

Pitcombe Parish Council

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

Present: Councillors Carter, Hartnell, Whittaker and the Clerk, Mrs.
R. Morgan. Mr. John Knight joined the Parish Council after item 4.
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 but see item regarding Flood Action
Group .

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were accepted from Councillors Jury and Elliott and District Councillor
Maili Felton.

2. Declarations of Interest

Councillor Carter declared an interest in item 10 i) Planning Application 09/03191/FUL.

3. Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 11th August 2009

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

4. The co-option of Mr. John Knight on to Pitcombe Parish Council

Discussion regarding the interest shown by Mr. Knight in being co-opted on to the
Parish Council had been discussed at the previous meeting.

Councillor Carter, seconded by Councillor Hartnell, proposed that Mr. Knight be co-
opted on to the Parish Council. This was given unanimous approval. Mr. Knight was
then invited to join the Council.

Acceptance of Office papers were signed and completed Declaration of Interest forms
accepted. **Action:** Clerk to forward the latter to SSDC Democratic Services .

5. Reports

From County and District Councillor Mrs. Anna Groskop

The police were seeking to achieve safer, stronger neighbourhoods. Rural areas had
been hit hard by crime and people were being encouraged to keep their doors locked
and to use chains when opening the door. She encouraged the over 60s in particular to
attend the free 'shows' being put on on October 8th 10.00am and 14.30pm at the
Constitutional Club in Castle Cary. A poster was handed to the Parish Council for
display.

Mrs. Groskop also advised the Parish Council of a new scheme whereby the
perpetrator of a crime faced his victim to apologise and to recompense the person for
their crime.

Mrs. Groskop then excused herself from the meeting.

From PCSO Tim Russell arrived at 7.50pm. His report has been inserted at the appropriate point of the agenda.

Youths were thought to have been behind an incident of criminal damage at Bottom Barn Farm. He urged all parishioners to advise the police of any suspicious activities/ people touring the area. He once again advised people to keep their sheds and doors locked.

In respect of the Ansford School Walk, this would take place on 23rd September between 9.30 and 15.30. Two PCSO's would be once again cycling the route with the party to keep an eye on behaviour. The deputy head of the school had made a courtesy call to the Chairman and had been advised of the concern expressed about road markings that had appeared the previous year. PCSO Tim Russell would enquire if his beat manager, Sara Stephenson, had managed to speak to the Head Master following her discussion with the Chairman.
The PCSO then excused himself from the meeting.

6. Matters Arising

a. See report above regarding the Ansford School Walk.

b. Hadspen Farm Pond.

Councillor Whittaker expressed the view that although Hadspen Pond at the moment was clear of debris, its ongoing condition needed to be monitored as if allowed to become overgrown it became a source of local flooding.

Action: The Clerk to ascertain how this problem could be contained and via what agency. Councillor Whittaker to brief the clerk.

7. Parish Council Standing Orders and Financial Regulations.

a. The addendum to the Standing Orders drafted by the Clerk to cover urgent Planning applications was approved and signed.

Action: Parish Councillors to advise the Clerk if they were to be away for longer than a week so that any Planning Circular could be noted accordingly to avoid any undue delays.

b. Draft Financial Regulations had been passed to all Councillors prior to the meeting. These had been taken from the standard (NALC) set and amended where necessary to take account of local procedures. All Councillors were happy with the draft.

Action: Clerk to present formally at the next meeting for their adoption.

8. Clerk's report

a. Vat of £37.84 had been reclaimed up to 31.03.09. The refund was expected shortly.

b. The Internal Audit report for 08/09 had been copied to all prior to the meeting. The Clerk urged everyone to read it if they had not yet had the time to do so as there were some serious breaches of protocol. Steps had already been taken to rectify some of these e.g. outstanding audits had now been completed, a cash book system, a budget for 2009/10 and the close monitoring of payments were now all in place and Standing Orders and Financial Regulations had been or were in the process of being adopted.

The Clerk advised that payments were being monitored against budget and an up to date statement would be prepared and prepared for the next meeting. A payment

schedule for Parish Council donations would also be prepared for approval at the next meeting . **Action: Clerk.**

c. November's meeting would be looking at the budget for 2010/11 and the precept bid required. The Clerk asked everyone to consider this. All village bodies would be contacted asking them to put forward their business cases for financial support.

9. Parish Councillor Portfolios

Updates were reported as follows:-

Footpaths : Councillor Carter reported that she had passed across her portfolio to Councillor Whittaker who advised the Parish Council that she would be sharing Footpaths with Councillor Knight, splitting the area between them. Councillor Carter kindly presented copies of the Footpath map for the Parish to them and the Clerk. The Clerk had actioned the footpath problems from the last meeting (blockages on Ridge Lane and Lancombe Lane)but had not had any feedback. Mr. Jennings who was in attendance stated the fallen tree was on his land and he would remove it as soon as possible.

A new style had been installed on Footpath 22/12 but no-one knew anything about it. Councillor Whittaker asked the Clerk to ascertain who the ranger was who dealt with this area so that they could be put in contact. **Action: Clerk.**

Environment:

Councillor Whittaker reported that someone had been seen throwing Cat Litter in to the River. It was noted this needed to be reported formally to Councillor Elliott to report to Street scene .

Roads

Councillor Jury had asked the Parish Council to note the following:

- a. the potholes on the Hadspen to Cole road had been marked by Highways and were awaiting repair.
- b. Gullies in Hadspen had been cleared.

Planning

a. The appearance of the static caravan on Mr. Hobhouse's land had been reported to James Meyer, SSDC to investigate. **Action: The Clerk to follow up.**

It's presence may have curtailed motorbike activity but this was not the point as the motorbike nuisance should be dealt with in a different way.

b. Reports had been received from a parishioner regarding possible future building activity on Mill Lane field. The field had been surveyed but the reasons for it were not known.

10. Review of Planning Applications

For consideration in September :

09/03191/FUL

Councillor Carter left the room so that her planning application could be discussed.

Those that had seen the application had no objections. It was therefore agreed that the Parish Council could support the application.

Action: Clerk to advise SSDC Planning of their decision.

Pending consideration:-

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

Planning granted.
Nothing to report for September.

11. Accounts for payment

The following accounts were presented for payment and authorised:-

Internal Audit fee for 2008/9 £80.00 (Cheque No 250)
Arien Signs for Village Hall Notice Board £959.10 inc VAT(Cheque No 251)
Remuneration for Clerk for August including extra hours claimed £296.84 (Cheque No 252).

In acknowledgement of the work undertaken by Terry Crane (Grass cutting) Councillor Carter was authorised to spend to the value of £30.00.on wine.

Councillor Knight was also asked to speak to Diana Scott who it was thought would like a shrub/tree for her garden for the work she had undertaken as secretary to Pitcombe Parish Council in the absence of a Clerk. The Parish Council was unable to make a donation to a charity of her choice where the benefit was outside the UK. Spend to the value of £50.00/£60.00 was authorised.

Note 2: The Clerk received a cheque for £250.00 as a contribution from the Village Hall Committee towards the new Notice Board installation. **Action: Clerk to bank.**

Note 1: A quote had been provided by F & B Construction Ltd for the installation of the new Notice Board at Hadspen Village Hall. Councillor Hartnell declared an interest but was asked to stay to answer questions about the breakdown of costs.

The remaining Councillors agreed that the work was long overdue and needed completing as soon as possible. The Clerk was therefore asked to formally put the work in hand. **Action: The Clerk.**

12. Pitcombe Flooding

A report had been received from Councillor Jury. This was confirmed as follows by Mr. Jennings who advised the following:-

a. at the end of August an enthusiastic team of local residents had worked hard to clear the silt from the river bed and brush wood from the river banks with the assistance of equipment provided by Martin Jennings and Ian Adlam. The Parish Council commended them for this work which was entirely voluntary.

b. Contractors employed and funded by South Somerset District Council had spent three days clearing weed trees and had made further inroads with diggers and chainsaws freeing up the river flow below the bridge. The river was now running more freely. It remained to be seen what the overall impact would be until there were high waters again.

c. The River Pitt is not considered to be a main river and consequently is not subject to flood warnings from the Environment Agency however it has been agreed that they will provide flood warnings to Martin Jennings who has kindly agreed to represent the community on this matter. The flood warnings will be in respect of the section of the River Brue between Bruton and Lovington.

d. Councillor Knight agreed to speak to the owners of the Mill Pond regarding control of the water flow. **Action: Councillor Knight.**

13. Correspondence

SSDC	A request for School Governors for Somerset.
SSDC	Spring Bulb Planting Initiative – the Village Hall Committee had been accepted for this project and would be looking for help with the planting. Delivery schedule awaited.

14. Meetings /Workshops

Nov 4 th 2009	Councillor Whittaker expressed an interest in attending.
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15. Any other Business

None declared.

16. Date of next meeting:

October 13th. (Councillor Knight apologised for his absence at this coming meeting.)

The meeting was closed at 20.50.

Mrs. R. J. Morgan
Clerk to the Parish Council
9th September 2009