**Pitchcombe Annual Parish Meeting**

**24 May 2018**

**Chairman’s Report**

2017 - 18 was another relatively uneventful year for the Parish Council. A few planning applications, the now routine pursuit from year to year of road safety improvements and the regular concerns for footpaths and overgrowth of trees.

**Planning**

12 planning applications were submitted on behalf of 10 properties. Unfortunately, due to major teething problems with the new Stroud District Council planning website it was extremely difficult to view applications for several months. Entries sometimes appeared and sometimes did not. Generally, the affected applications were not controversial, although in one particular case the council was unaware of a significant house extension until it became too late to comment. Coincidentally an out of date address on the SDC website meant that the Parish Council was unaware of an objection raised by a neighbour.

**Maintenance**

Maintenance of paths, verges and foliage etc. remains an on-going interest of the Parish Council, who respond to concerns raised by Councillors and residents.

For the last two years I have reported on the problems of maintaining the old laurel hedge opposite Old Weavers.

You may recall that whilst trimming a hedge might seem to be a straightforward exercise, the proximity of the fast and busy A4173 at one end, the proximity of overhead cables, the different levels between the two minor road levels and the hefty branches presented by an old laurel hedge have made it anything but straightforward.

Whilst County Highways have trimmed this for several years there have been a number of problems and this year the Parish Council decided to engage a contractor directly to trim the hedge. The result has proven satisfactory and whilst the cost falls directly onto our account, it was decided that we will take on board this work for future years.

**Power Lines and Poles**

In the autumn of 2017 we were notified that a decision on the ongoing project to underground some of the overhead power lines in the village could be imminent, but success was more likely if we could particularly demonstrate support from residents. We encouraged people to write and support the project and a significant portfolio of letters was submitted. Unfortunately the decision was delayed and coincidentally there was a change in the Planning Officer for the Cotswold AONB. We have briefed the newly appointed member of the AONB staff and remain optimistic that a positive decision will be made in due course. When we started to pursue this matter some years ago we anticipated it could be a long campaign and will continue to lobby for as long as it takes!

**Traffic Issues**

Last year I quoted from our 1970 minutes *“Most of our time was spent in complaining about the state of the A46. All propositions had been fruitless”*

Fortunately, this year there have been developments. The complete resurfacing from Pitchcombe to Whaddon of the A4173 was put in hand, and we observed much surveying activity prior to the construction contractors moving in.

Rumours that some major works may also be undertaken on the A 46 have at the time of this report been confirmed and we are looking forward, that by the end of 2018/19 not only will all the major roads in the Parish be resurfaced, but that significant improvements to the layout of the A46/A4173 junction may be in place.

We still do not know if the necessary reduction in speed limits is likely to be effected. Prior to the resurfacing of the A 4173 it had looked probable that a reduction in the speed limit from 50 to 40 might be favourably considered. This is currently on hold as County Highways want to carry out further speed surveys to establish behaviour on the new road surface/signage.

This is a matter of concern as the official criteria are somewhat subjective and do not in the opinion of the Parish Council properly take into account the combination of hazards relevant to our major roads. Pending this decision however County Highways will not paint speed marking roundels on the new road surface (which would have to be the current speed limit).

**This Council**

There have been no changes in the composition of the Parish Council during the last year. I would express my gratitude for the continuing hard work of Parish, District and County Councillors and of our Clerk.

Nigel Shaw

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Chairman – Pitchcombe Parish Council 2017 - 2018

**Appendix – Pitchcombe Planning Applications 2017 – 2018**

| **SDC Reference No** | **Address** | **Description** | **SDC Decision** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| S.17/0909/HHOLD | Hillcrest Halfway Pitch Pitchcombe Stroud Gloucestershire GL6 6LJ | [**Extension to existing garage.**](https://publicaccess.stroud.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?keyVal=OORFV1PNI5P00&activeTab=summary) | Application Approved |
| S.17/0926/HHOLD | Pen Y Bryn Halfway Pitch Pitchcombe Stroud Gloucestershire GL6 6LJ | [**Extensions to property, first floor rear balcony and detached garage**](https://publicaccess.stroud.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?keyVal=OOYL8DPNIFZ00&activeTab=summary) | Approved |
| S.17/1989/MINAM | Pen Y Bryn Halfway Pitch Pitchcombe Stroud Gloucestershire GL6 6LJ | [**S.17/0926/HHOLD - Amend the garage from a centrally pitched roof to a green roof with a 10 degree slope**](https://publicaccess.stroud.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?keyVal=OVRAN2PN0BK00&activeTab=summary) | Withdrawn |
| S.17/2304/HHOLD | Pen Y Bryn Halfway Pitch Pitchcombe Stroud Gloucestershire GL6 6LJ | [**Amendment to S.17/0926/HHOLD to alter garage roof.**](https://publicaccess.stroud.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?keyVal=OXK9FKPN0B200&activeTab=summary) | Approved |
| S.17/1049/HHOLD | Elmbank Cheltenham Road Pitchcombe Stroud Gloucestershire GL6 6LZ | [**Two storey extension.**](https://publicaccess.stroud.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?keyVal=OPQOUNPN0BP00&activeTab=summary) | Approved |
| S.17/1549/HHOLD | Quo Vadis Wades Lane Pitchcombe Stroud Gloucestershire GL6 6LQ | [**Front and side extensions**](https://publicaccess.stroud.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?keyVal=OSXDBTPNGE000&activeTab=summary) | Approved |
| S.17/1780/TCA | Windflower House Halfway Pitch Pitchcombe Stroud Gloucestershire GL6 6LJ | [**Two Sycamore Stumps to be removing top growth.**](https://publicaccess.stroud.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?keyVal=OUB437PN0CI00&activeTab=summary) | Approved |
| S.17/1939/FUL | Lovers Hall Painswick Road Stroud Gloucestershire GL6 6LG | [**Erection of a stable block**](https://publicaccess.stroud.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?keyVal=OVAH59PNK3G00&activeTab=summary) | Approved |
| S.17/2174/HHOLD | Meads Gloucester Road Pitchcombe Stroud Gloucestershire GL6 6LP | [**Proposed single storey rear and front porch extensions together with external insulation/cladding.**](https://publicaccess.stroud.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?keyVal=OWORWIPNM8200&activeTab=summary) | Refused |
| S.17/2500/HHOLD | Inglenook Cottage Pitchcombe Stroud Gloucestershire GL6 6LN | [**Alterations and Enlargement of existing porch.**](https://publicaccess.stroud.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?keyVal=OYSPW5PNHVT00&activeTab=summary) | Approved |
| S.17/2547/TPO | Little Pitch Farm Lurks Lane Pitchcombe Stroud Gloucestershire GL6 6LL | [**T1 - Sycamore remove deadwood and trim outer crown to give a 1M clearance. T2 - Ash remove deadwood and to raise the crown over the field to give a 4M clearance. T3 - Ash remove deadwood and to raise the crown and give clearance of 4m and trim low branches to give a clearance of 1M.**](https://publicaccess.stroud.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?keyVal=OZ3Q9KPN0CI00&activeTab=summary) | Approved |
| S.18/0692/HHOLD | Rivendell Halfway Pitch Pitchcombe Stroud Gloucestershire GL6 6LJ | [**Proposed shed (retrospective).**](https://publicaccess.stroud.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?keyVal=P61XR7PN0BK00&activeTab=summary) | Approved |

(To year ending 5th April 2018)