

**MINUTES OF THE PITCHCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL**  
**MEETING HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL ON**  
**TUESDAY 10<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2019 AT 7.30PM**

Present: Cllr Nigel Shaw Chairman  
Cllr Philippa James Vice Chairman  
Cllr Michael Little  
Cllr Beverly Gorton  
  
District Cllr Nigel Cooper

In Attendance: 3 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.

There were none.

**1. TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

County Cllr Keith Rippington  
Jamie Cross

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

There were none.

**3. TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY  
12<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2019**

The minutes were approved and signed as a true record. The minutes from the previous meetings in May were also signed as a second copy – the first copy had errors with the page numbers.

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

a. The Parish Clerk asked for ideas to improve the parish website. Those in attendance felt that the current website was adequate and received good exposure. Points going forwards are to ensure that the content is up to date such as meeting dates and road works information. Links to local organisations could also be added.

b. Pitchcombe Parish Council received a letter from Stroud Valleys Project asking for a donation towards a new project. The Cllrs agreed that Pitchcombe Parish Council, due to its size, is not in a position to contribute. It hasn't done so in the past and therefore wouldn't make an exception in this case.

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

**a. County Councillors Report.**

There was no update

**b. District Councillors Report.**

The District Councillor reported that due to being within a period of Purdah, and therefore unable to discuss politics and the election, there was very little to report.

It was reported that 61% of waste in the district was now recycled.

The consultation for the Local Plan is to close on 21<sup>st</sup> January 2020, whereby the council will agree the final draft plan by the end of 2020. By the end of 2021 the council should be able to adopt the final plan which will run until 2040.

Q. The Chairman asked if there was anything for concern within the Pitchcombe area.

A. No, but the proposed development at Whaddon could impact Pitchcombe.

**c. Members Report.**

**Cllr Beverly Gorton:**

Cllr Gorton explained that she had been in contact with Knights Brown and Highways regarding 20mph signs in the village. They were now in place but there were still ongoing issues with delivery drivers in the area ignoring the signs.

Q. Can permanent 20mph signs be installed along Halfway Pitch?

A. It is felt that 20mph is still too fast for this stretch of road. Pedestrians in the road signs will be erected as part of the current highways scheme.

**Cllr Michael Little:**

Cllr Little produced a map of drains within Pitchcombe which require clearance work, including the culvert under A4173. The Parish Clerk will contact Highways to request an inspection.

The current road contractors, Knights Brown, have offered to help community projects - one suggestion was to improve the track to the Village Hall. The Parish Clerk will contact Joan Nash and write a formal letter to Knights Brown.

**6. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON THE A46/A4179 JUNCTION:**

The road works are ongoing and seem on schedule. Knights Brown send through regular updates which are shared with Cllrs and posted on Pitchcombe.net. The phone box and bus shelter have recently been removed and the previous issues with the traffic lights have been resolved.

Q. When will they be finished?

A. Total construction time was 16 weeks, weather dependant. The work will stop for ten days over the festive period.

Q. There have been issues with buses not stopping in the section controlled by traffic lights. Perhaps the buses could stop either before or after this section?

A. An issue to be resolved by the bus company and Knights Brown.

Q. Will work be carried out on the turning close to the village hall? The visibility is currently poor.

A. Visibility to the left is poor, the new layout will help with this plus the hedge in the area may in time be removed and replaced with a fence to help.

#### **7. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON THE UNDERGROUNDING OF ELECETRICAL CABLES.**

Nothing to report – work on the churchyard is slow due to the archaeological digs required.

#### **8. TO RECEIVE UPDATE ON THE INSTALLATION OF HIGH-SPEED FIBRE NETWORK.**

Nothing to report – pending road works.

#### **9. TO DISCUSS FOOTPATH IMPROVEMENT WORKS.**

It was approved that the Cotswold Wardens would be paid to carry out improvement works. Cllr Philippa James will arrange a site visit and get a final quote.

#### **10. TO DISCUSS A 20MPH SPEED LIMIT SURROUNDING PINCOT LANE.**

The top section of the road is a concern. Cllr Philippa James will speak to local residents to make them aware of the danger.

Can we write to the County Council for advice?

Q. People may think that 20mph signs don't work, but they are a good thing to have. Can we have more?

A. These can be requested.

Q. Sat Navs don't recognise the 20mph speed limit. What can be done?

- A. 20mph is still too fast in many sections around the village. It may be difficult to get more signs due to funding, however we can ask. All residents would like to see vehicles driven more slowly, in most places preferably less than 20 mph in Pitchcombe.

## **11. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON THE HEDGE CUTTING.**

Cllr Beverly Gorton explained that the laurel hedge will be cut on 16<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> December.

Several phone calls have been made to the estate agents, Moulton Haus, to ask for the hedge to be cut back at Old Weavers. There has been no response from the home owners. The Parish Clerk to send formal letter to the estate agents/contact Highways due to the hedge being a safety concern for road users.

In bad weather, water crosses the road close to Resthaven. There was an incident last winter whereby the water froze causing a car accident. The Parish Clerk will contact Highways. Cllr Beverly Gorton will send the Parish Clerk information about the precise location.

## **12. CONSERVATION ISSUES FACING PITCHCOMBE.**

An email was read out from a concerned resident regarding tree and dry-stone wall maintenance.

Cllr Michael Little confirmed that he was the relevant landowner and asked for a copy of the email. Cllr Little had already been looking into the possibility of a grant towards the cost of repairing stonewalls.

It was agreed that the Parish Clerk would confirm to the concerned resident that the matter had been brought to the attention of the landowner.

Ash Die Back:

Cllr Michael Little had recently attended a seminar on Ash Die Back and gave a brief explanation of the issues, including the likelihood that 95-98% of Ash trees might be affected.

Some Ash trees in Pitchcombe might need a felling licence and/or TCA before they could be removed. There could be a health and safety concern if the trees were left too long. Cllr Little agreed to send a draft copy of an article for Village Voices to the Parish Clerk to place on the Pitchcombe website.

- Q. There are Ash trees on unregistered land – who is responsible?

- A. Those concerned will need to contact the County Council.

## **13. HOME SHARE**

The Parish Council recently received an email asking if Pitchcombe would support home sharing. The Parish Clerk and Chairman gave a brief explanation outlining the

contents of the email. It was felt that Pitchcombe wouldn't be appropriate due its size. The Clerk will contact Home Share to explain the decision.

#### **14. CODE OF CONDUCT.**

The Chairman gave some background information as to what had been done in the past in regards to the Code of Conduct. It was agreed to put the matter on the March agenda, and in the meantime, Cllr Little will create a draft plan to be considered.

District Cllr Nigel Cooper explained that we must use the District Council Code of Conduct if we don't have our own as its necessary to have one which is in use.

The Parish Clerk will look into training course.

#### **15. FINANCE**

##### **a. To approve payments in accordance with the budget.**

Clerks Salary / Expenses (Sep-Nov)	£490.25
HMRC (Sep-Nov)	£100.80
<b>Total invoices for payment</b>	<b>£591.05</b>

The accounts were approved for payment.

#### **16. DATE OF 2020 MEETING TO BE CONFIRMED**

The following dates were agreed:

12<sup>th</sup> March  
14<sup>th</sup> May  
10<sup>th</sup> September  
10<sup>th</sup> December

The Parish Clerk will check the availability of the Village Hall and book the requested dates.

To end the meeting the chairman thanked those who were in attendance and expressed his wishes to step down as Chairman in 2020.

**THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS  
THE MEETING CLOSED AT 9.06 PM**