

Pitcombe Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council
held in Hadspen Village Hall
on Tuesday 9th March 2010 at 7.30pm

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

In attendance: County and District Councillor Mrs Anna Groskop and thirty members of the Parish.

Public Question Time : The Chairman stated that he would take general questions from members of the public at this time but would adjourn the meeting prior to item 5(i) on the agenda for people to specifically address that item.

a. A question was raised regarding Footpath WN 22/9. The owner confirmed that a kissing gate would be built in due course next to the new gate recently installed.

b. The Village Hall Committee offered the Parish Council use of the Village Hall free of charge for any meetings/activities in aid of the Queen's Jubilee. The Chairman offered his thanks for this and advised the meeting that a short article would be put forward for insertion in the next issue of the Pitcombe News requesting volunteers for a committee to be established.

1. Apologies for Absence

None were received.

2. Declarations of Interest

None declared.

3. Reports

Mrs. Groskop stated that she was representing both County and District Councils and gave apologies from Mrs. Felton who was unable to attend. It was possible that Mrs. Felton would be unable to continue as District Councillor and an election was likely.

Mrs. Groskop stated that a massive pothole filling exercise was under way and urged the Parish Council to report any as soon as possible to Highways.

Mrs. Groskop advised the meeting that the application to be discussed under item 5(i) was likely to be put to Area East Committee as Mr. Hobhouse was a District councillor therefore had personal and prejudicial interests to declare. All parishioners wanting to make their views known were encouraged to write to the Planning Officer, Simon Fox.

Mrs. Groskop also advised the meeting that a signed grant form had been passed across this evening to a representative of the Pitcombe Flood Action group.

4. Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of 9th February 2010

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

5. Matters Arising

The Chairman adjourned the meeting so that comments/questions regarding Planning Application 09/04954/FUL could be addressed.

There was a full discussion regarding this agenda item. The main points raised were as follows:-

- The site is in a rural location with little habitation for some miles around and therefore inappropriate for residential use.
- The site is in very close proximity to livestock.
- The site is overlooked from surrounding hills thus spoiling the beautiful local views
- The site is also located on a major road (A359) carrying fast traffic, the entrance was on a steep bend with dangerous turns both ways out of the site on to the main road
- Transport availability is poor (twice a week) therefore requiring heavy dependence on own transport
- This is a County Wildlife Site offering protection to significant species of plants and wildlife .
- A traveller site would not be acceptable to the Parish. Previous experience of a traveller encampment brought about serious problems affecting the Parish, with regular police involvement .The farming community suffered loss of livestock, with lambs and ewes lost by out of control dogs , fields were used as latrines, young trees cut for firewood, rubbish dumped and people and their property threatened if complaints were made. Noise was also a significant problem.
- The site carries very few amenities and is considered to be unsustainable in the long term
- The application is considered to be an open application with a similarly open interpretation .
- It is believed this application breaches the Local Plan.

Additional points made were:-

- There were grave doubts about the accuracy of the application. Numerous inaccuracies had been spotted.
- There was concern that the Planning Department had not advised landowners adjacent to the site inviting comments.
- Similarly it was extremely disappointing that the applicant himself (a local District Councillor) stated he would be attending the Parish Council meeting to answer questions on the application but had not appeared.

The Chairman called the room to order and the Parish council meeting was resumed.

- 5i) The Parish Council considered all that was said. Having been advised that no compromise was possible Councillor Carter proposed , seconded by Councillor Elliott that the application not be supported. All Parish Councillors voted unanimously to follow this course of action.

Action: the Clerk was asked to advise Simon Fox of this decision.

- 5ii) The Clerk reported that James Clark had expressed an interest in joining the Parish Council.

Action: the Chairman to contact James Clark to invite him to the next meeting.

- 5iii) Councillor Knight informed the meeting that the three grit bins were to be installed the following day, location of each having been agreed with Highways, and would be filled with salt/grit the day after. They were to be located next to the entrance to Hadspen Quarry, on Sunny Hill at the entrance to Sexey School's Boarding Houses, and the last halfway up Honeywick Hill.

The Clerk advised that the three bins had been added to the Parish Council Insurance policy. This was currently free but the policy fee would be increased at renewal to take account of this (approx £9 per annum)

- 5iv) The Chairman advised that Iain Bell had advised the Parish Council that the Notice Board at Pitcombe Viaduct was not their responsibility. It was a community asset that he personally had provided. The Chairman stated that the padlock had since been removed.

Councillor Jury proposed that a separate reasonably priced Parish Council Notice Board be purchased. Councillor Elliott proposed that further discussion on this take place at the next meeting when new funding would be in place and a decision could be taken. Permission would need to be sought for the installation.

Action: Clerk to insert item on April's agenda

6. Clerk's report on Finance Issues

i) The Clerk advised that Barclays Bank had now confirmed Councillor Knight as a signatory to the Parish Council Bank Account. Three Parish Councillors were now signatories (Councillor's Beech, Elliott and Knight). It was agreed that £500 be transferred from the Barclays Current Account to the Scottish Widows Account to increase the reserve and for interest to be gained.

ii) The Risk Assessment Document prepared by the Clerk was accepted by the Parish Council.

iii) The Parish Council resolved to adopt the Freedom of Information Documentation Scheme as prepared by the Clerk and circulated to all prior to the meeting

Action: Councillor Jury to post on the Parish Council website.

7. Parish Councillor Portfolios

Councillor Jury reported:-

Cole Bridge – Wessex Water acknowledge that the pipe obstructing the upstream arch is theirs and carries a water supply to properties on the Hadspen side of Cole.

Pitcombe Village Bridge - SCC Bridges section have confirmed that an order to repair/replace the damaged wooden parapet rails will be placed in April.

Both Bridges – SCC Bridges section have intimated that the promised topographical survey to assist the understanding of flooding in the locality will commence in approximately 2 weeks.

Councillor Carter advised that rubbish was still to be removed from Honeywick Hill and Hell Leather Lane. Builder's rubble (containing asbestos) was also still to be removed from Pitcombe. Further fly tipping of black polythene bags had been witnessed this week. Unfortunately the car registration number had not been clearly visible. So it could be reported. Vigilance was asked of all.

Councillor Elliott stated she had been pressing Street Scene for action regarding various piles of rubbish (flytipping). They had promised to appear the following morning to inspect and make arrangements for the rubbish to be removed.

Councillors Knight and Whittaker had nothing to report regarding Footpaths.

8. Review of Planning Applications

For consideration in March :
09/04482/FUL

The Clerk reported this application had been received the morning of the meeting and was now being circulated in the usual way for comment. An extension of time was not possible .

Pending consideration by SSDC:-
09/04305/FUL Priddles Hill Farm
09/04915/LBC and 09/04912/FUL Gardeners Cottage Hadspen.

Planning Applications granted by SSDC:
None

Temporary Road closure: A303 Willoughby Hedge – Closed for five weeks from 15/02/2010 (Note: post meeting the Parish Council has been informed that the A303 was to open 13th March, earlier then planned.)

Path Diversion WN22/13
Awaiting final decision.

9. Accounts for payment

The following accounts were presented for payment and authorised: -

Clerk's Expenses for February 2010	£31.32	(Cheque No: 266).
Glasdon (for 3 grit bins)	£589.38	(Cheque No: 264).
SALC Affiliation fee 2010/11	£ 89.48	(Cheque No: 265).

10. Anti-social behaviour

The Chairman reported two incidents of anti-social behaviour: -

- the hunt had been through Pitcombe village causing disturbance. An apology had been received .
- an acrid fire had been set in Pitcombe Village bringing about complaints to the District Council. The Fire Brigade had been called

11. Correspondence received – to read

SSDC	Letter from outgoing Chief Executive of SSDC advising of new joint C.E. of South Somerset and E.Devon, Mark Williams.
SSDC	Area East Committee agenda and papers
AONB	Management Plan
Letter from Iain Bell	Pitcombe Notice Board – see item 5iv.

12. Meetings /Workshops

No further dates advised. Items to stay on agenda.

Stakeholder Workshops- evening sessions	Awaiting proposals from SSDC
Area East Community Forum	February 23 rd Session postponed. New date awaited.

13. Any other Business

The Clerk advised members of Councillor Elliott's email address: -
kenp.elliott@btinternet.com.

14. Date of next meetings:

13th April, May 11th.

Note: All Councillors had been advised of meeting dates for 2010/11.

The meeting was closed at 20.30.

Mrs. R. J. Morgan
Clerk to the Parish Council
14th March 2010