

Pitcombe Parish Council

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council
held in Hadspen Village Hall
on Tuesday 8 November 2011 at 7.30pm**

Present: Councillors J.Knight, (Chairman), C. Brook, L .Comer, C. Donald, T. Crane and N. Hartnell

In attendance: Councillor A. Groskop and PCSO T. Russell and 2 members of the public.

Announcement.

The Chairman announced that the funeral service for George Bunting, the former Vice Chairman of the Parish Council would be taking place on Thursday 10 November. The Council placed on record its gratitude for George's considerable efforts and significant contribution to both the work of the Council and to the life of the Parish as a whole.

At the meeting the Council and those in attendance stood to observe a minutes silence in George Bunting's honour.

It was agreed that the Clerk write to Mrs Bunting to convey the Council's comments (**Action: Clerk**) and that there should be an obituary in the next issue of Pitcombe News (**Action: Councillors Donald and Clark**).

Public Question Time:

A member of the public raised a number of points in respect of item 6 i) and expressed the view that no further action could or should be taken by the Council.

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Councillor J. Clark

2. Declarations of Interest

None

3. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 11 October 2011 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

4. Reports

There were no specific reports from the County or District Councillors. The PCSO was present and provided an update on recent incidents of crime and anti-social behaviour.

5. Matters Arising

i) Electoral Commission Proposals for County Council Constituency Boundaries.

The Council noted considered a draft letter making representations about the proposed move of the Parish from the Bruton/Wincanton Division to the Castle Cary Division. The Council agreed the proposed text subject to the addition of further detail on the historical connection of the Parish to Bruton **(Action: Clerk)**.

It was also noted that a further period of consultation on proposed changes would take place in the new year.

ii) Grit Bins

The Council expressed its gratitude to Councillor Comer and Rob Comer for collecting and storing the 20kg bags of grit made available by the County Council for household use in the Parish. It was agreed that the Chairman would arrange for a distribution point for Cole and Councillor Hartnell for Pitcombe. Details would be passed to Councillor Clark for inclusion in Pitcombe News. **(Action: Councillors Knight, Hartnell and Clark)**

In respect of the grit bins for Highway use Councillor Hartnell would arrange to have them filled by the Highways Authority. In respect of location, Councillor Hartnell would agree with Councillors Donald and Clark a suitable location for Hadpsen and advise the Chairman who would arrange for the necessary re-location. **(Action: Councillors Knight and Hartnell)**.

6. Review of Planning Applications

i) Outcomes of applications considered at previous meetings.

11/01533/COU – Use of land for two long term gypsy/traveller pitches at Green Lane, Pitcombe. **Application refused.**

The Council noted the report from the Chairman on the consideration of the application at the Area Committee on 12 November and that an appeal had been lodged by the applicant. The Council agreed that as it had now been refused no follow up action with the District Council be taken on the application.

ii) New Planning Applications.

11/04089/FUL – Erection of Agricultural Storage Barn at Pitcombe Farm, Pitcombe Hill, Pitcombe.

The Council agreed that the application be supported as it was unobtrusive and would assist in reducing traffic movements. The District Council to be advised accordingly **(Action: Clerk)**.

11/04263/FUL – Erection of Wind Turbines and ancillary development, Higher Holton, Wincanton. (Adjoining Parish of Holton)

The Clerk reported that this application had just been received and would be circulated in the normal way. As the return date for comments was prior to the next Council meeting and in accordance with standing Orders the response would be delegated to the Clerk in consultation with the Chairman when all members' comments had been received. **(Action: Clerk)**.

iv) Temporary Road Closures.

None to report.

v) Path Diversions.

Councillor Brook undertook to pursue issues of a closed gate and access with the landowner responsible. **(Action: Councillor Brook)**.

7. Finance

i) The following payment was agreed:-

a) Clerk's payment and expenses for October - £239.78

ii) To consider a grant to the Diamond Jubilee Committee

The Chairman of the Committee was invited to provide an update of the work of the Committee. The Council noted the report and specifically that a request for a grant would be made to the January meeting. The request would relate to a specific activity being the event arranged for children and full details of the budget would be provided.

iii) Financial Update on 2011/12 and Outline Budget for 2012/13

The Council noted the position on expenditure to date and estimated outturn. The revised budget for 2012/13 which incorporated comments made at the last meeting was also approved in principle. Final approval would take place after the further necessary information from the District Council was made available after 12 December. **(Action: Clerk)**.

iv) Cheque signatories

The Council agreed that a third Council member be added to the Chairman and Vice Chairman as a signatory. This would ensure that the statutory requirement for cheques to be signed by two members could be complied with at all times. Councillor Brook agreed to become the third signatory. **(Action: Clerk)**.

8. Reports from Portfolio Holders not covered elsewhere on the agenda.

Councillor Donald reported on fly-tipping that had been notified to the District Council.

The Chairman reported that he had not received any further response from the District Council on the apparently unauthorised barn development at Priddles Hill that he had notified. It was agreed that this be followed up **(Action: Clerk)**.

9. Correspondence received

Somerset County Council – financial contribution to paving in Conservation Areas

Somerset Association for Voluntary and Community Action – request for funding

No further action

Somerset County Council – Draft Countywide parking Strategy

No further action at this stage but members to view website at:

www.somerset.gov.uk/transportstrategy.

10. Date of next meeting – 13 December 2011

The meeting closed at 20.36

Signed

Date
