

Minutes of the Pitcombe Annual Parish Meeting held on Tuesday 9th May 2006 in the Village Hall, Hadspen

Present: Approximately 12 members of the Public
District Councillor Winder
PCSO Thelma Mead

In the Chair: Councillor Charles Brook, Chairman of the Parish Council

1. Opening remarks and welcome

Councillor Charles Brook opened the meeting welcoming all those present including the new Parish Clerk Jean Linden.

2. To receive the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 10th May 2005.

It was proposed and seconded that the minutes be approved as a true record.

3. Matters arising

Paragraph 4 **Highways** - It was pointed out by Mrs Coghill-Smith that the state of some of the roads, namely Lime Kiln Lane, was still not satisfactory and that drains remain blocked.

4. Report on the work of the Parish Council for the year April 2005-March 2006.

Councillor Brook expressed his thanks and appreciation to County Councillor Justin Robinson (in his absence) and District Councillor Alexandria Winder for their considerable support throughout the year.

Slurry lagoon – Councillor Brook acknowledged the effort involved by Sue Smith, former councillor in connection with the Slurry Lagoon. Councillor Brook is confident that the Environmental Agency would be very supportive to us in respect of any future plans for usage of this site.

Planning – Councillor Brook reported that our planning system was working well and proceeded to give an update on Priddles Hill Farm and the representations by Pitcombe Parish Council to the Appeal by Andrew Hopkins Concrete Ltd.

The Parish Council opposed the change of use for Priddles Hill Farm site, which lies on its western boundary, on nine grounds which may be summarised that it was outside any development area, obtrusive and inimical to the interests of the rest of the parish, the nearest residents of which live 500 metres to the north east of the site, by reason of the noise and dust being carried on the prevailing wind.

These objections were recognised in the decision of the South Somerset District Council to refuse change of use of the premises from B1 and B2.

Draft minutes subject to confirmation

The grounds of Appeal fall under four headings and Pitcombe Parish Council made the following observations on them:

01. This paragraph reiterates the original proposal and addresses none of the reasons why it was refused.
02. The provision of sites and jobs is not germane to the Hearing.
03. There will, of course, be additional car traffic on the site if it is developed.
04. The appellant has failed to understand the objection of the Highway Authority and of this Council; the issue is not simply the exit from the site but the contours and curves of the A371 to the north and south of it which obstruct the view. The notion that there is “no chance of an accident..” in the context of the projected lorry movements is fatuous.

The unauthorised works carried out since the change of use was refused, which have been the subject of many complaints to the Enforcement Planner of SSDC who has stopped them, reinforces the anxiety of this Council that there is significant danger of creeping development if the appeal is allowed.

Policing – Councillor Brook stated his appreciation of the community policing and acknowledged the excellent response and support given to the community by PC Sara Stephenson assisted by PCSO Thelma Mead. Regarding unauthorised traffic in the lanes the action to be taken is as follows:

Note the vehicle number – ring Thelma (mobile 07875 903451) or
Sara Stephenson – Police 0845 4567000 (ask for Portishead).

It was emphasised that the number of logged reports carry weight in bringing about action against these incidents. Thelma Mead reported that the damaged wall by the Quarry had been rebuilt.

Speed Limits – Councillor Brook acknowledged that Councillor Holt had encountered huge problems with this matter but had worked tirelessly to get speed limit signs erected at Pitcombe. Councillor Holt was hopeful, at least, of 30 mph signage being erected at Pitcombe/Cole but due to funding and the fact that it is a highways matter it is out of the hands of the District Council.

Hadspen Village Hall – Councillor Brook acknowledged the huge financial commitment the parish is undertaking with the Village Hall rebuild, which deserves thanks to everyone. As a parish we are doing our very best to raise the funds and with no objections to the initiative.

St Leonard’s Church – The parish is also taking on a colossal fund raising effort for repair work which is due to start May/Autumn 2007.

5. **To discuss any motions of which notice has been given to the Clerk**

None received.

6. **Open Discussion**

Speed Limits – Mr Elliott asked what were the criteria for traffic speed limits. After much discussion it was decided that there were inconsistencies throughout the region regarding the positioning of certain speed limits

Slurry Lagoon – Referring to para 4, Mr Taylor asked the Chairman, Councillor Brook to acknowledge everyone who had put in considerable time and effort regarding this matter. The Chairman, Councillor Brook apologised for this oversight and freely acknowledged the efforts of everyone who had been involved.

Mr Pheby enquired about any future plans for use of the Slurry Lagoon site. Councillor Brook reiterated that the Environmental Department would be very supportive to us in respect of any future plans that may arise.

Conservation Area – Mr Pheby enquired as to the progress regarding the mobile home in the Conservation area. The Chairman assured Mr Pheby that Mr Myer, Enforcement Officer has the matter firmly in hand.

Priddles Hill Farm – Mr Elliott enquired about local area opposition to the planning application. He was assured that Castle Cary's opposition had been very strong and thorough in this respect.

Councillor Brook thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at approximately 8.15 pm