

Pitcombe Parish Council

Minutes of a Meeting of the Parish Council held in Hadspen Village Hall on Tuesday 11th November 2008 at 7.30 pm

Present: Councillors: **Beech, Carter, Elliot, Hartnell, Jury, Taylor, Whittaker.**
In the Chair: **Councillor Taylor**

In attendance: Pitcombe Resident: John Knight

1. Public Participation

John Knight asked if he would be allowed to comment during item 8.
Councillor **Taylor** said that he would be allowed to.

2. Minutes of the Meeting held on 14th October 2008

It was agreed that the minutes of the meeting held on 14th October 2008 be adopted as a true and accurate record.

3. Matters Arising from the Minutes of 14th October 2008.

It was noted that there had been no movement with regard to "The Arrows" although Ansford School Headmaster Mr. R. Benzie had promised at the School/Councils liaison meeting that teams of pupils would be taken out to remove same. It was decided that the council would keep track of the situation.

Councillor **Elliot** said that the "apple pickers" appeared to be moving on. It was mentioned that caravans were still at Bottom Barn Farm also that there was also a certain amount of industrial items and vehicles in the yard.

4. Apologies for absence.

District Councillor **Felton** and County Councillor **Robinson** had sent apologies.

5. Declarations of Interest. - None

6. Planning Applications – For Consideration. - None

7. Planning Applications – Determined.

08/03905/LBC MR R Scott: The erection of an extension to south elevation of kitchen wing to provide dining area (revised application) GR 366837/133673

Location: Cole Manor, Cole, Bruton, Somerset.

Withdrawn

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Location: Cole Manor, Cole, Bruton, Somerset.

Withdrawn.

8. **The Telephone Box – Pitcombe**

Councillor **Taylor** read the attached letter (APPENDIX 1) to the Parish Council.

John Knight said he was at the meeting to ensure that Mr Andrew Jones offer to pay towards the sponsor fee was discussed. Councillor **Taylor** said he had received an email from Mr. Jones regarding the offer and questioning the fact that his offer had not been mention in the previous minutes. Councillor **Jury**, who had received the original offer, said that he had received it after the last meeting. Councillor **Carter** asked Councillor **Taylor** to write to thank Mr. Jones for the offer.

Councillor **Taylor** stated that Mr Jones had also questioned the decisions made by the council regarding the Telephone Box. Councillor **Taylor** explained that he had been in constant contact with The Area Development Team at SSDC regarding this matter throughout the process and had been advised that the removal of the Telephone Box would be objected to by SSDC and this objection would be tantamount to a Veto, he had been advised that there was no need to apply to adopt or sponsor the Telephone Box at this juncture.

The outcome of the discussion was that no further action was necessary unless BT appealed to OFCOM against the SSDC objection to removal & won that appeal.

It was suggested that to safeguard future attempts to remove the Telephone Box that The Pitcombe Trust be asked to apply for “Listing” this was agreed by the Council and Councillor **Jury** would contact The Pitcombe Trust Chairman with regard to the matter.

9. **Reports. Portfolio Holders**

Councillor Elliot – said that she had contacted the owner of the property where brambles were overhanging Mill Lane – this would be dealt with A.S.A.P.

Councillor Whittaker – was not certain if the asbestos had been removed. Councillor **Jury** reported that a tyre had been dumped at the end of Sunnyhill. Councillor **Whittaker** said she would report the matter.

Councillor Jury – reported that Flood Warning Signs had been stolen from Pitcombe. He would contact SCC to obtain replacements.

Complaints had been received about wide lorries using Lime Kiln Lane, Honeywick Hill & Cole Road (probably due to the ubiquitous Satellite Navigation) – Councillor **Jury** to investigate signage to attempt to prevent this.

He reported that Pitcombe Bridge requires pointing and there was a build up of silt in the river, the probable cause of local flooding in Pitcombe.

Councillor **Elliot** stated that the flooding on the Cole Road in Hadspen had worsened. Councillor **Taylor** asked if a channel could be cut through verge to drain water in to field adjacent. He asked who owned field – John Knight said it was owned by Richard O’Leary and he would speak to Mr O’Leary to obtain permission.

Councillor **Whittaker** stated that work had not been carried out on road surface surrounding the drains by Honeywick Cottage - It was reported that the drain adjacent to Honeywick Barn was not functioning correctly. Councillor **Jury** said he would follow up these problems.

Councillor **Taylor** – said he was worried regarding dogs not under control on roads in the Parish. He had experienced a situation which almost caused an accident on the Cole Road – A horse rider was accompanied by 2 loose dogs.

A situation had occurred where one dog ran in to and then out of a garden near to Old Station Lane on to the road and into the path of an on coming car causing the car driver to brake

sharply. During this incident the other loose dog was crouched in the middle of the road some distance behind the horse causing a dangerous situation for drivers approaching from around the bend.

The rider was calling to the dogs but did not appear to be in control of them.

He hoped that councillors would speak to anyone seen in similar situations.

It was mentioned that not all horse riders were wearing visibility jackets in spite of the dark winter conditions.

Councillor **Taylor** distributed the draft budget to the councillors for discussion at the next meeting.

10. Accounts for payment

CPRE	Annual Subscription	30.00
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1. Correspondence

**CPRE
Communities & Local
Government
SSDC
SSDC
SSDC
SSDC
Somerset County Council
Somerset County Council
SSDC – Mentoring Service**

**Membership Renewal
Communities in Control

Annual Playground Inspection
Annual Precepts
Fuel Poverty
BT Payphone Removal Program
Temporary Road Closure – A359
Temporary Road Closure – Wyke Lane
Service Description**

12. Meetings/Workshops

05/11/08	SSDC	Standards Committee
12/11/08	SSDC	Area East Committee
08/12/08	SALC	South Area

13. Items for next Agenda

**Grant applications
Budget & Precept 2009/2010**

14. Next meeting.

Tuesday 9th December 7.30. p.m.

The meeting was closed.

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

APPENDIX 1.



South Somerset District Council

Area North

Old Kelways, Somerton Road, LANGPORT TA10 9YE

☎ 01458 257405 Fax: 01458 257474 www.southsomerset.gov.uk

Charlotte Jones
Head of Area Development - North



The Clerk to
Pitcombe CP

Date: 24 October 2008

Our ref:

Your ref:

☎ 01458 257401

✉ Charlotte.jones@southsomerset.gov.uk

Dear Sir/Madam

BT Payphone Removal Programme - Adoption of Red Kiosks.

You will be aware that your parish includes a red box, **1pco, Centre Of Village, Pitcombe, Bruton, ☎ 01749813376**, which was recently included within the BT removal programme. The final decision by SSSDC on your parish kiosk was to **object** to the removal.

I am writing to inform you that SSSDC has raised objections with BT regarding the process to secure the 'adopt a kiosk scheme', which a number of parishes expressed an interest in.

As you are probably aware the deadline for applications to adopt must be submitted by 1st November, regardless of the final decision (we assume). The position of SSSDC is that this provided insufficient time for parishes to properly consider the financial and legal implications of signing the model agreement. In addition for those parishes that were objecting to the removal, signing a legal agreement to confirm the telephone equipment could be removed seemed unreasonable.

We have raised this objection on behalf of all affected parishes, following concerns raised by a number with us directly. If you have already submitted an application to adopt, or intend to submit one by 1st November, then we have not sought to affect this at all.

Next steps

If your parish has already submitted an application to adopt a box, then we assume you need do nothing other than respond to BT in due course when they process your application.

If SSSDC objected to the removal, then unless BT appeal, and win, your box will not be affected and you do not need to adopt. However, BT have not made this clear in their guidance, and this is the basis of our objection.



If you need this information in large print, Braille, audio or another language, please contact me at the above address



WILTSHIRE COUNCIL

If SSDC agreed to the removal of the kiosk, and you notified us of your interest in adoption, then we have passed this information to BT as requested. If you have not submitted your application, then we will of course advise you of any further news from BT. Our view is that although this is a risk, it seems not unreasonable to assume BT will adopt a more 'common sense' approach in the light of numerous objections.

I must stress that the adopt a kiosk scheme is entirely voluntary on the part of parish councils, and whilst we will endeavour to gain support from BT to remove the pressure on parishes to sign a legal agreement, we cannot guarantee this will be successful. We will continue to lobby on your behalf, and trust that no red kiosks will be removed, in advance of a parish council having taken a considered decision to adopt, and taken advice on the legal agreement.


It would be helpful to know your current position on adoption, to ensure our records are as accurate as possible and I would be very grateful for any information you could provide. Please note that if you have since obtained listed building status for your red kiosk, a planned removal will not happen in any event.

For information, I enclose a list of all red kiosks in South Somerset (as supplied by BT) together with the final decision of SSDC as to their removal (agree) or retention (object).

Please contact Catherine Hodsman 01458 257414 or email catherine.hodsman@southsomerset.gov.uk to supply any information or to request further details.

If you wish to receive a copy of our letter to BT, please get in touch.

Yours faithfully



Charlotte Jones
Head of Area Development – North