

Pitcombe Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held in Hadspen Village Hall on Tuesday 11th August 2009 at 7.30pm

Present: Councillors Carter, Hartnell, Jury, Elliott, Whittaker and the Clerk, Mrs. R. Morgan

In the Chair: Councillor Beech

In attendance: County and District Councillor Anna Groskop and one member of the Public.

Note: There were no questions from the public.

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were accepted from PCSO Dan Arthur.

2. Declarations of Interest

None.

3. Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 9th June 2009

These were accepted by those present as a correct record.

4. Report from County and District Councillor Mrs. Anna Groskop

The Chairman welcomed Mrs. Groskop to the meeting.

She advised those present that she had taken on the role of shadowing the County Finance Secretary and was looking at saving money wherever possible.

Recruitment was one area to be curtailed. The District Council would also be following suit.

5. Matters Arising

a. Parish Council Vacancy

Mr. John Knight had formally expressed a willingness to join the Parish Council. His co-option was discussed and agreement reached that he should be asked to come along to the next meeting so this could be officially carried out.

b. Registration of Interest Forms.

All councillors present had reviewed their forms and had updated them.

Action: the Clerk to submit to South Somerset District Council.

c. Parish Council Liaison with Pitcombe News

Councillor Jury kindly agreed to take this on.

6. Parish Councillor Portfolios for 2009/10.

Following discussion changes were agreed as indicated in the attached chart. Updates were reported as follows:-

Councillor Carter agreed to action the 'thank you' to Terry Crane for his continued work in keeping the public footpath clear from Pitcombe Farm House to the Church.

Once again with the apple season ahead, Councillor Elliott reported the usual influx of gypsy caravans in to the area. It had been noted that ownership of the Apple Orchard had changed.

Councillor Jury had reported several potholes to Highways for action.

Several incidents of Footpath blockages (Ridge Lane and Lancombe Lane) had been noted. Councillor Carter agreed to provide the Clerk with the Footpath references. Action: The Clerk to report these to the District Council.

The Chairman stated that the appearance of a Static caravan on Mr. Hobhouse's land had been reported to him. Action: The Clerk to report this to James Meyer of SSDC.

The Chairman also reported that the problem discussed previously regarding Mr. Jennings' embankment path had been taken up on behalf of the Parish Council by Planning Enforcement. Reinstatement of the land had been agreed by the owner. The Parish Council awaited developments.

7. Standing Orders

It was unanimously agreed to adopt the Standing Orders as presented. These were signed on behalf of the Parish Council.

8. Report from the Parish Clerk

a. Banking Arrangements.

The Parish Council now had access to the monies in its Barclays current account and its savings account with Scottish Widows. This meant that statements would now be regularly submitted to the Clerk and spend more closely monitored. The Clerk was signatory to the Scottish Widows account allowing transfer between it and the Barclays Account. No action had taken place on this account for some 4 years so little interest had been earned. Councillors Beech and Elliott were signatories to the Barclays Account along with the Clerk who would only sign cheques when there was a clash of Interest (e.g. Councillor Elliott sits on the Village Hall Committee therefore cannot sign cheques to them).

b. Internal and External Audits

i) Copies of reports as a result of submissions for 2007/8 had been provided to each Councillor. There had been some serious breaches of protocol which were now being rectified as a matter of urgency. The delay (over one year) in submission of these papers had brought about a higher charge from the Auditors.

ii) The external Audit papers for 2008/9 were presented to the Parish Council for their agreement. This was given and the papers signed. The Clerk reported that an internal audit of this year's account was booked for later the same week.

c. Asset Register

Following the previous review of the Asset register, the Clerk had contacted the Parish Council Insurance Company who required a further £29.04 to cover the increase in value of the Notice Boards. See payments.

d. Budget for 2009/10

The Clerk had prepared a budget for 2009/10 and had been circulated to all for comment. Each item was examined and discussed. There had been a number of key items of spend missing e.g. the new Notice Board to be situated outside the Village Hall (approx £1200.00), secondary internal and external audit fees (approx £280.00), a 'Village Hall' sign (£100.00). The budget for 2009/10 therefore now stood at £7988.07. This was agreed.

The Clerk therefore recommended that no further outlay be discussed for this financial year as it was still uncertain what financial commitments may appear and there was only £1300 of unallocated funds.

Copy of revised budget attached.

It was also unanimously agreed that the Parish Council would not claim Parish Council allowances for this year.

Councillor Hartnell agreed to provide a quote for the installation of the new Notice Board.

9. Review of Planning Applications

For consideration in August :

None.

Pending consideration:-

08/03014/FUL – (The Aviaries) Out of parish.

Planning granted.

09/01795/FUL (Mr. J. De Bosdri) with conditions

09/01226/FUL (Drysdale)

09/01227/CON (Drysdale)

09/02282/FUL (Redfern)

The Chairman reported that the planning seminar set up by Mrs. Felton had been very interesting and helpful. It had put another perspective on planning applications. In future where a Parish Council had made observations /were unsupportive of an application, consultation would take place with both the County and District Councillors and the Parish Council advised of the decision taken and the reasons for that decision. Past history was not to be taken in to account so each application was to be viewed as a fresh application, the same applied for retrospective applications.

10. Accounts for payment

The following accounts were presented for payment and authorised: -

Remuneration for Clerk for June and July 2009 £394.09 (Cheque No 248)

Insurance Premium Increase £29.04 (Cheque No 247)

External Audit fee for 2007/8 £207.00 (Cheque No 246)

Village Hall Booking Fee for the period June 2009- March 2010 £100.00 (Cheque No 249).

11. Pitcombe Flooding

Councillor Jury reported that the Flood Action Group had been unsuccessful in their first bid for grant aid. Their second round bid was currently being considered.

Support was being given by David Heath MP as well as by Mrs Groskop. SSDC funding had been granted for river clearance of 'weed trees' . This was taking place 22nd/23rd August by Martin Jennings, the Tree Warden, and local residents.

Should a DEFRA grant be forthcoming, DEFRA would support and underwrite an approved scheme.

The Flood action group would be looking for financial support from the Parish Council. A business case would be drawn up and put before the Parish Council in November when next year's budget was to be discussed.

12. Correspondence

SSDC	Doing it Right – Guide for Councillors
SSDC	South Somerset News
SSDC	South Somerset Local Development Framework
SSDC	Spring Bulb Planting Initiative – the Village Hall Committee had expressed an Interest. The Clerk to pursue.
Highways Agency	An interesting maintenance Schedule

The Clerk circulated a hard copy to all.

13. Meetings /Workshops

June 23 rd 2009	Special Meeting JAC
July 8 th 2009	JAC East meeting
July 29 th 2009	Community Planning Sub- Committee

14. Any other Business

- i) It was requested that the pond at Hadspen Farm be included as an agenda item for the next meeting.
- ii) Following a reported complaint by a member of the public, three clear days notice was confirmed for the convening of a parish council meeting. The Clerk to email the agenda to both the Chairman and Councillor Jury to ensure that agenda's went up on all notice boards on time.

15. Dates of next meetings:

It was agreed that these would remain as the second Tuesday in every month. The meeting was closed at 20.50.

Mrs. R. J. Morgan
Clerk to the Parish Council
28th August 2009