mr Taylor had spoken to Ian Myers, EA, today and been advised that Mr Walters has applied for a license to spread the contents of the lagoon on the land. Mr Taylor is concerned that this may lead to the same problems of last year.
- c. Slurry lagoon – Mr Taylor is concerned that as it is prohibited for persons to enter the lagoon because of noxious fumes surely it would be dangerous to spread the same on the land. The Chairman assured Mr Taylor that this was no so.

2. To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 12th October 2004

It was agreed that the minutes of the meeting held on 12th October 2004 be adopted as a true and accurate record with the addition of an addendum recording the nomination of Councillor Jennings as the Council representative on the Village Hall Committee.

Minutes Approved

3. Matters arising from the minutes of 12th October 2004

- a. Para. 7. – Highways – Councillor Holt reported that the drains in Lime Kiln Lane have as yet not been jetted but Tony Leach, Highways, hopes to carry out the work in w/c 15th November. The lower end has already been cleared. A report has also been made to Highways about Mill Lane subsidence.
- b. Para 9 – Slurry Lagoon – Councillor Smith stated that the Environment Agency were issuing a license for the final emptying and spreading of the contents of the lagoon. A meeting is to be arranged between the EA and Mr Walters to discuss what will happen to the lagoon after it is emptied as he is required to apply for permission to fill it in.

4. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from County Councillor Carroll

5. Declarations of interest

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None.

6. Application to modify RUPPS WN22/24 and WN 22/8 to BOAT

Councillor Brook explained to Council the background to this application and then introduced Marlene Masters, a Councillor from Yarlington, who has had first hand experience of such an application. She stated that under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 (CROW) a new category of public right of way, the 'Restricted Byway' (RB) was introduced. Under the Act all 'Roads used mainly as public paths' – RUPPS will be converted to RBs and it will become an offence to drive a vehicle on these. As yet no date has been given for when the conversion will take place but this is why applications are being made now by The Trail Riders Fellowship to turn RUPPS to 'Byway Open to All Traffic' – BOAT. She strongly advised that the Council should vigorously resist the application and suggested that Councils should get together to fight these applications. She stated that an organisation GLEAM – Green Lanes Environment Action Movement, was a good source of knowledge and agreed to forward details to the Council.

Council agreed that a letter should be sent to SCC stating that the Parish Council vigorously resists the application and that the Council do not believe that public vehicle rights have ever existed.

7. Audit Report – Increase Fidelity Guarantee

It was proposed and seconded that the Fidelity Guarantee be increased to £5000, in line with the Auditors recommendations.

Approved

8. Precept

The Clerk presented draft proposal for the precept bearing in mind the Councils decisions of last year to increase the reserves. Payments of the grants to the Pitcombe PCC and Hadspen Village Hall are being paid now and the Clerk suggested that these in future should be paid when the precept is received. This was agreed. The Clerk advised she had written to these bodies regarding the amount required for 2005/06 and that the Council would be required to decide the precept at the next meeting to comply with SSDC timings.

9. Planning

It was decided that the Clerk will provide copies of the notice of planning application for the notice boards and Councillors will notify the Chairman if they are to be away more than seven days. This should ensure that plans do not in future become delayed. Procedures will be reviewed if problems occur.

10. Planning Applications

04/02618/COU – R C Walters – Priddle Hill Farm - Change of use from agricultural to commercial, equestrian and light industrial – No comments were made.

11. Planning Determinations - Granted

04/02618/COU R C Walters - Priddle Hill Farm – change of use from agricultural to commercial, equestrian and light industrial units

12. Accounts for payment

It was proposed and seconded that the following account be approved for payment.

1	Moore Stephens	Audit Fee	£58.75
2	M J Humphry	Clerk's Salary for October 2004	£64.16

3	Scottish Widows Bank	Transfer of funds to Treasury Account	£500.00
4	Pitcombe PCC	Church maintenance grant	£450.00
5	Hadspen Village Hall	Annual grant	£460.00

Approved

13 Correspondence

1	CPRE	Countryside Voice magazine	Cllr Smith
2	SCC	Reappointment of LEA Representative Governors for Voluntary Aided and Voluntary Controlled Schools	
3	Countryside Agency	Conclusive Map of Open Country	Cllr Brook
4	SS Primary Care Trust	Consultation – South Petherton Community Hosp.	
5	SCC	Somerset Waste Local Plan – Proposed Modifications	
6.	Mendip Primary Care Trust	Board meeting	
7	Parrett Catchment Project	Newsletter	
8	Working with Young People	Creative Christmas Activities	
9	Community Council	Somerset Funders Fairs – 9 th November	Cllr Smith
10	Playing Fields Assc.	Newsletter	
11	SALC	Guide to becoming a Quality Council	All
12	SSDC	Budget Consultation – 29/11/04 – Churchfields	
13	SSDC	Area East News	
14	Office of Deputy PM	New Ethical Framework Regulations	
15	SSDC	Notes of Annual Parish meeting with SSDC of 20 th October	
16	SSDC	Area East Agenda – 10 th November	
17	Lyn & David Jury	Trail Riding, Lancombe Lane	All Cllrs
18	Age Concern	Request for grant/posters	

14. Items for the next agenda

Pitcombe Parish Website - Cllr Brook advised that he had approached Tom O’Leary about maintaining the website. Further discussions were to take place with Mike Millican and a report would be made at the next meeting.

15. Reports from Portfolio Holders

a. Environment, Health (Cllr Elliott)

Council was advised that the hedge in Mill Lane had been cut back by the householder.

Council was informed that the ownership of the hedge in Station Road has been established as Mr Fawcett, the builder and therefore this matter is no longer the responsibility of the Council.

b. Footpaths (Cllr Jennings)

Council was advised that Paul Atwell, Countryside Office SSDC had agreed to replace the styles which had been causing access problems with gates.

Members of the Council considered the matters in the exercise of their functions: Equal Opportunities (race, gender, sexual orientation, marital status and any disability): Crime and Disorder, Health and Safety and Human Rights.