

Pitcombe Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of Pitcombe Parish Council held in The Village Hall, Hadspen, on Tuesday 10 July 2007 at 7.30 pm

Present: Councillors, Taylor, Elliott, Beech, Carter, Hartnell, Jury, Whittaker
In the Chair Councillor Taylor

In attendance: District Councillor Felton, PCSO Tim Russell

1. Public Participation

Comments on the proposed restoration of the monastic fishponds (item 6) were made by the public who were, in general, opposed to the plan. The plans were ill prepared, lacking in detail and unclear as to what is actually being proposed. Concerns regarding any serious alteration to the flood prevention scheme in the Hadspen area posed a renewed threat to residents and this was uppermost in everyone's mind. It was also viewed that the proposal was potentially a commercial enterprise.

It was reported that footpaths in the parish were in a very bad state after the recent spell of heavy rainfall.

The overgrowth of verges and hedgerows on the corner of Lime Kiln Lane was a concern as vision was blocked on the bend when turning right from the C125. **Cllr Jury** confirmed the matter had been reported to Highways.

2. Minutes of the Meetings held on 12 June 2007

It was agreed that the minutes of meeting held on 12 June 2007 be adopted as a true and accurate record with the following amendment:

Para 12. – **Cllr Carter's** report last sentence:

'The path from Priddles Hill Farm to Ring House was overgrown with nettles and very difficult to negotiate'.

3. Matters arising from the Minutes of 12 June 2007

There were no matters arising.

4. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from County Councillor Robinson.

5. Declarations of Interest

Councillor Hartnell declared an interest in Item 6 - 07/02463/FUL

Councillor Whittaker declared an interest in Item 6 - 07/02247/FUL

6. **Planning Consultation**

07/02247/FUL – Mr A Hopkins – The restoration of monastic fishponds to include importation of puddling clay for dam cores.

Location: Land OS 5031 Lime Kiln Lane, Hadspen, Castle Cary

The Council opposed this application on the following points:

- The plans supplied were ill-prepared and seriously lacking in detail
- Flood risk - no consideration or assessment of the impact of heavy rain storms in the large catchment area of Hadspen Valley
- No archaeological assessment appears to have been carried out in respect of the proposed restoration of the monastic fishponds
- The proposal appears to be a potentially commercial enterprise
- No detail/consideration has been given to septic tanks and their overflows situated close to the development

07/02463/FUL – Construction of tennis hardcourts and 2.65m high perimeter fence

Location: Land adjacent to Sexeys School, Cole Road, Bruton.

Main Parish: **Bruton**

The Council made the following observations:

- The hedgerow would need to be regularly maintained to prevent an obstruction to Footpath 22/4.
- A stream crossing Sunny Lane through a culvert leading into a Network Rail owned ditch regularly floods after the lightest of rainfall. This matter has previously been the subject of correspondence with Network Rail but the problem remains unresolved. The District Council is not permitted on railway land to undertake any work to remedy the situation.

07/03179/FUL – Extension to yard for stationing of lorries and the reconstruction or landscape bund.

Location: Tor View Farm Galhampton Hill, Galhampton, BA22 7AE

Main Parish: **North Cadbury**

No observations.

Planning Determination – Granted

07/01733/LBC – W Gyoury & S Bejeone – Installation of two replacement windows in the east elevation. Nettlecombe, Hadspen, Castle Cary, BA7 7LW

7. **Annual Audit of Accounts – year ended 31 March 2007**

The Council approved the annual return to the Council's external auditor and the Chairman signed the Statement of Assurance.

8. **Model Code of Conduct**

It was proposed and seconded that the Parish Council adopt the revised Code of Conduct with effect from 1 August 2007.

9. **Parish Environmental Warden**

The Chairman explained the role of a Parish Environmental Warden and the clerk agreed to place a notice on boards seeking a volunteer.

At this point Mr Knight requested that the Council introduce themselves, as he had not been present at the previous meetings of the new Council. The Chairman agreed stating that new Councillors had already introduced themselves to those present at their first Council meeting, and would not agree to any similar future requests from members of the public.

10. **Reports**

Cllr Jury reporting on highways, provided a list of outstanding issues (attached). In general the hedges and verges were bad and needed cutting. **Cllr Elliott** reported the area adjacent to Ludwell Elm needed attention. It was further reported by **Cllr Whittaker** that landslips on Lime Kiln Lane and Honeywick Hill also needed attention.

Cllr Whittaker has again spoken to Eve Wynn regarding the cutting of verges and is awaiting a response. The sofa dumped at Wyke Champflower has still not been removed. The drains close to Honeywick Cottage have brambles growing through them and are currently silted up. **Cllr Whittaker** has been informed that the drain is to be replaced with a new type of drain that will prevent brambles growing through, but to date no action has been taken to replace it.

Cllr Carter has been in touch with Mrs Coghill-Smith regarding the nettles on the footpath at Ring House. Mrs Coghill-Smith requested that it be put on the list for Council cutting. It was noted that the Council had not responded to a similar request in respect of a footpath on Mr Hobhouse's land. Mrs Coghill-Smith had suggested an alternative route along the path to avoid the nettles. It was pointed out by a member of the public that the Council will respond to requests for cutting but a charge would be made for the service.

Cllr Carter reported the Fingerpost at Priddles Hill Farm has still not been replaced.

Cllr Elliott spoke briefly about the Stewardship Scheme but was still in the process of finding out more information about the scheme.

District Councillor Felton stated there had been no decision yet on the Unitary Council for Somerset.

PCSO Russell spoke about distraction burglary, which is problem in areas close to the A303 corridor. He urged the public to be aware of bogus callers trying to gain entry to their property.

The Chairman reported he had attended a meeting at Ansford School on 3 July. This was the first meeting of a newly formed School and Community Forum to which a member of every Parish Council in the School's main catchment area is invited to help with communications between the School and Communities. The School proposes to hold three meetings a year with a student representative alongside each Parish Council representative. The next meeting will be held in September.

The Chairman reported that all Councillors had recently attended Councillor Training sessions run by the Somerset Association of Local Councils.

The Chairman stated that BT phone lines at Honeywick would be repaired in August. The road will be closed with traffic lights in operation whilst the work is undertaken.

Cllr Elliott mentioned the road walk undertaken by school children from Ansford School on Friday 6 July. It was reported by Mr Bunting that his garden at Priddles Hill House had suffered damage during the event. Discarded water bottles littered the route and tree debris had been placed across the road causing a hazard to motorists.

Cllr Beech referred to the timing of Area Planning Meetings which were not convenient to Councillors during the working day. **District Councillor Felton** explained that Planning Consultations were first on the Agenda for this very reason so that Councillors could leave immediately after and continue onto work.

District Councillor Felton announced that District Councillors' have a fund of £2,500 available to spend in the community for a worthwhile cause/project. The Council noted this.

11. **Accounts for Payment:**

The following accounts were approved for payment.

Hadspen Village Hall	Hall Rebuild Grant 2007/08	£3100.00
Hadspen Village Hall	Maintenance Grant 2007/08	£ 460.00
St Leonard's, Pitcombe	Churchyard Maintenance 2007/08	£ 550.00
Pitcombe Parish News	Grant 2007/08	£ 50.00
J Linden	Clerk's salary June 2007	£ 139.27
J Linden	Admin/Postage	£ 4.08

12. **Correspondence:**

1.	SSDC James Myer	Letter to Dr Pheby – Land Os 5031 adjoining Lime Kiln Lane Hadspen
2.	Standards Board	Code of Conduct: Guide for members Code of Conduct: Pocket guide – May 2007
3.	Thatch	Rural Community Magazine – Summer 2007
4.	SSDC	Consultation South Somerset Sustainable Community Strategy
5.	SSDC	Proposed Local Government Reorganisation
6.	SCC	South Somerset Area Working Panel – Deadline for bids
7.	SALC	SSDC Standards Committee – Result of Postal Ballot
8.	SSDC	Revised Code of Conduct for Councillors – Advice on Process for Adoption
9.	Dr & Mrs Pheby	Letter to Planning Dept SSDC – Re: Planning Application

		07/02247/FUL Restoration Monastic Fish ponds at Hadspen
10.	Somerset Chamber Choir	Glorious Baroque Posters – Wells 28 July at 7.00 pm
11.	Mendip Housing	News from Mendip Housing Ltd – April 2007
12.	SCC	Parish Emergency Plan Information – Plan Template Kit 2007
13.	Chief Superintendent Yeovil Police	Crime Update 2006/07
14.	CPRE	Voice Magazine Summer 2007
15.	SSDC	Planning Application Grove Farm Quarry Lime Kiln Lane – Area Committee Meeting 11 July.

Meetings/Workshops:

SLCC	Summer Meeting July 2007 - Holford
SSDC	Area East Community Planning Sub Committee, at Wincanton on 27 June 0930
SSDC	Invitation to Area East Workshop – at Wincanton on 1 August at 7.00 pm
Mr Benzie	Ansford School Community Forum – 3 July at 7.00 pm
SSDC	Area East Committee Meeting Wednesday 11 July 0930 at Wincanton
NALC	Cracking the Code – Training Day – Birmingham Metropole 19 July 07

13. Items for the next agenda.

Next meeting Tuesday 14 August 2007 - Please forward all items to Clerk by 3 August 2007.

**From the Parish Clerk:
Mrs Jean Linden
01749 813145**

Members of the Council considered the above 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

1. Sheepwash Chipping Dump
Reported: 6th June 2007
SCC Highways Ref No. 145254
Concerns regarding barrier to prevent unlawful access by travellers.
Current status: No action taken as at 10th July

2. **Pitcombe Bridge**
Reported: 6th June 2007
SCC Highways Ref No. 145252
Damaged handrail to protective barrier.
Current status: Spoke with Mr. Tucker SCC bridges section on 7th July. He stated his bridge inspector was going to measure the damaged rail, order the required materials and would then arrange for one of their local “flier” gangs to complete the work.

3. **Mill Lane**
Reported 3rd July
Clothier Builders.
Verge cutting and construction traffic restriction sign.
Current status: Verge now cut. Construction traffic restriction sign was stolen, replacement is being made.

4. **Mill Lane**
Reported 3rd July
Sunny Hill School.
Pot holes in hard standing outside employees cottages in Mill Lane are expanding into the highway.
Current Status: Discussions with Bursar who agreed to instruct their maintenance man to complete repairs, Anticipated completion end of August.

5. **C125/Lime Kiln Lane**
Reported 3rd July
SCC Highways Ref No. Def.23512
Resident reported hazard when turning right into Lime Kiln Lane from the C125 when travelling from Castle Cary. Vision round bend blocked by over grown hedge.
Current status: No action taken as at 19th July.

6. **A359/Lime Kiln Lane**
Reported 9th July
SCC Highways Ref No.149480
HGV No access sign removed from top of lane near to quarry. Probably stolen.
Current Status:
Outstanding

7. **Hedges/Verges in Parish**
Awaiting contact from SCC Highways regarding programme for hedge cutting in Parish.