

Pitcombe Parish Council

**Minutes of the Meeting of Pitcombe Parish Council held in
The Village Hall, Hadspen, on Tuesday 11th November 2007 at 7.30 pm**

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

In attendance: Residents of the Parish.

1. Public Participation

2. Minutes of the Meetings held on 9th October 2007

It was agreed that the minutes of the meeting held on 11th September 2007 be adopted as a true and accurate record.

3. Matters arising from the Minutes of 9th October 2007

Parish Consultation.

Councillor **Taylor** Said he had taken advice from Peter Lacey at SALC re: holding a Parish Consultation re: A new grant for Phase 2 of Hadspen Village Hall. He explained that to hold a consultation a letter would need to be sent to each household with a reply form. This form would be returned to an independent person to audit the return and to record the results. Councillor Jury said he felt the council should make the decision and it was agreed that this would be carried out in item 6.

Sand & Gravel Wholesale/Retail at Priddles Hill Farm.

Councillor **Taylor** reported he had spoken to James Meyer at SSDC who told him that the activities were an overflow from the Tor View operation but would cease in December as notice had been served.

Councillor **Carter** reported that the footpath had across The Football Ground had now been seeded but the ground was flat - she would monitor the situation.

4. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from District Councillor **Felton**

5. Declarations of Interest

Councillor **Taylor** stated that as Vice-Chairman of The Trustees of Hadspen Village Hall he had an interest in part of Item 6 – The Trustees of Hadspen Village Hall had applied for a grant for Phase 2 of the Hadspen Village Hall Re-Building Project. He stated he would not take part in the vote.

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Councillor **Elliott** stated that as The Pitcombe Parish Council representative on the board of The Trustees of Hadspen Village Hall she too had an interest in part of Item 6 but as it was part of her Portfolio would take part in the debate.

Councillor **Hartnell** declared an interest in item 10 (07/04409/FUL) Planning Application from Sexeys School.

6. Grant Application.

The Chairman of The Trustees of Hadspen Village Hall gave a short presentation explaining the current financial situation of the Hadspen Village Hall Re-building Fund. He explained that after the Big Lottery had turned down a bid for a grant the Trustees appealed to the residents of The Parish and had received generous response in Gift Aid donations. The Trustees had been advised by Alice Knight and Tim Cook (officers of SSDC) to split the rebuilding project into two phases re-apply to SSDC, among others, for funding and that it is a requisite of SSDC before a grant is considered it must be backed by the local Parish Council. Phase 1 on the project had now started.

Councillor **Carter** opened the debate by saying she had been reticent about the grant during earlier discussion but was now convinced that the re-building of the hall must be completed and that a large number of people had worked very hard raising funds for the project and she felt it was right to grant a further sum to the fund.

Councillor **Beech** stated he felt it was a large proportion of the precept and was too much money to impose on the residents of the Parish.

Councillor **Whittaker** said that many people enjoyed the events at the hall and the facility that the hall provided.

Councillor **Jury** said he felt it was a worthwhile cause and the council would be helping to provide something for the community if a grant was given.

Councillor **Beech** said he would be happier about the grant if it was less than £3100.

A vote was taken on if a grant should be given, Councillor Taylor abstained due to his interest, it was carried 5 to 1.

A vote was taken on if the amount of the grant should be £3100, Councillor Taylor abstained due to his interest, it was carried 5 to 1.

7. Budget 2008/2009.

It was agreed that the Precept & Budget should be finalised and discussed in the next meeting.

8. The Hadspen Flood Alleviation Scheme.

Councillor Jury reported that he had been to inspect the scheme, at the request of Derek and Anita Pheby. There was a problem, in that a number of agencies were involved in the scheme, but none was taking responsibility for it, and it was falling into disrepair. The flood retention pond was now very silted. Derek Pheby, from the floor, said that the scheme had

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emerged from the Hadspen Flood Alleviation Working Party, which had been convened by the District Council, and involved also the County Council, the Parish Council, the Environment Agency, MAFF (now DEFRA), and local residents and landowners. The flood retention pond was constructed by the District Council, but the County Council, as Highway Authority, was also involved, as the scheme provided for water to be diverted into Lime Kiln Lane when the pipes downstream from the pond had insufficient capacity to carry storm water. Changes in the statutory responsibilities of the various agencies had made it more difficult to determine where responsibilities lay, and all the agencies involved appeared to lack corporate memory. There were also some immediate hazards, which were the County Council's responsibility. The County Council had dug holes over the culvert in Mr. Dowding's field, and had never filled them in, putting both people and animals at risk. In addition, there was a large hole in the wall of the ice house, which opened directly onto the road, and the floor of the upper chamber (to which the hole gave access) was unsafe, and had a hole in it giving access to the lower chamber, which was eight to ten feet deep in water. A child entering the ice house could therefore risk drowning. It was agreed that approaches would be made to the District and County Councils, with a view to a site meeting being convened, in order to agree who would take responsibility for maintaining which elements of the scheme.

9. Tree Planting in Somerset.

Councillor **Taylor** brought to the attention of the council the offer of help with tree planting schemes by the SSDC Tree Warden

10. Planning Applications – For Consideration.

South Somerset District Council.

07/04409/FUL – Sexeys School. Erection of new Design and Technology block with associated classrooms. (GR367668/134108).

Location: Sexeys School, Cole Road, Bruton, Somerset, BA10 0DF.

The members of the council had no comment to make on this application

07/04853/FUL – A.H. Farming. Demolition of front lean-to and erection of new lean-to to rear and conversion of building into 3 light industrial units (GR: 364874/132143).

Location: Priddles Hill Farm, Cary Hill, Castle Cary, BA7 7NJ.

The members of the council had no comment to make on this application

07/04681/FUL – Pitcombe Parish Council. The Repositioning of emergency exit door on west elevation. (GR365722/132577).

Location: Land adjoining Hadspen Village Hall, Hadspen, Castle Cary, BA7 7LX.

The members of the council had no comment to make on this application.

07/04546/FUL – Mr. R. Comer & Mr. D. York. Erection of quarry managers workplace/home and change of use of land from agricultural to domestic curtilage (GR 365458/131407)

Location: Grove Farm Quarry, Lime Kiln Lane, Hadspen, Castle Cary, Somerset, BA7 7NX

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The Parish Council could see no reason that this application should be looked upon more favourably than the previous application **07/01705/FUL** because there was only a slight difference in the layout of the dwelling except for the addition of a few work-place related room descriptions and agreed that a the response should be as follows:

- 1. The Parish Council objected to change of curtilage from agricultural to domestic use and viewed this as setting a precedent.**
- 2 The Council were not convinced of the need for the Quarry Manager to reside on site.**
- 3 The Quarry has a 21 year life or the business could be closed earlier – the erection of a dwelling house for the Quarry Manager would be a permanent construction.**

Advice of Appeal Receipt

Appeal in respect of Application Decision Reference 07/03644/FUL – The erection of a two storey rear extension to dwelling house to provide kitchen/diner with en-suite bedroom over. (GR 367172/133427)

Planning Inspectorate Appeal Reference – APP/R3325/a/07/2057307/WF

Appeal Starting Date – 17th October

Location: 2 Sunnyhill Cottages, Mill Lane, Pitcombe, Bruton, Somerset.

Appeal by: Ms. M. Atkins

Somerset County Council.

Town and Country Planning Act 1990.

Wessex Water - Change of use and installation of below ground submerged aerated filter sewage treatment plant and above ground blower and control kiosks and vent stack, together with extension to roadside lay-by in highway verge opposite Rodge Cottages, Hadspen, Castle Cary, Somerset. (Grid Ref: 365655 – 132838)

It was generally felt the Parish Council should make the following comments on the above proposal.

The council is minded that this is Wessex Water spending a great deal of water ratepayers' money to appear environmentally friendly.

The upkeep and maintenance of this scheme seems unwieldy.

The noise of the motor would be annoying to residents in the valley.

This is a very large system for just two houses and even though the sewage treatment plant may need to be upgraded this solution appears to be involving great expense for what should be a relatively simple task.

No effort appears to have been made to minimise the appearance of the blower and control kiosk.

Visual impact – The scheme needs sympathetic landscaping to reduce the detrimental visual impact it will have. The widened, tarmac lay-by would not suit the rural setting.

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Planning Determinations.

Notice of Confirmation of Tree Preservation Order.

The South Somerset (Pitcombe No. 1) Tree Preservation Order 2007.

Planning Consultation - Permitted

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

Location: Tor View Farm, Galhampton

Application permitted with conditions

11. Reports

Councillor Jury

Traffic Calming

Councillor Jury confirmed that he had received a reply from Bev Norman concerning the request for a vehicle activated sign on the A359. In a letter dated 7th November Bev Norman stated that the A359 in Bruton does not meet the requirements for a permanent sign but she would investigate the possibility of a temporary sign.

Speed Limits

Councillor Jury stated that in response to his request for additional 30 mph signs within the existing 30mph section of the C351 and an extension of that limit throughout the length of the C351 to Honeywick Hill hed had received a letter from Clive Sutton of Somerset County Council stating:

1. The signing and lining is correct and no additional repeater signs can be installed.
2. The request for an extension of the speed limit did not meet the Department of Transport criteria for speed limits in settlements.

Councillor **Jury also** gave an update on highway issues (listing attached).

Councillor **Carter** reported that she had been to Rights of Way workshop and had been given a selection of equipment for use by volunteers to clear paths etc. in the parish.

Councillor **Hartnell** had found prices for notice boards which were in excess of several hundred pounds. It was agreed that this matter should be the subject to further investigation as the notice boards were dilapidating quite rapidly.

12. Accounts for Payment:

Moore Stephens	Annual Audit	£170.38
SSDC	Planning Application (on behalf HVH)	£67.50
M.L.J. Taylor	Admin costs – postage	£16.32
M.L.J. Taylor	Admin costs – Domain Name	£17.61

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Receipts:

Hadspen Village Hall	Payment for Planning Application	£67.50
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13. Correspondence:

Councillors are welcome to inspect any correspondence or ask for copies.

SSDC	Precept Notice
Somerset Highways	Temporary Road Closure - Church Lane, Pitcombe
Ansford School	Minutes of Meeting of Community Forum
Avon & Somerset Constabulary	Half Year Report
Somerset Art Week	Grant Application
Somerset County Council – Environment Directorate	Consultation on Waste Management
The Playing Field	Newsletter
SSDC	Tree Planting in Somerset
SSDC	Tree Preservation Order -
S.S.V. & C.A. Ltd.	Newsletter
SSDC – Standards Committee	Minutes of Meeting 19 th September 2007
Citizens Advice Bureau	Annual Report
Somerset Highways	Temporary Road Closure – A359 Burts Hill & Station Road, Wanstrow
The Standards Board for England	Code of Conduct
SALC	Items of interest to Councillors & Clerks
Rural Youth	Newsletter

Meetings/Workshops:

SSDC – Standards Committee	Wednesday 7 th November
SSDC	State of the District Meeting – Thurs 22 nd Nov. 2007
SALC	South Area Meeting - Monday 10 th December 2007

14. Items for the next agenda

Next meeting Tuesday 11th December 2007.

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

Outstanding Items

1. **Mill Lane**

Reported 3rd July

Clothier Builders.

Construction traffic restriction sign.

Current status:

Replacement for stolen sign is still awaited. .

2. **Overhanging trees Lime Kiln Lane**

11th July spoke with Peter Wyatt regarding residents concerns regarding the overhanging trees. He stated that he would check the lane for any immediate concerns and would be undertaking a tree trimming exercise this coming winter.

Work is still outstanding.

3. **Blocked Drains outside Honeywick Cottage**

Reported 3rd October

See letter to SCC Highways dated 3rd October

Current Status: Previous remedial works to these drains not successful. Work required to lower reinstatements around the drains to prevent puddling.

Items completed during past month

1. **Mill Lane**

Reported 3rd July

Sunny Hill School.

Pot holes in hard standing outside employees cottages in Mill Lane are expanding into the highway.

Work completed during half term.