

Pitcombe Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council
held in Hadspen Village Hall
on Tuesday 8th December 2009 at 7.30pm

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

In the Chair: Councillor Beech

In attendance: County and District Councillor Anna Groskop.

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were accepted from Councillor Elliott.

2. Declarations of Interest

Prejudicial interests were declared by Councillors Jury and Knight regarding discussion of the request for a donation from the Village Hall Committee. Mr. Knight advised the meeting that Councillor Elliott had resigned from the Village Hall Committee at their recent AGM.

3. Reports

Reports were not received from District Councillor Maili Felton and PCSO Dan Arthur.

From County and District Councillor Mrs. Anna Groskop

Mrs. Groskop stated that both in the County and District Councils efforts were being made to limit spend. Redundancies were likely.

The Clerk advised the meeting that a letter had been received from Ken Maddock Leader of Somerset County Council advising of their budgetary process this year.

4. Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 10th November 2009

These were accepted by those present as a correct record and authorised.

5. Matters Arising

i) The Clerk advised that the proposed changes to the Code of Conduct had not come through from SALC and were now expected in the New Year. It was agreed that the previously discussed change to allow for representations by Parish Committees on grant issues prior to withdrawal would be included in this review.

ii) The Parish Council had received a response to their letter from the Enforcement Officer regarding the reporting process for planning/ nuisance and environmental issues. All had been sent a copy of this.

It was suggested the Parish Council respond stating their disappointment with a perceived lack of support. Some discussion followed and it was decided that no further action be taken at this time.

iii) It was agreed that Councillor Jury draft a short note to go in to the Pitcombe News seeking interest in the Parish Council vacancy.

6. Clerk's report on Finance Issues

i) The Clerk ran through the discussion and agreement reached at the last meeting regarding the make-up of next year's budget, a copy of which was provided to all.

The only outstanding request concerned the Village Hall's request for a grant. At this point Mr. Knight and Mr. Jury declared their interests and withdrew.

The Clerk read out the letter that the Parish Council had received from the Village Hall Committee (VHC). Following discussion £450.00 was agreed as the figure to enter in to the budget however the VHC would have to submit a detailed claim at the appropriate time before any monies were released. The Clerk explained that the figures agreed were budgetary only and had to go forward to SSDC for agreement first and were not necessarily a promise to pay. A final precept figure of £5000.00 was agreed.

Action: The Clerk agreed to prepare the final budgetary schedule and to return Pitcombe's Precept request.

Note: Mrs. Groskop pointed out that grants were available to Village Halls.

ii) The Clerk reported that Councillor Knight had agreed to be a signatory on the Parish Council Current Account. The paperwork would now be completed and submitted to Barclays Bank. **Action:** Councillor Knight and the Clerk.

iii) The Clerk reported that she still had the Parish Council Risk Assessment to undertake. This would be done after this meeting and circulated prior to the next .

Action: The Clerk

iv) The Clerk advised that she had attempted to transfer money from the current account in to the savings account . Barclays Bank once again required a formal process to be followed. This required the Clerk to visit the local branch of Barclays Bank.

Action : the Clerk.

7. Parish Councillor Portfolios

Updates were provided as follows:-

Highways

Councillor Jury stated that patching had been completed in Honeywick Hill.

He had also had a meeting with Scott Davies's replacement and provided the Clerk with a copy of a confirmatory email of their discussion (to be circulated for all to see).

Pitcombe Flood Action Group.

Councillor Jury reported that a meeting had been held by the group, which the Chairman had attended. A constitution had been drafted and was being circulated prior to agreement. This would then allow them to be a group of proper association and for a bank account to be set up.

Footpaths : Councillor Knight stated he had emailed Eve Wynn regarding responsibilities for stile repair. A reply had not been received. He would resend. Mrs. Groskop stated that there were still unresolved problems with the Council website.

The Chairman stated that it had recently come to his attention that two wrought iron benches were the responsibility of the parish Council. One was by Sunnyhill, the second at Castle End. **Actions:** Councillors Knight and Carter agreed to inspect and to report back on their condition at the next meeting. The Clerk to speak to the Insurance company to confirm insurance status.

Planning

Councillor Beech had nothing to report other than that Henry Hobhouse would be submitting a Planning application regarding the relocation of the mobile home.

8. Review of Planning Applications

For consideration in December : None received.

The Parish Council had no observations to make regarding this application.

Action: The Clerk was asked to respond accordingly.

Pending consideration:-

09/03397/FUL – Ashridge trees (Two Poly tunnels)

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

09/04063/FUL - Sexeys School

Planning Applications granted : None

Temporary Road closure: N/A

9. Accounts for payment

The following accounts were presented for payment and authorised:-

Webpage domain renewal fee of £15.77 (Cheque No 259).

Installation of Village Notice Board fee £ 220.80 (Cheque No:260). See note below re key holders.

The Clerk confirmed that she had received her remuneration for November on 1st December . A formal account would be provided in the usual way. Expenses would be claimed when there were sufficient Councillors present to sign the appropriate cheque.

Notice Board key holders were agreed as follows:-

Village Hall Notice Board – Councillor Elliott

Cole - Councillor Knight

Pitcombe Viaduct - Councillor Jury

Each key holder was asked to use their discretion in the type of notice to be inserted however the key point was that notices should promote local events.

It was pointed out that minutes had been taken from one of the Notice Boards. These were for the consumption of all parishioners and for all to read.

10. Correspondence received

SSDC Enforcement Office response	Enforcement issues at Pitcombe see item 5ii
SSDC Community Development	BT's Public Telephone Kiosk Development – correspondence ongoing.
Somerset Waste Partnerships	Public Holiday Collections (copies in all Notice boards)

11. Meetings /Workshops

Somerset Waste Management Workshops	Pitcombe Parish Council has requested evening workshops. Awaiting proposals. December 16th- The Parish Council would not be attending.
SSDC Spatial Planning	

12. Any other Business

None

13. Date of next meeting:

January 12th 2010.

The meeting was closed at 20.40.

Mrs. R. J. Morgan

Clerk to the Parish Council

21st December 2009