

Pitcombe Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council
held in Hadspen Village Hall
on Tuesday 10th November 2009 at 7.30pm

Present: Councillors Elliott, Jury, Knight, Whittaker and the Clerk, Mrs.
R. Morgan.
In the Chair: Councillor Beech

In attendance: County and District Councillor Anna Groskop, Dan Arthur the PCSO and two members of the Public.

Public Question Time.

Mr. Linden thanked the Clerk for her efforts in the Village Hall being accepted on to the Spring Bulb initiative. 3000 bulbs had been delivered and thanks to volunteers had all been planted the following weekend around the hall. A wonderful display was much anticipated.

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were accepted from Councillors Carter, and District Councillor Maili Felton.

The Chairman advised the meeting that Councillor Hartnell had unfortunately resigned. Councillor Elliott wished to thank him for his work on the Parish Council.

Action: The Clerk was asked to action the filling of the vacancy.

2. Declarations of Interest

See the discussion regarding the precept for 2010/11.

As there were insufficient Councillors present without a prejudicial interest for discussions on the Village Hall grant request to go ahead it was agreed that this element of the precept be deferred until such time as the Parish Council were quorate .

3. Reports

From PCSO Dan Arthur (dep: 7.40pm.)

It was agreed that the the PCSO present his report first .

There had not been any major incidents in the area since the last meeting. Bike thefts in Bruton however were on the increase and he recommended that the public make sure all were secured.

The police were concentrating on two initiatives, the first being 'Farm Watch' in the Tower Area , the second the encouragement of local speeding Schemes. The police were looking for volunteers for the latter. Action: Councillor Jury agreed to send contact details to the PCSO so that a short article could be submitted to the Pitcombe News .

From County and District Councillor Mrs. Anna Groskop

Mrs. Groskop reported as follows:-

- i. Road Salt was available for collection should the Parish require supplies. Note: Pitcombe Parish Council do not have roadside salt bins to service.
- ii. Regarding the general issue of speeding, Mrs. Groskop advised that it was curious to note that where there were speeding signs the public did not react as positively as they did towards School Signs in reducing speed.
- iii. The £500 grant offered to the Parish Council for the Pitcombe Flood Action Group had not been taken up. The Clerk responded stating that the Parish Council did not have the statutory powers to undertake flood investigation work of this nature. This had been confirmed by SALC and further discussed with the appropriate department within SSDC . It was also felt that the Parish Council had no expertise whatsoever in this area and was ill equipped to proceed with any such project. It was suggested that SSDC and/ or the Environment Agency be approached to help. See 5 (i).
The Clerk circulated a copy to all of the bodies involved and their responsibilities for the various types of Flood Work (issued by SSDC).

4. Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 13th October 2009

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

5. Matters Arising

i)The status of Pitcombe Flood Action Group (PFAG).

Councillor Jury advised that the PFAG had recently opened a bank account in its name but was an unincorporated body. From his investigations it was acceptable for grant monies to be offered to such a group by the Parish Council.

Mrs. Groskop said that she would need to confirm that a grant offer from SCC would be acceptable in these circumstances and asked Mr. Jury to request that the PFAG Chairman write formally to her laying out their case. **Action: Mr. Jury.**

6. Clerk's report on Finance Issues

i)The Clerk provided a copy to each Councillor present of a report showing a copy of the agreed budget for the current financial year, the end of year forecast of spend and proposals to be discussed against each item for the budget for 2010/11 out of which the precept requirement would be calculated. See spread sheet attached.

Action:Following discussion , the Clerk agreed to prepare the revised schedule for the next meeting so that the final precept figure could be finalised.

Note: The new Village Hall Notice Board was now in place and it was agreed how nice it looked. **Actions:**The Clerk was asked to arrange for the old board to be taken away and to request a set of keys as they appeared not to be attached.

ii)The Chairman advised that it had been agreed that the Clerk be paid her salary monthly in arrears by mandate. This avoided the problem of the correct number of signatories being available to sign her monthly cheque. Expenses would be claimed separately every couple of months when signatories were available.

iii) Councillor Knight agreed to be a signatory to the Parish Council account. **Action:**The Clerk to set in motion.

7. Parish Councillor Portfolios

Updates were provided as follows:-

Footpaths : Councillor Whittaker had been in touch with the Countryside Ranger Eve Wynn responsible for this area who had confirmed that use of weed killer to remove persistent weeds (e.g. nettles) was not permitted.

Councillor Knight advised that the stile into Mill Lane was broken and who was responsible for its repair needed to be established. The land owner had said he would carry this out if it was his responsibility. **Action:** The Clerk to provide Councillor Knight with Eve Wynn's email address so that this could be followed up.

Environment:

Councillor Elliot had nothing to report.

Roads

Councillor Jury stated that the blocked drain at the bottom of Honeywick Hill , opposite Honeywick Cottage had been reported. Clearance was awaited. Responsibility for maintaining ivy clad trees on Highways Land would be followed up by Councillor Elliott.

Planning

Councillor Beech had nothing to report.

8. Review of Planning Applications

For consideration in October/November :

09/04063/FUL Sexeys School

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 Polytunnels)

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

Planning granted : N/A

Temporary Road closure: N/A

9. Accounts for payment

The following accounts were presented for payment and authorised:-

Remuneration for Clerk for October £276.84 (Cheque No 257).

Late submission of the bill from Wincanton Garden Centre for £39.95 (Cheque No:258)

This was the thank you to Diana Scott for her work for the Parish Council in the absence of a Clerk. **Action:** The Clerk to write to Mrs. Scott with the Parish Council's formal thanks.

10. Pitcombe Flood Action Group

Nothing further to report .

Note: the next meeting of the PFAG was this coming Sunday at 4.00pm. The Chairman advised that he would be attending.

It was agreed that the PFAG be asked to clarify for Parish consumption the situation regarding the sluice gates (in the Pitcombe News).

11. Correspondence received

Area East Bulletin	Of 14.10.09
Transport Priorities in Parish	Parish Plan Strategy
Winter Service 2009/10	Salting plans and availability of additional salt
SALC	Cancellation of SALC Area Meetings in December
Public Telephone Kiosks	The Clerk to write to SSDC restating their position regarding the red BT Kiosks. (Action)
SSDC Standards Committee	All to complete Self Assessment Surveys received (Action)

12. Meetings /Workshops

Nov 4 th 2009 Dog Control Seminar Flood Awareness Workshops Somerset Waste Management Workshops	Councillor Whittaker was unfortunately now unable to attend. Information to be put on Notice Boards. Pitcombe Parish Council has requested evening workshops.
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13. Any other Business

None

14. Date of next meeting:

December 8th

The meeting was closed at 20.50.

Mrs. R. J. Morgan
Clerk to the Parish Council
21st November 2009