

Pitcombe Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council
held in Hadspen Village Hall
on Tuesday 13th October 2009 at 7.30pm

Present: Councillors Elliott, Carter, Jury, 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 Councillors Hartnell and Knight, District Councillor Maili Felton and PCSO Dan Arthur.

2. Declarations of Interest

None declared.

3. Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 8th September 2009

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

4. Reports

From County and District Councillor Mrs. Anna Groskop

Mrs. Groskop reported as follows:-

- i. Scott Davies (Highways) had been promoted. Tony Leach with whom we were all familiar was in charge of programme of Works for Roads.
- ii. £500 had been offered to the Pitcombe Flood Action Group for a planned feasibility study
- iii. There were to be some changes regarding organisation and responsibility for planning in December.

From PCSO Dan Arthur

This had been emailed to all Councillors.

Note: Police supervision of the Ansford School Walk had not been deemed necessary as there had been a greater number of teachers accompanying pupils on the walk. No serious problems had been reported.

5. Matters Arising

a. See note above regarding the Ansford School Walk. It was thought that all signs relating to the walk had since been removed. Action: Councillor Elliott to check.

b. Hadspen Farm Pond.

Councillor Whittaker reported that she had been unable to contact the owner but that she and Councillor Elliott were working together to solve the bramble hedge problem.

6. Parish Council Financial Regulations.

Draft Financial Regulations had been circulated to all Councillors prior to the previous meeting and an additional month given for the proposed document to be reviewed. Councillor Carter proposed, seconded by Councillor Elliott that these be adopted. A unanimous decision was then reached.

7. Clerk's report

a. The external audit for 08/09 had now been completed and a copy of the written report received from Moore Stephens given to each Councillor. The only outstanding action recommended was for a Risk Assessment to be undertaken and provided to the Parish Council. Action: The Clerk.

Note: See payments. Bill for £138.00 to be paid to Moore Stephens. (Budget£250.00).

b. The Clerk advised that some of the grants budgeted for in this financial year had been held back pending preparation of more accurate accounts. These were presented to the Parish Council at the meeting. After discussion it was agreed by all present that the donation to the PCC be released e.g. £550 for graveyard maintenance and that the monies budgeted for for the Pitcombe Parish News be considered at the next meeting when more information regarding its funding would be to hand (Cheque No 256).

Note: The Chairman agreed to urge early installation of the Notice Board (to be sited at the Village Hall).

Councillor Jury stated that the Village Hall Road Sign was now in place. The bill for this (est .£100) was still expected from the County Council.

c. November's meeting would be looking at the budget for 2010/11 and the precept requirement. It was agreed that a suitable notice be put in the next edition of the Pitcombe News for village bodies to approach the Clerk with their business cases for financial support for next year

d. It was agreed that the Clerk contact the bank with a view to increasing the number of signatories to the account as there had been increasing problems with getting cheques signed at Parish Council meetings.

8. Parish Councillor Portfolios

Updates were provided as follows:-

Footpaths : Councillor Whittaker had been put in contact with the Countryside Ranger Eve Wynn responsible for this area. The Clerk had been advised that the tree on WN 22/8 was to be removed and nettles cleared on WN22/12 this week.

Email contact was recommended as the rangers spent most of their week out 'on site' making telephone contact more difficult. Peter Keenlyside would be happy to hear from the Parish Council regarding anybody keen to undertake any form of footpath activity in the area on peter.keenlyside@southsomerset.gov.uk.

Environment:

Councillor Elliot stated that a case of fly tipping had been reported to the District Council and she would be following up.

Roads

Councillor Jury stated that road repairs , although reported and marked up, were still to be completed.

It was agreed that a reported problem with telephone wires tangling in trees would be followed up by the Chairman.

Planning

a. Councillor Beech suggested that Pitcombe Parish Council consider increasing it's Conservation Status in line with Article 4 .This to be considered by all.

b. Since the last meeting there had been additional problems at the Contractors yard at Lancombe Lane with diesel reported running in to the River Pit. This had been reported to the Environment Agency for action to be taken.

There followed some further discussion about various continuing problems with the owner concerned and the need for active support from SSDC. Lack of progress was frustrating. Mrs Groskop stated that there was only one Planning Enforcement Officer in the County and recommended that the Parish Council write to Simon Gale outlining the key issues of concern.

Action: The Clerk to draft a suitable letter for the Chairman to issue.

9. Review of Planning Applications

For consideration in September :

09/03397/FUL

The Parish Council had no observations to make regarding this retrospective application and the Clerk was asked to respond accordingly.

Pending consideration:-

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

Planning granted.

09/03191/FUL : Erection of Summer House (Carter).

Temporary Road closure

Closure of Wyke Road, Ansford/Bruton from 12th October for 4 days was noted.

10. Accounts for payment

The following accounts were presented for payment and authorised:-

External Audit fee of £138.00 for 2008/9 (Cheque No 253)

Remuneration for Clerk for September £174.60 (Cheque No 255).

In acknowledgement of the work undertaken by Terry Crane (Grass cutting) Councillor Carter was reimbursed £18.00 for a gift of wine (Cheque No 254).

It was agreed that the Clerk should action the thank you to Diana Scott for the work she had undertaken as secretary to Pitcombe Parish Council in the absence of a Clerk. Estimate £50. The Clerk thanked Councillors Carter and Knight for their help in getting the 'thank you ' actioned.

11. Pitcombe Flood Action Group

Councillor Jury advised the Parish Council that the Pitcombe Flood Action Group were attempting to get the funds together to undertake a feasibility study as to what work to reduce future flooding problems might be viable. Mrs. Groskop had offered a

£500 contribution towards this . SSDC were considering a contribution from their environment budget.

It was confirmed that 8 properties in the parish had been affected by flooding. Mrs. Groskop stated that the group needed to be realistic as to what was possible . No further monies would be forthcoming in future from the SCC or SSDC. The Group would have to look to the Environment Agency for funding. She also stated that she would expect to see a contribution from affected house owners and the Flood Action Group.

12. Correspondence reported

SSDC	Standard Committee Minutes 30/9/09
Mr. I. Bell	The padlocking of PC Notice Boards (supported by the PC).
SALC	National Pay Award increases (clerk to action)
Som. Waste Partnership	Love Food Hate Waste Campaign
SSDC	Core Strategy
SSDC	Handy man Service

13. Meetings /Workshops

Nov 4 th 2009 Dog Control Seminar	Councillor Whittaker was unfortunately now unable to attend.
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14. Any other Business

Change of email address for the Chairman noted.

15. Date of next meeting:

November 10th

The meeting was closed at 20.50.

Mrs. R. J. Morgan
Clerk to the Parish Council
23rd October 2009