

Pitcombe Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of Pitcombe Parish Council held in Hadspen Village Hall on 12 December 2006

Present: Councillors: Jennings, Carter, Holt, Elliott, Taylor
In the Chair: Councillor Brook
Absent: Councillor Bell

In attendance: County Councillor Robinson
District Councillor Winder

1. **Public Participation**

No comments received.

2. **Minutes of the Meeting held on 14 November 2006**

It was agreed that the minutes of the meeting held on 14 November 2006 be adopted as a true and accurate record.

3. **Matters Arising from the Minutes of 12 September 2006**

Priddles Hill. 05/03107/COU - Informal Hearing - Andrew Hopkins Concrete Ltd. Siting of low level concrete batching plant, storage of aggregates and parking of associated vehicles. The Chairman announced the the appeal by Andrew Hopkins had been dismissed. (Planning Inspector's report attached).

It was reported that a certain amount of vehicular activity is continuing at Priddles Hill and Councillor Elliott agreed to contact Mr Myer, Enforcement Officer regarding this.

Mud on Road (Apple Harvesting). In response to the Council's request, Mr Hobhouse has agreed to scrape mud and debris deposited on the road around the orchard area during apple harvesting. This will be carried out next year (2007).

4. **Apologies for absence**

None received.

5. **Declarations of Interest**

None.

6. **Planning Applications**

06/04494/FUL – Gerald Spratling – Erection of 2 storey extension to front of dwelling

DRAFT MINUTES SUBJECT TO CONFIRMATION

Location: Manor Farm, Cole. (**Revised Plan**)

The council had no observations on this application.

06/04460/FUL - Mr & Mrs West – Erection of first floor extension

Location: 1 Gristway Cottages, Hadspen, Castle Cary. (**Revised Plan**)

The council had no observations on this application.

7. **Precept**

It was proposed and seconded that the precept for 2007/08 be set at £6905.00

8. **Local Government Reorganisation (LGR)**

The Clerk attended a meeting of Somerset Association of Local Councils (SALC) on 11 December 2006, where proposals for Local Government Reorganisation (outlined in Local Government White Paper, published by Ruth Kelly on 26 October 2006) were discussed. The proposals were met with mixed reactions, as there were gaps and areas where further clarification, only by the draft legislation, would provide a better understanding.

District Councillor Robinson and Local Councillor Winder explained the proposals to the Parish Council. The LGR will include significant proposals to extend the scope and powers of town and parish councils. Councillors Robinson and Winder urged members of the Parish Council to attend forthcoming meetings on 4 and 10 January 2007 to gain an understanding of the scope and new powers.

9. **Reports**

Cllr Taylor gave a report on the Clean Neighbourhood and Environment Act 2005 Workshop - the main topic fly posting. Councillor Taylor explained the implications of this new legislation, which will apply to events being held at the Village Hall including renting organisations. Any complaints received by the Environmental Department regarding fly posting could result in a Fixed Penalty Notice of £80 being issued for each poster that has been posted. Fixed Penalty Notices can be issued to the beneficiary as well as the person posting the posters. Section 31 of the Act enables the local authority to issue a notice requiring the removal of such notices within 28 days. Section 34 of the Act allows local authorities to recover the cost of removing the fly-posters from the person whose goods or services are being promoted by the fly poster. Discretion should be exercised in the posting of notices and guidance/ permission sought from the Environmental Enforcement Officer, Lyndsey Gempton 01935 462830.

Cllr Taylor advised that details of Refuse and Recycling collection arrangements for Christmas and the New Year 2006-07 had been received and will be posted on the parish noticeboards.

Cllr Taylor referred to Honeywick Hill and problems encountered with trees leaning down on overhead BT cabling. A job number has been allocated to the clearance work and it is available to anyone following up on progress.

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Cllr Jennings informed the Parish Council that a meeting with the Bursar of Sunny Hill School and a District Council representative had been arranged to discuss tree maintenance and any necessary replanting within the grounds.

Cllr Carter gave an update on her progress with footpath maintenance stating that she had written to the landowners regarding the ploughing of field edges. Cllr Brook mentioned the floodwater obstruction to footpath 22/4 which also causes access problems to Gants Mill. Despite correspondence with Network Rail on this matter ditch clearance work in Sunny Lane had not been completed. District Councillor Winder advised that SSDC were unable to assist with the problem as they were not permitted on railway land.

Chairman – the Chairman referred to a new initiative which he had reported in the Pitcombe Parish News. Some anxious responses had been received regarding the proposal by Mr Hobhouse, in outline agreement with Mr Walters, to explore the possibility of erecting a wind turbine on top of Nettlecombe Hill. Mr Hobhouse, who was present at the meeting, gave an explanation of his proposal to the parish council. After some discussion, it was decided that a leaflet detailing the proposal would be produced by Mr Hobhouse for circulation to all residents of the parish. After consideration by the residents a meeting will be arranged in January 2007 to discuss the matter further. Cllr Taylor pointed out that Ansford School were also proposing to erect a wind turbine on the school playing field. The Clerk agreed to write to the Chairman of Governors at Ansford School requesting information on their proposals.

10. Accounts for Payment

It was proposed and seconded that the following accounts be approved for payment:

J Linden	Admin costs – postage	£3.84
J Linden	Clerk's salary for November 2006	£69.63

11. Correspondence:

1. SALC Items of Interest to Councillors and Clerks November 2006 and NALC Policy Circular
2. SCC Parish Emergency Plans
3. CPRE Autumn Newsletter 2006
4. Somerset Highways Mud on Road - Pitcombe
5. SCC Localisation and Frontline Councillors
6. SSDC Local Government Reorganisation and South Somerset
7. Thatch Rural Community Magazine Winter 2006
8. Community Council for Somerset Community Update – Funding News
9. Planning Inspectorate Appeal by Andrew Hopkins Concrete Ltd
10. SSDC Refuse & Recycling Collection Arrangements Christmas & New Year 2006/07
11. CPRE Fieldwork – Newsletter - December 2006

Meetings and Workshops

SSDC	Area East Planning Sub Committee – 29 November 2006
SSDC	State of the District Meeting - 23 November 2006
SALC	Association Area Meetings 11 December 2006 – Queen Camel Village Hall.

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SSDC Area East	Notice of Committee Meeting 13 December 2006 – 9.30 am Wincanton
SSDC Area East	Standards Committee Meeting 13 December 2006 – 9.30 am Wincanton
SSDC Area East	Local Government Review – Annual Parish Meeting for all Town & Parish Councils in Area East – 04 January 2007 – 7.00 pm Council Offices, Wincanton.
Wincanton Town Council	Area Meeting to discuss future of County, District & Parish Councils following the issue of the White Paper on Local Government – 10 January 2007 – 7.00 pm – Sports Ground, Moor Lane.

12. **Items for the next agenda**

Wind turbine proposal Nettlecombe Hill
Sheepwash

Next meeting Tuesday 9 January 2007.

Please forward all items to the Clerk by 29 December 06.

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