**MINUTES OF THE PITCHCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL ON**

**THURSDAY 14th March 2019 AT 7.30PM**

Present: Cllr Nigel Shaw Chairman

Cllr Philippa James

Cllr Felicity Broom

Cllr Beverly Gorton

In Attendance: 2 Members of the public

**1. TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

The Council accepted apologies from Councillor Michael Little and District Councillor Nigel Cooper.

**2. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS IN ITEMS ON THIS AGENDA**

There were none.

**3. TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 13th DECEMBER 2018**

The minutes were approved and signed as a true record.

**4. MATTERS ARISING NOT ON THIS AGENDA**

There were none.

**5. TO RECEIVE THE FOLLOWING REPORTS:**

1. **County Councillors Report.**

Nothing to report

1. **District Councillors Report.** District Councillor Nigel Cooper provided the following report in his absence:

Council Tax & Finance

SDC met last month to formally set the tax rates for next financial year. We have to wait until all the other precepting bodies have agree their budgets. Gloucestershire County Council agreed its budget 13/2/19 at just over £57m, increasing the band D rate by 4.99% (that’s 2.99% council tax and 2% Adult Social Care levy). Police & Crime Commissioner’s budget results in an increase from last year of 10.6% and the District Council precept will result in a 2.99% increase. The Parish & Town Councils precept increases vary from place to place, but the average across the district is 5.93%. (Pitchcombe Parish Council precept remained at £3000 (0.00% increase)

The overall result is that a Band D property in Pitchcombe will pay a total Council Tax of £1772.99 (last year £1681.14), an increase of 5.46%.

Comparable Band D figures are

Painswick 1810.27

Miserden 1804.06

Upton St L 1784.71

Cranham 1785.85

Bisley 1812.28

Stroud 1908.56

Dursley 1954.88

Of the District Council Council’s budget of £15m the amount raised by Council tax is just over £9m that translates into £207.52 per annum for a Band D property.

Local Plan

Public consultation has now finished and we await feedback. However it is not too late for residents to make representations, particularly if that involves proposals for additional sites.

New Chief Executive

Kathy O’Leary has now been in the job for just over 3 months. I have already taken her on a whistle-stop tour of the Painswick ward, of course that included Pitchcombe. Kathy is settling in well and the change in management style has had a very positive response. Later this month SDC is undergoing a Peer Review, which will review our structure and the way we operate and make suggestions for the future. I know Kathy already has several changes in mind.

1. **Members Reports.**

* External lights at the gateway to Halfway Cottage. The Council noted that the lights were confusing to motorists and posed a potential hazard. It was agreed that the Council would investigate and contact the Neighbourhood Warden in the first instance.
* It was brought to the Councils attention that an ambulance was unable to leave the village at the upper Old Weavers access due to a vehicle regularly parking along the lane. Councillor Beverly Gorton agreed to speak to the owner of the vehicle and to make the Neighbourhood Warden aware of the situation.
* Village telephone kiosk. The Council agreed to purchase the phone box and store it until a suitable location was sourced. The possibility of storing the phone kiosk in the Village Hall car park was discussed. The Chairman will approach the Village Hall Committee to seek formal approval and begin the process of purchasing the kiosk.
* The Chairman reported that the Old Weavers planning application had been rejected.

**6. TO CONSIDER PLANNING APPLICATIONS:**

**a. S.19/0304/HHOLD** - Freestanding carport with dual pitched roof on driveway extended into bank - Chestnut Cottage

The Council raised no objection to the application, but noted the view from Ivy Cottage, within the Conservation Area would be affected.

**b**. **S.19/0214/FUL** - Resubmission of application S.18/2384/FUL – 20 solar panels - Lovers Hall

The Council raised no objections to this application, but would object to future applications to add further solar panels.

**7. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON THE A46/A4173 JUNCTION.**

The Chairman gave an update on the latest plans. Start date stated as the end of June/start of July. The Council will raise the question to the Highways department as to whether the corner of the junction towards Gloucester (from the Stroud direction) could be sharper as a speed reduction measure.

Northern Pitchcombe Junction. The Chairman to:

* thank Highways department for taking their suggestions into account regarding the left turn from the ‘lower lane’
* ask if there was anything that could be done to improve the exit from the ‘upper lane"
* ask whether the pot hole along the side of the upper lane could be filled in

**8. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON THE UNDERGROUNDING OF THE ELECTRICITY CABLES.**

The Chairman reported that the work around the church and village hall was currently awaiting permission to carry out some access work in the churchyard. The major scheme, as reported previously, was on hold, but remained in the Western Power Distribution list of potential schemes.

**9. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON THE INSTALLATION ON THE HIGH-SPEED FIBRE NETWORK.**

The Chairman gave an update on the progress – work ongoing. It was brought to the Councils attention that debris had been left in the road following work along A4171 and Wragg Castle Lane. The Chairman will speak to the contractors regarding this issue.

**10. TO RECONGNISE THE RESIGNATION OF THE CLERK AND THE APPOITMENT OF THE NEW CLERK TO THE COUNCIL**

The Chairman welcomed the new Clerk at the beginning of the meeting and noted the resignation of former Clerk - Roy Balgobin, to whom the council was very grateful for stepping into the role for a second time

It was noted that a lap-top would be required for the new Clerk. Arrangements for such lap-top will be ongoing and earmarked grant money, to be confirmed, would be used for the purchase.

**9. FINANCE**

**a. To approve the Accounts for payment. The following accounts were presented for payment:**

Clerks Salary / Expenses 355.45

PROW Tree removal 80.00

HMRC 192.12

GAPTC subscription 64.78

Village Hall tree removal 287.00

**Total invoices for payment: 979.33**

The accounts were approved for payment and a letter to the bank stating the change in administrator was signed.

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**b. To appoint Mr Ian Crow as internal auditor for the year ending 31st March 2019**

The council agreed to appoint Mr Ian Crow

**c. To consider a request for a grant of up to £287 towards the clearing of trees on the Village Hall and Church driveway**

The Council agreed to the grant request.

**d. To consider re-joining the GAPTC.**

Council agreed to hold payment until advice and confirmation on subscription length is sought. Future action to be taken via email.

**10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be held on Thursday 23rd May 2019 in the Village Hall at 7.30 pm

**THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS**

**THE MEETING CLOSED AT 9.20 PM**