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

**THURSDAY 12TH MARCH 2020 AT 7.30PM**

Present: Cllr Nigel Shaw Chairman

Cllr Michael Little

Cllr Beverly Gorton

Jamie Cross

District Cllr Nigel Cooper

In Attendance: 1 member 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

Cllr Philippa James

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

There were none.

**3. TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS HELD ON 10th DECEMBER 2019 AND 24TH JANUARY 2020**

The minutes were approved and signed as a true record.

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

**a.** GAPTC subscription – it was agreed to renew the GAPTC subscription at a cost of £76.03.

**b.** Roy Balgobin will be covering the Clerk role during May and June whilst

Holly Paton is on maternity leave.

**c.** Cllr Gorton explained that the road by the Church turning was made dangerous earlier in the week due to mud on the road, possibly due to the contractors or farm vehicles. This was reported to Highways.

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

1. **County Councillors Report.**

Cllr Keith Rippington and the Parish Clerk had a brief phone conversation prior to the meeting. Cllr Rippington highlighted his concerns regarding the standard of the final road surface along the new stretch at Pitchcombe junction.

1. **District Councillors Report.**

**Council Tax:**

On February 21st Stroud District Council agreed its budget for the next financial year, £14.7m, and set its Council Tax for 2020/21. This resulted in a 2.41% increase.

The makeup of Council Tax for a Band D property in Pitchcombe is:

District £212.52 (+2.41%)

County £1345.32 (+1.99% + Adult Social Care Levy)

Police £257.25 (+2.7%)

Pitchcombe Parish £22.52 (+5.83%) (raising £3250 total)

Total £1837.81

Out of the 51 precept raising parishes, only 3 have a lower rate than Pitchcombe.

Compare elsewhere in this ward – Upton St Leonards: £32.60, Cranham: £35.16, Painswick: £59.73,

The Highest Band D precept is in Dursley: £207.22 (£494, 650)

**Staff changes at Ebley Mill**

The Chief Executive, Kathy O’Leary has been in post over a year now and has reorganised her senior management team completely. Four new directors have been appointed as existing postholders have left or retired. This will provide an opportunity to carry out a long overdue restructure of the organisation as well.

**Elections in May**

There are all-out District Elections scheduled for May (this might be postponed for public health reasons). However, whenever the elections are held, I will not be standing again, and I would like to take this opportunity to say it has been an honour and a privilege to serve as one of your three District Councillors, and I have enjoyed it!

Cllr Shaw formally thanked Cllr Cooper for his help and support.

1. **Members Report.**

**Cllr Beverly Gorton:**

Cllr Gorton explained that there had been an issue with the telephone and internet connection in certain areas of the village due to the contractor work. Open Reach have since been to fix the situation. The area is yet to be tarmacked.

**Cllr Michael Little:**

Cllr Little described an area which was on the drainage map given

out during the December meeting. Cllr Little felt that the area of concern was

hard to locate and had therefore made it more visible. The Parish

Clerk will re-send the map to Highways showing the particular drain in order

for it to be cleared. It was felt that the seasonal bad weather had made the

area worse.

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

The Parish Clerk had requested an update from Knights Brown prior to the meeting – no update was received.

The Parish Clerk raised concerns that had come from local residents, Cllr James and Cllr Rippington, this included the road surface, drainage, reinstating the verges and the road gradient. It was agreed that the Parish Clerk would put together a list of concerns and arrange a meeting with Knights Brown and Daniel Tiffney to discuss snagging.

**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. MAY 2020 ELECTION**

The Parish Clerk handed out nomination papers and answered questions regarding

how to get them signed.

Cllr Shaw explained that he would be happy to remain as a Councillor, but no longer

as Chairman.

The Parish Clerk will advertise for Councillors again on Pitchcombe.net

**10. VE DAY ON 8TH MAY 2020**

Pitchcombe Church and Village Hall are both in agreement to hold an event to celebrate VE day. It was discussed how the Parish Council could help.

**11. CORONAVIRUS GUIDANCE**

The Parish Clerk is to keep the website up to date with the latest information and

when required, to post information on Pitchcombe.net asking for residents to be

aware of vulnerable/isolated neighbours who may need help.

**12. FINANCE**

1. **To approve payments in accordance with the budget.**

Clerks Salary / Expenses (Dec-Feb) £493.45

HMRC (Sep-Nov) £101.60

GAPTC £76.03

**Total invoices for payment £671.08**

The accounts were approved for payment.

1. **To appoint Mr Ian Crow as the internal auditor for the year ending 31st March 2020**

It was agreed to appoint Mr Crow.

Date of the next meeting: Thursday 14th May 2020 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall

**THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS**

**THE MEETING CLOSED AT 8.36 PM**