

Pitcombe Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of Pitcombe Parish Council held in Hadspen Village Hall on 9 January 2007

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

In attendance: PCSO Hooper

1. **Public Participation**

The Chairman assured the public that they would have the opportunity to participate during item 6.

2. **Minutes of the Meeting held on 12 December 2006**

It was agreed that the minutes of the meeting held on 12 December 2006 be adopted as a true and accurate record.

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

Priddles Hill. The Chairman reported that Mr Myer, Planning Enforcement Officer had not been aware of the Appeal Dismissal and would now investigate the parking of vehicles on site.

Local Government Review. The Chairman briefed the Council on the Annual Parish Meeting for Town and Parish Councils (Area East) held on 4 January 2007 covering the subject of LGR. Since publication of the White Paper, plans for a single unitary Council covering the area served by Somerset County Council are being considered. However, the District Council feel a unitary Council for Somerset is too wide an area and are working on a model that provides for two unitaries namely:

- The eastern side of Somerset covered by the Mendip District Council and South Somerset District Council boundaries and,
- The western side of Somerset covered by the Sedgemoor District Council, West Somerset District Council and Taunton Deane Borough Council boundaries.

There is still much to be considered in determining what is best for towns and Parishes. Area meetings are taking place to provide more information and seek the views of Town and Parish Councils on the proposals. A business case to create a Unitary Council for Somerset is being prepared for submission by 22 January 2007.

4. **Apologies for absence**

Apologies received from Councillor Elliott.

DRAFT MINUTES SUBJECT TO CONFIRMATION

Councillor Resignation

The Chairman announced, with regret, the resignation of Councillor Iain Bell and expressed his gratitude for the many years of service given to the community.

It would not be appropriate to fill the vacancy by co-option at this stage with elections taking place on 3 May 2007. The Chairman urged members of the public to consider standing as candidates for the forthcoming Parish Council election.

5. Declarations of Interest

None.

6. Wind Turbine Proposal – Nettlecombe Hill

Leaflets outlining a proposal by Mr Hobhouse to construct a Community Wind Turbine on Nettlecombe Hill are being distributed to residents of the Parish. A Public Meeting has been arranged for 30 January 2007 at the Village Hall at 7.30 pm where further discussion on the proposal will take place.

Further to the Clerk's request, Mr Benzie, Headteacher, Ansford Community School attended the meeting to give a talk to the Council on the school's proposal to install a wind turbine on the school playing field.

Mr Benzie stated that Ansford School had been identified as being one of 15 sites that would be viable for a wind turbine. With increasing electricity costs the school had identified an opportunity for self-sufficiency and eventual elimination of these costs by the construction of a wind turbine. Mr Benzie went on to discuss the options being considered:

- Option 1 - Three x 15 kW, 22 metre high wind turbines
- Option 2 - One 220 kW, 37 metre high (approx) wind turbine
- Option 3 - One x 330 kW, 44 metre high wind turbine (possibly income generating)

A pre-planning application based on Option 3 has now been submitted to Somerset County Council.

Mr Benzie stated that there had been a very positive response from students and others to the wind turbine proposal.

Mr Benzie then answered questions raised by the public and Parish Council. He gave his assurance that it was not the school's intention to proceed without community agreement or involvement and wished to avoid public antipathy towards the proposal.

The Chairman thanked Mr Benzie for attending the meeting, requesting that he keeps Pitcombe Parish Council informed of progress.

7. Planning Application

06/04657/FUL - Mr C Comer & Mr D York, Renewal of temporary siting of mobile home
Location: Grove Farm Quarry, Lime Kiln Lane, Hadspen, Castle Cary.

The Council had no objections to this application.

DRAFT MINUTES SUBJECT TO CONFIRMATION

8. Reports

Cllr Taylor reported that overhead telephone cabling in Honeywick Lane continues to be damaged by overhanging trees. BT has been contacted on several occasions regarding this problem but the work remains outstanding. Cllr Taylor stated that residents of Hadspen are regularly inconvenienced by disrupted telephone services and he would be contacting BT with regard to this.

Cllr Carter referring to the ploughing of field edges stated that she had heard from Mr Peter Wyatt who had agreed to roll the edges from next year.

Cllr Jennings reported on a very successful meeting with The Bursar of Sunny Hill School and District Council representatives regarding the removal of trees. As a result only one ash tree will need to be removed due to driveway widening. A planning application will be submitted for the whole project - driveway and landscaping. It is proposed that a number of trees will be planted on the roadside of the school field.

Cllr Holt stated that cleaning of Lancombe Lane had been requested and that she now had a job number for this work. There are a number of potholes in the area requiring attention and Cllr Holt will report these.

9. Accounts for Payment

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

J Linden	Admin costs – postage	£4.80
J Linden	Clerk's salary for December 2006	£69.63

10. Correspondence:

1. SSDC Minutes - Scrutiny Committee Tue 24 October 06
2. David Heath MP Seasons Greetings
3. SCC Somerset Gateway - Information Partnership
4. SSDC Local Council Survey
5. SSDC Meeting Notes - Clean Neighbourhood & Environment Act, 22 Nov 06
6. David Heath MP Petition - Rural Post Offices
7. SS Voluntary Services Winter 2006 Newsletter
8. SSDC Summary of Accounts 2005/06
9. BTCV (Conservation Charity) Management of conservation projects engaging volunteers.

Meetings and Workshops:

- SSDC Area East Committee Notice of Meeting – 10 January 2007 Wincanton, 9.30 am. (Flood Risk Manager addressing concerns re proposed reduction of river maintenance budget and long-term effect on local rivers).

DRAFT MINUTES SUBJECT TO CONFIRMATION

Wincanton Town Council Area Meeting – Future of County, District and Parish Councils in East Somerset following issue of the White Paper on Local Government. 10 January 2007, Wincanton Sports Ground, Moor Lane 7.00 for 7.30 pm

11. Items for the next agenda

Please forward all items to the Clerk by 2 February 2007

Next meeting Tuesday 13 February 2007.

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