**Pitchcombe Annual Parish Meeting**

**23rd May 2019 7.30pm**

**Present:** Cllr Nigel Shaw Chairman

Cllr Philippa James Vice Chairman

Cllr Beverly Gorton

**In attendance:** 9 members of the public

**Apologies:** Cllr Michael Little

Felicity Broom

County Councillor Keith Rippington

District Councillor Nigel Cooper

Nigel Shaw welcomed those present to the Annual Parish Meeting and began by thanking Roy Balgobin for all his hard work and dedication to the Parish over the last few years. Holly Paton was introduced as the new Parish Clerk**.**

**Chairman’s Report**

See attachment

**County Councillor’s Report**

No formal report received, however a phone conversation with the Clerk confirmed the start and end date for the Pitchcombe junction road works as 5th August – 22nd November. The sixteen week period had been agreed between Street Works and SDC teams. The contract was due to go out to tender on 24th May 2019.

**District Councillor’s Report**

No report received

**Financial Report**

The Clerk gave a short update on the financial situation, reporting no change. No further questions were raised regarding the finance.

**Public Questions**

**The following questions were asked:**

Q. Where will the contractors site their work equipment once work begins on the church roof replacement, will it affect access to the Village Hall?

A. This was not a PPC matter and would need to be directed to the Parochial Church Council. The Chairman explained however, that as part of the tender for the work, the contractors would explain how they wanted to locate their working areas and this would be agreed between all affected parties before contracts were placed

Q. Has the broadband work finished?

A. No – the work is currently on hold whilst the road junction work takes place.

Q. Will cables be going along Lurks Lane?

A. To be confirmed at a later date.

Q. Who makes the decisions as to where the broadband will go/who is funding the work?

A. On a local level, notices were sent to all residents roughly 18 months ago. The work is carried out by Gigaclear, a private enterprise and therefore funding will be derived privately, although it was believed some support was provided from the County/central government broadband funds.

Q. Clarification required on the Pitchcombe junction design – can mirrors be placed at specific junctions to help with visibility, especially when turning right towards Stroud?

A. Highways (and the Department of Transport) are very much against using mirrors to help driver’s visibility. The Chairman explained that visibility should be improved once the road works have been complete.

Q. Will the speed limit be changed?

A. There is an ongoing difference between the Police and Highways regarding this matter. PPC is arguing strongly that the speed limit be reduced to 40mph once the new junction is in place.

Q. New garage extension at Hillcrest – why has this been allowed to proceed? Does the height/overall footprint differ to the original plans?

The planning application for a garage extension was submitted a few years ago to SDC. The work is now underway; however residents feel that the work is not complying with the original plans. It is thought that plans have been resubmitted and the building use has been changed from a garage to an office.

Non immediate neighbours do not remember seeing public notices at the planning stage.

PPC was not notified at the time of the original application and therefore unable to provide comment.

A. PPC will raise these questions to the SDC planning department.

Q. What is happening to the bench outside Pitchcombe House?

A. The bench was damaged by Gigaclear contractors – the bench will be removed in order for restoration work to be carried out.

**There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.30pm**