

Pitcombe Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of Pitcombe Parish Council held in Hadspen Village Hall on Tuesday 14th February 2006

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

In the Chair: Councillor Brook

In attendance: County Councillor Robinson
District Councillor Winder

1. Councillor Resignation

The Chairman stated he had received a letter from Councillor Smith tendering her resignation. Councillor Smith asked for this to be read out at the meeting so that her reasons would be given factually. The Chairman complied with this request.

2. Public Participation

Mr Pheby expressed his concerns about the structure that had appeared in the orchard and stated that planning permission was needed for change of use. The Chairman advised that the matter was due to be discussed under item 6a on the agenda and deferred further comment.

Mr Taylor asked Council if any further information had been received from the Environment Agency regarding the slurry lagoon. The Chairman stated that he was unaware of any but that as Councillor Smith had been responsible for this portfolio he would arrange for another councillor to take this over and make enquiries.

Mrs Pheby stated that she was very concerned about the large number of rats in the vicinity this year. The rat catcher had been out but the problem was continuing.

3. To approve the minutes of the meetings held on 13th December 2005

It was proposed and seconded that the minutes of the meetings held on 13th December 2005 be adopted as a true and accurate record.

Minutes Approved

4. Matters arising from the minutes 13th December 2005

Para 2 – Church Signs The Clerk stated that County Highways had quoted £255 for the sign 'Pitcombe Church'. The Chairman advised that he had consulted with the PCC and it had been agreed that the existing sign was adequate. The Clerk was asked to advise Highways.

5. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Councillor Bell.

Draft minutes subject to confirmation

6. Declarations of interest

The Clerk pointed out that the Councillors may have at least a personal interest in item 6a. All the councillors subsequently declared a personal interest in agenda item 6a.

7. Environment

a. Conservation area – Hadspen Village

The Chairman stated that he had received many letters of complaint about the arrival of the mobile home. Councillor Elliott stated that she had made enquiries with the District Council and had spoken to Adrian Duckworth about the Conservation Area. He is sending a plan. District Councillor Winder produced a map of the conservation area for the meeting. The Chairman described the area covered and County Councillor Hobhouse made a point of order that agricultural land was not covered by the conservation area. Councillor Elliott further stated that she had spoken to James Myer, SSDC who stated that Miss Smith was to apply for planning permission by the end of February. In view of this further discussion on this matter was deferred until the plans are received.

b. Travellers at Sheepwash Gritting Store

County Councillor Robinson stated that a court judgement was expected by the end of the week and enforcement would then follow by the end of the month.

c. Quiet lanes

The Chairman advised Council that he had received information via CPRE on the classification of 'quiet lanes'. This would assist walkers and horse riders and be particularly appropriate to Lime Kiln Lane but could apply to the C125. Concern was raised as to whether these would be enforceable. It was agreed that the Chairman would look into the matter and report back at the next meeting.

8. Planning Applications

06/00092/FUL Mr & Mrs Harvey 3 Ludwell Cottages, Bruton Road, Pitcombe
Erection of conservatory to rear of dwelling

Council had no objections to this planning application.

Approved

9. Planning Determinations

a. 05/02982/FUL Mr & Mrs Pidsley, Station House, Sunnyhill
Erection of a double garage

Granted

b. 04/00617/COU Mr & Mrs Hobhouse Bottom Barn Farm
Conversion of farm buildings to dwelling, holiday unit and self contained
annexe

Granted

c. 05/02968/FUL Mr A Drysdale, Pitcombe Farmhouse
Erection of extension outbuilding to form five court & gym

Refused

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- d. 05/03107/COU Andrew Hopkins Concrete Ltd, Priddles Hill Farm, Castle Cary
Siting of low level concrete batching plant, storage of aggregates and
parking of associated vehicles

Refused

10. Reports

Councillor Holt advised Council that Honeywick Hill drains had been cleared. Reports that the roads at Pitcombe Rock, Viaduct and Mill Lane are in need of repair have been received and Councillor Holt stated she would look at these. Also further concerns had been raised about the houses that come out directly to the 60 mph limit on the A359 near Sunny Hill.

County Councillor Robinson reported that he had a site meeting arranged for Thursday 23rd February at 2.p.m with Colin Fletcher and Bev Norman to look at various highway problems and invited Councillor Holt to join them to discuss the problems related above.

District Councillor Winder advised that the District Council are to look at village hall licenses to check that these have been applied for correctly.

Chairman reported that the Clerk had tendered her resignation and that a new clerk must be found. The Clerk stated that she currently works two hours a week but that SALC had recommended that a minimum of 4 hours was realistic and this should be taken into account when appointing the new clerk. With regard to Councillor Smith's resignation a vacancy was declared and the clerk agreed to issue the necessary notices. Councillor Elliott agreed to take over the Cole notice board.

11. Accounts for payment

It was proposed and seconded that the following payments are approved.

M J Humphry	Clerk's Salary for December 2005/January 2006	£125.20
		Approved

12. Correspondence

1	Community Council for Somerset	Thatch magazine
2	SCC	Bruton School for Girls – 20 mph limit
3	SSDC	Area East News
4	The Balsam Project	Newsletter Winter 2005
5	SSDC	Planning on the move
6	SCC	Somerset Access Annual Newsletter
7	SCC	Somerset Local transport plan
8	SSDC	Review of Parish Boundaries
9	SCC	Somerset Access – Annual newsletter
10	Victim Support Somerset	Thank you for grant
11	ODPM	Standards of Conduct in English Local Government : the future
12	South West Regional Assembly	Regional Spatial Strategy update
13	SSDC	Local Plan Deposit Draft – further proposed amendments – None for Pitcombe
14	SALC	Items of interest – Jan 2006 – including audit fees, salaries, employment law – VAT on internet purchases
15	Somerset Drug & Alcohol Action Team	Public consultation
16	SCC	Local Transport Plan consultation leaflet revised

Draft minutes subject to confirmation

17	M G Car Club	Notification of event 22 nd April 2006
18	Avon & Somerset Constabulary	Newsletter – Andy Marsh
19	David Heath MP	Copy of his debate in H of C on role of PC in planning
20	STSD	Homes for Good exhibition – 17 th – 19 th February
21	SSDC	Area East Agenda - 8th February 2006
22	Community Council for Somerset	Calor Somerset Village of the year competition 2006
23	SALC	Agenda meeting 13 th March Seavington Millennium Hall
24	SSDC	Tree Talk magazine
25	SCC	Changes to contact details

12. Items for the next agenda

Quiet Lanes

Next meeting Tuesday 14th March 2006

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.