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

**THURSDAY 12TH SEPTEMBER 2019 AT 7.30PM**

Present: Cllr Nigel Shaw Chairman

Cllr Philippa James Vice Chairman

Cllr Michael Little

Cllr Beverly Gorton

District Cllr Nigel Cooper

County Cllr Keith Rippington

In Attendance: 11 members of the public

The Chairman opened the meeting with an introduction and explained that public questions could be asked between 7.30pm and 7.45pm. Public questions followed:

Q. Has the Stroud District Strategic Plan been reviewed?

A. Yes. The current plan from 2015 is in review. Information regarding housing development has gone out to consultation and feedback is currently being collated. There could potentially be 2500 new homes towards Whaddon, which could have an impact on traffic close to Pitchcombe. Further information will be available towards the end of the year.

Q. Has there been an update of the layout or timing for the Pitchcombe junction, especially in regards to the access to Stroud and Painswick when coming from Halfway Pitch?

A. The layout has been approved and the best solution has been agreed. Safety was discussed at the beginning of the project whereby the design was improved to accommodate this.

Q. Any update about fibre optic installation on Lurks Lane?

A. The work will continue once the road junction has been complete.

Q. There will be a 30mph speed limit in place when the junction work takes place, can this be maintained afterwards?

A. No, but a 40mph limit might be approved. A consultation will need to take place. The junction work will take 16 weeks depending on the weather. All contractors and project managers will attend a meeting in the village hall before work begins to allow for public questions.

Q. Can speed cameras be installed on the main road?

A. Not able to plan or discuss further until the road junction has been completed.

**1. TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

There were none.

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

There were none.

**3. TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 23rd MAY 2019**

The minutes were approved and signed as a true record.

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

The Chairman mentioned that volunteers were required for the Parish Council and asked members of the public to get involved if they had an interest.

The Chairman agreed to contact a potential candidate.

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

1. **County Councillors Report.**

The County Councillor explained that he has resigned from the Conservative Party and would now be representing as an independent. His work would not be affected.

A waste depot visit was planned for Friday 24th May, feedback would be distributed if necessary.

The Chairman asked the public if they had any questions. There were none.

1. **District Councillors Report.**

Very little to report due to the time of year - two planning committees still stand; all others cease during the month of August.

The Chairman asked the public if they had any questions. There were none. The Chairman asked the following:

Q. It seemed unclear how the planning decisions are made – for example, conservation areas aren’t given much thought, and development of listed buildings are only supported if a modern extension is proposed.

A. There was a trend amongst some planning officers that new extensions on a listed building must show a clear difference in design. It can be very subjective and it was not necessarily the view of elected members who had rejected this approach in some recent applications.

1. **Members Reports.**
* The vegetation along the footpath between Resthaven and Pitchcombe church was overgrown and dangerous for footpath users. The issue had been reported to Highways. It was suggested that PPC could contact the owner - Mrs Valerie King to ask for the vegetation and styles to be maintained. This would save PPC spending money on contractors or the Cotswold Wardens.

The Vice Chairman agreed to send the Clerk the contact details for the owners. The Clerk will also send the Cotswold Wardens contact details to the Vice Chairman.

The Clerk will check with Highways if they can maintain the area due to it being a H&S issue and to check if maintenance is restricted due to the area being farmland (no cutting between 1st March and 1st September).

**6. TO CONSIDER PLANNING APPLICATIONS:**

**a.** S19/1587/HHOLD Hillcrest, Halfway Pitch, Pitchcombe. Erection of a new outbuilding ancillary to the main dwelling (home office and storage).

The Chairman gave a brief background report on the above application and read out a number of objections and comments supporting the plans that had been received.

A member of the pubic asked:

Q. Will someone go and measure the building?

A. SDC will be responsible for carrying this out.

Original plans and access was discussed. Pictures from the planning application were on display for Cllrs and members of the public to view.

There followed a number of suggestions/views from both Cllrs and public:

1. Could a fence be built to hide the building?
2. A matter for the owner and SDC to discuss.
3. Can anything be done to the front?
4. A matter for the owner and SDC to discuss.

Q. Can we ask for the application to be considered by the Development Control Committee?

A. Yes.

Q. Have any paperwork to support claims been misled?

A. PPC are unaware of any.

Cllr Michael Little reported that, as the Parish Councilor living nearest to the site & in accordance with established practice, he had written to the owners of nearby properties most likely to be affected seeking their comments &/or requesting them to post comments on the SDC website. In the light of all these comments, for and against, he had drafted a letter of objection that he read out.

The Chairman asked the Cllrs and public if they agreed or disagreed. All Cllrs and members of the public felt that the draft letter was fair and appropriate. It was agreed by the council members that the letter should be sent to SDC and that the Development Control Committee should as appropriate be requested to look at the application.

The Clerk agreed to send the letter to SDC and inform the Development Control Committee on Friday 13th September. The Clerk will also send a copy of the resident report to the applicant.

PPC agreed that the email Complaint to SDC’s Planning Enforcement Officer will be amended by the Parish Clerk (as requested by the applicant).

District Cllr Nigel Cooper explained that as a member of the Development Control Committee, he was unable to make comment on the specific application.

The Chairman made the observation that many documents on the SDC webpage seem to come and go. It was noted that those interested in a specific application should therefore download documents for safe keeping.

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

The Chairman gave an update on the latest plans (see report).

A meeting will be taking place shortly whereby residents can meet the contractors to discuss the junction work. Date and location TBC.

The telephone box, which is now owned by PPC will soon be removed. SDC have agreed to store and ultimately dispose of/reuse the phone box.

The bus shelter will also soon be removed and a new one will be installed on the A46.

Q. Does the 16-week work schedule take into account the Christmas period?

A. Unsure - many factors will affect the schedule.

Q. Concerned that road debris will fill tunnels and affect water flow.

A. This will be highlighted if need be. Tunnels can be regularly checked.

Q. Can more 20mph signs be provided for the village during the road works?

A. Yes, more signs will be provided.

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

The Chairman gave an update on the latest plans (see report).

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

All work is ongoing but will be affected by the work being carried out on the road junction.

It was noted that Ben Stone will be the future Engagement Manager for Gigaclear.

**10. FINANCE**

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

Clerks Salary / Expenses (Apr-Aug) 822.55

HMRC (Apr-Aug) 169.20

Church grant 100.00

N. Shaw laptop for use of Parish Clerk reimbursement 379.00

N. Shaw laptop software for use of Parish Clark reimbursement 39.99

**Total invoices for payment: 1510.74**

 The accounts were approved for payment.

**b. To consider quote for annual hedge cutting.**

Cllr Gorton agreed to get quote for tree maintenance by Wayside Cottage and to call the estate agent to find out if the hedge at Old Weavers could be cut.

The original quote for hedge maintenance was discussed and agreed. It was higher than last year however the workers were professional and work was carried out to high standard. All agreed to continue using the contractor.

**10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be held on Thursday 12th December 2019 in the Village Hall at 7.30 pm

**THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS**

**THE MEETING CLOSED AT 9.18 PM**