

# Pitcombe Parish Council

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## Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held in Hadspen Village Hall on Tuesday 12th April 2011 at 7.30pm

Present: Councillors Knight, Carter, and Clark (from 19.40pm), and the Clerk, Mrs. R. Morgan.  
(Quorum achieved.)

In the Chair: Councillor Elliott

In attendance: 4 members of the Parish.

### Public Question Time :

No questions were raised.

### 1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were accepted from Councillor Donald.

The meeting was informed that Councillor Beech had resigned from the Parish Council. This was noted and accepted.

### 2. Declarations of Interest

None.

### 3. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council on 8<sup>th</sup> March 2011 were agreed by those present as a true record and authorised.

### 4. Reports

Mrs. Groskop advised the meeting that SCC had been given an additional £5m for road resurfacing (not for the filling of potholes) in this year's budget.

Re Broadband, she asked that everyone log their interest regarding the pursuit of improved broadband access and that the letter recently received from Sheila Wheeler be circulated widely and for everyone with an interest to respond to the website.

It was also noted that speed results had been received from measurements taken on the Bruton Road.

There was nothing to report from the District Council.

The PCSO reported that the Noticeboard at Pitcombe had been defaced. It had however not been damaged. There was still evidence of thefts in the area namely of quad bikes in Charlton Musgrove along with general theft of machinery left unattended or not locked up at night. He again stressed the need for vigilance and all unusual activities being reported immediately to the police.

### 5. Matters Arising

**5i) Speed Issues - Pitcombe :** See under 4 above. The second phase of speed monitoring was about to get under way .

**5ii) Bruton 100 Stone.** The Clerk advised that the licence required was being prepared and would be ready for signing very shortly. The Stone was ready for installation and once in place it was agreed that there should be a formal unveiling of the Stone. The Western Gazette should be informed so that Mr. Hickley's generosity for donating the Stone could be acknowledged and a small coffee reception held at the Village Hall. **Action: The Clerk .**

**5iii) PAYE.** Implementation of the PAYE scheme demanded by HM Customs and Excise was in place. Payment under Item 8 was now required. **Action: The Clerk .**

**5iv)** It was confirmed by the Clerk that she wished to remain as Parish Clerk and this was agreed by the Parish Council. Councillor Elliott also informed the meeting that it had been agreed that the hourly rate for the Clerk would increase from £9.253 per hour to £9.591 per hour from June 2011.

## 6. Reports on Parish Councillor Portfolios

Councillor Knight reported that the two new additional grit bins now needed filling. This had been requested. The grit bin on Honeywick Hill was to be moved. It's actual location was still to be agreed. **Action: Councillor Knight**

but Councillor Clark reported that there had been a footpath issue reported. This had been followed up there still seemed to be conflicting views as to what the situation actually was. **Action:** The Clerk to seek the written views of Eve Wynn Countryside Ranger who had inspected the site and found no access problem. Email communication was proving difficult.

was Councillor Carter reported that there had been a further meeting of the Queen's Jubilee Committee. Minutes are attached. Fund raising was under way. A volunteer to Chair the children's committee needed to plan for approx 55 children under 12. Suggestions were sought. The bunting used previously needed to be located. Councillor Elliott agreed to look in to this. Councillor Carter was congratulated for the great progress made.

## 7. Review of Planning Applications etc.

### i) For consideration/confirmation of decisions at April 2011 meeting

**11/00616 – Lily Farm.** There were no objections to the installation of a photovoltaic system on the roof of the cowshed. **Action:** The Clerk to confirm situation with SSDC Planning.

#### **11/00021/FUL – (9 Mill Lane)**

A change to the application had just been received. All examined the revised drawings and no objections were raised. A point was made that it would have been helpful if reasons had been given for the changes to window positioning and sizing as it was not clear whether these were just aesthetic or whether they satisfied any possible neighbour objections. **Action:** Clerk to advise SSDC Planning.

**11/01354/DPO The Aviaries (Out of parish – Bruton).** The Clerk advised that this application now granted the undertaking of farm businesses tenancies of up to 5 years over the land. This was agreed by the Parish Council as a sensible interpretation of the owner's requirements and had come about as a previous unfortunate oversight. **Action:** Clerk to respond accordingly.

**Note: 10/03340/FUL (Hobhouse)–** The use of land for mixed use to include construction of underground eco-dwelling, erection of two geodesic greenhouses, erection of wind turbine, construction of two gypsy/traveller pitches and construction of anaerobic digester plant.

The Clerk had been advised that the application for two traveller's pitches had now been decoupled from the larger application and would be received very shortly by the Parish Council for consideration.

The applicant was seeking further advice and help in the design of the Eco House and its associated works. This would now form a later application.

**TPO Pitcombe No.1** Woodlands alongside Shatwell Lane. This was noted by the Parish Council.

### ii) Pending consideration by SSDC

**11/00318/FUL** –Erection of new lambing unit shed at Mill on the Brue Activity Centre. The Parish Council had had no observations to make

**11/00373/FUL** – Re: The formation of 32 parking spaces with new private roadway access to serve Sexey's School. The Parish Council had not supported this application. Nothing had been heard from SSDC Planning.

**10/03010/FUL** - This application had now been withdrawn.

**10/04686/DPO** - The Aviaries (out of parish).

### iii) Planning Applications granted by SSDC .

**11/00506/FUL** – The Manor House Cole. Approved 29/03/2011.

**iv) Temporary Road Closures.**

The A359 at Closure at Burts Hill Wanstrow started a week late and completion of the works was expected shortly.

**v) Path Diversions.** Nothing to report.

**8. Finance**

i) The following payments were agreed:-

Internal auditor Fee £50.00 (cheque no: 293).

Payman PAYE Fee £93.60 inc VAT (Cheque: 294)

Parish Clerk pay (on standing order), expenses and Holiday Pay Remuneration for March £ 383.69 ( Cheque No: 295).

ii)The financial statement as at 31.3.2011 was presented to each Parish Councillor (copy attached). No questions were raised and this was approved. The Clerk advised that the Scottish Widows Account which held the Parish Council Reserve ( £2533.08) had been closed as interest was no longer achievable on this account. The monies had automatically transferred in to the Barclays Bank current account . The Clerk was seeking an interest bearing account at Barclays as it made the transferring of funds from one account to the other much easier with more opportunity for interest to be obtained.

iii)The Parish Council had passed it's Internal Audit . A copy of the Audit report had been sent to each Parish Councillor prior to the meeting.

iv)External Audit papers as a follow on from (iii) above had also been provided at the same time to each Parish Councillor to examine and review. These were accepted by the Parish Council and signed off by the Chair. **Action :** The Clerk to forward to Moore Stephens, External Auditor. The Clerk was thanked for her hard work in getting the work completed.

**9. Correspondence received .**

Somerset Waste  SCC Broadband project – letter from Sheila Wheeler	The Chair advised of the change in opening hours and charges due now at some 'tips'. The information had been posted on the Noticeboards and on the web page. See minute 4 above.
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**10. Meetings /Workshops/Training**

None advised.	
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**11. Any other Business**

Post Election Co-option	The Clerk stated that the election for Pitcombe was uncontested. 4 candidates had applied. The Clerk advised that this would make the running of the Parish Council difficult as all would always need to attend for any progress to be achieved. Willing parishioners were needed to be co-opted on , an agenda item was in place on the agenda for the May meeting. All were asked to canvass urgently for suitable people to put their names forward.
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**12. Dates of next meetings:**

10<sup>th</sup> May 2011 Annual Parish Meeting and annual meeting of the Parish Council, 7.30pm start.

The meeting was closed at 20.35.

Mrs. R. J. Morgan  
Clerk to the Parish Council of Pitcombe  
13th April 2011