

Pitcombe Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of Pitcombe Parish Council held in Hadspen Village Hall on Tuesday 13th September 2005

Present: Councillors: Bell, Elliott, Holt, Jennings, and O'Leary

In the Chair: Councillor Elliott

In attendance: District Councillor Alexandria Winder

1. Public Participation

John Knight expressed his concerns at the deterioration in the maintenance of the footpaths and advised Council that many are overgrown and difficult to negotiate. Councillor Jennings stated he had been in constant contact with Paul Atwell, Senior Countryside Officer and after many problems with stolen equipment and replacement troubles cutting and clearing had started today. Council was advised that the Bridleways and Public Footpaths should be cut two or three times a year. Landowners are responsible for footpaths crossing their land.

Mike Taylor stated that there had been little nuisance since the lagoon was emptied but was concerned as to the future plans.

Mike Taylor advised Council that a survey of 101 homes (249 persons) had been carried out to ascertain the support for a new village hall. 242 were in favour and 7 against.

2. To approve the minutes of the meetings held on 9th August 2005

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It was proposed and seconded that the minutes of the meetings held on 9th August 2005 be adopted as a true and accurate record.

Minutes Approved

3. Matters arising from the minutes of 9th August 2005

a. **Para 4 a – Slurry lagoon** Councillor O'Leary gave Councillor Smith's report. Council was advised that the lagoon is now empty and that the Environment Agency are in the process of preparing a case against Mr Walters and witness statements have been taken. The Environment Agency are still awaiting his proposals for the site.

b. **Para 8 – Website** Councillor O'Leary gave Councillor Smith's report. Council was advised that David Jury had agreed to take over the website management and was currently in discussions with Mike Millican. It was suggested that he be invited to the next Council meeting when Council would be able to define what was required. Council agreed.

c. **Para 4 b – Footpaths** - See Paragraph 1.

4. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Councillors Brook and Smith

5. Declarations of interest

None

6. Planning Applications

05/02223/FUL Ashridge Trees Grove Cross Barn Erection of Polytunnel

Council agreed to support this application.

Approved

05/01195/FUL Bruton School for Girls Sunnyhill The Conversion/enlargement of
entrance/exit the existing prep school car park

Council had also received plans of the proposals from SCC regarding Traffic Calming on the A359 at Bruton School for Girls. This scheme, if accepted would have a direct effect on this entrance as it would straddle the 20/30mph barrier. It was suggested therefore that the Clerk contact Area East Planning to advise them of this proposed scheme as it would appear that they are unaware of SCC plans. With regard to the plans themselves concern was raised about the number of trees that would be needed to be removed.

Councillor Holt stated she would contact Bev Norman, Senior Traffic Engineer SCC and it was agreed to delay discussion of the Traffic Calming until the next meeting to allow Councillors time to study the plans.

7. Grant to Hadspen Village Hall

Councillor O'Leary considered that the grant of £1,500 was given specifically for rebuilding and should not be diverted to pay for tables. District Councillor Winder pointed out that in order to attract funding it was beneficial if the Parish Council gave support. After much discussion it was proposed and seconded that a grant be made to Hadspen Village Hall for the cost of one table. This being £88.52 plus VAT.

Approved

8. Reports

a. Portfolio Holders

Councillor O'Leary advised there was an increase in the amount of unauthorised tipping in the Parish and he had recently taken four sodden double mattresses, which had been dumped, to Dimmer Recycling Centre. Councillor Brook had requested that a new litter rota be drawn up. Councillor O'Leary proposed the parish be divided giving each Councillor responsible for litter in a particular area. This was approved by Council and Councillor O'Leary agreed to draw up the areas and put the details in the Parish magazine.

Approved

Concerns were expressed regarding Dimmer Recycling Centre and problems that had occurred when articles are refused. The Clerk was requested to write to Wyvern Waste requesting information on what can be accepted for recycling.

Councillor Holt stated that the hole in Mill Lane had been fixed and Wessex Water had carried out their repairs as well. It was reported that another hole has appeared in the road at Blackpits Lane and Councillor Holt agreed to report this.

Councillor Jennings advised Council that it was National Tree planting week from 23rd November and that

there was to be a seed gathering Sunday at Nine Springs in Yeovil on 9th October.

- b. **District Councillor** - Councillor Winder stated SSDC are arranging a Workshop on the new delegated planning process and details should be out shortly. It was also stated that South Somerset Homes are looking for small patches of land near enough to towns for Social Housing and Pitcombe was asked to notify any possible sites.

9. Accounts for payment

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

M J Humphry	Clerk's Salary for July 2005	£67.60
CPRE	Annual subscription	£25.00

Approved

10. Correspondence

1	SCC	Traffic Calming Bruton School for Girls	Clr Holt
2.	SSDC	Parish Council Allowances	All Cllrs
3.	SCC	Statement of Community Involvement in Planning	
4.	SSDC	South Somerset Food Festival	
5.	The Local Channel	Re free website	Clr Smith
6.	Countryside Focus	Magazine	
7.	Local Works	Campaign for Sustainable Communities Bill	
8.	CPRE	Fieldwork magazine	
9.	SSDC	Tree Talk	
10.	Playing Field Ass.	Newsletter	
11	Parrett Catchment Project	Invite Annual General meeting 20 th October	
12	Clerks & Council Direct	Magazine	
13	SSCAT	New Brochure & letter explaining scheme	
14	SCC	Somerset Local Minerals Local Plan 1997-11	
15	SSDC	Area East Meeting 14 th September 2005	
16	Community Council	Thatch Magazine	
17	SSDC	Housing Strategy Seminar – 28 th September	
18	SSDC – Tony Leach	Re Haynes Motor Museum Signs	

Item 7 **Campaign for Sustainable Communities Bill** Correspondence passed to Councillor Jennings for circulation to all Councillors.

Item 18 **Unauthorised Road Signage** The Clerk stated she had contacted Somerset Highways about unauthorised signs on the roadside, in particular those of Haynes Motor Museum. Tony Leach had replied stating that Haynes Motor Museum do erect a number of signs during the summer and those considered unsafe are removed immediately and believes that their remaining signs have now all been removed. Council was advised that if unauthorised signs do appear which are considered inappropriate/dangerous Tony Leach should be contacted immediately.

11. Items for the next agenda

Website; Traffic Calming; Trafalgar Celebrations; Precept

Next meeting Tuesday 11th October 2005

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.