

**MINUTES OF THE PITCHCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL**  
**MEETING HELD VIA ZOOM DUE TO COVID-19 ON**  
**THURSDAY 10<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2020 AT 7.30PM**

Present:	Cllr Philippa James	Acting Chairman
	Cllr Nigel Shaw	
	Cllr Beverly Gorton	
	Cllr Jamie Cross	
	District Cllr Nigel Cooper	
	Holly Paton	Clerk
	Richard Pearson	
	Ben Stone	Gigaclear representative
Six members of public		

The Acting Chairman opened the meeting at 7.31pm, introductions were given followed by a minutes silence in remembrance of Cllr Michael Little.

**1. TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Cllr Keith Rippington

**2. GIGACLEAR PRESENTATION**

Cllr James introduced Ben Stone, Community Engagement Manager for Gigaclear.

Mr Stone began by thanking residents for sending through questions prior to the meeting. He began his presentation – see separate attachment. Questions were asked throughout.

Q: Will other services be added to the package?

A: Gigaclear only offer a broadband service, however they are in partnership with Sky TV which can therefore be added to a broadband package.

Q: Do you need a BT phone line?

A: No, existing services are not required. There is a one off connection charge of £30 – all connection information is available from the Gigaclear website.

Mr Stone acknowledged Steve Rowley's questions that had been emailed earlier in the day and explained that he would need more time to respond.

Steve Rowley asked for figures given during the presentation to be clarified. This was carried out.

Q: Steve Rowley asked where the cable was going to be laid along Lurks Lane.

A: Mr Stone confirmed that he had received Steve Rowley's layout suggestions and had passed the information onto the Gigaclear build manager.

Steve Rowley gave a history of issues faced along Lurks Lane in regards to current services and Gigaclear communication.  
Mr Stone apologised for any communication problems and explained that an update would be sent ASAP.

It was agreed that a future meeting would need to be arranged between Mr Stone/Gigaclear and Pitchcombe residents. Reassurance about future communication was given by Mr Stone. The parish Clerk explained that any further questions received via email would be sent on to Mr Stone.

Cllr James thanked Mr Stone for his time. It was explained that the time had expired on the current Zoom meeting and a second meeting would be arranged to follow.

This Zoom meeting closed at 8.05pm, a second meeting was arranged and invites sent to attendees for 8.15pm.

**Meeting begins at 8.15pm. Cllr James welcomed those present.**

Present:	Cllr Philippa James	Acting Chairman
	Cllr Nigel Shaw	
	Cllr Beverly Gorton	
	Holly Paton	Clerk
	Richard Pearson	
	Two members of public	

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

Cllr Shaw and Richard Pearson expressed a DoI (Declaration of Interest) in item 8 on the agenda.

**4. TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS HELD ON 8<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2020**

Cllr Shaw asked for section 12 to be amended – from boundary fence to iron railings.

Cllr James altered the minutes and signed them. The signed minutes will be sent to the Clerk at a later date.

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

The parish Clerk read out a letter from Resthaven care home in which the parish council was thanked for their recent donation.

The parish Clerk updated those in attendance regarding the recent request to SDC to reduce the size of refuse vehicle servicing Pitchcombe – no change in vehicle size for the foreseeable future.

An email was received prior to the meeting asking for the parish council to write to the Highways Department to raise awareness about poorly located speed signs along Wragg Castle Lane, and if possible, to see if said signs could be repositioned higher up, nearer the A4173. The council members agreed to support this matter.

## **6. CO-OPTING A NEW MEMBER TO THE COUNCIL**

Cllr Gorton proposed that Richard Pearson could become a new member of the parish council when a vacancy recently arose. This was originally seconded by Cllr Little.

Mr Pearson wrote to the parish Clerk before the meeting to give a brief background summary:

*I moved to Pitchcombe with my wife Caroline and two boys George (12) and Ben (11) in June 2019.*

*Prior to this we had lived in Tetbury for many years.*

*I am originally a Yorkshireman, brought up in a small town called Market Weighton in the East Riding.*

*This is a rural area on the edge of the Yorkshire Wolds and in many ways not dissimilar to the Cotswolds.*

*I moved to the South West (for just a couple of years!) in August 1993 to start my career as a veterinary assistant at the George Vet Group in Malmesbury, Wiltshire.*

*Nearly 30 years later and I am ostensibly still in the same job but many other things have changed.*

*I became a partner in 2003 and more recently a Director of the George Group.*

*I have spent most of my professional career as a farm vet and believe passionately about rural issues.*

*We are lucky to live in a very special part of Gloucestershire and must not take this for granted.*

*I now work 100% of my clinical time with pigs but hope I retain a reasonable grasp of many things more generally farming related.*

*As well as my clinical work I also have management responsibility for our dispensary, health and safety and several members of staff.*

*I am immediate past President of Pig Veterinary Society (a specialist division of the British Veterinary Association) and as such represented this sector of my profession which was a great honour.*

*I also learnt a huge amount about people and the wider issues affecting our profession by doing this.*

*We all love living in Pitchcombe, that's all!*

Whilst the council members discussed the co-option, Mr Pearson was held in the Zoom waiting room. All council members agreed to co-opt Mr Pearson. The parish Clerk had sent Mr Pearson the required paperwork prior to the meeting, this will be signed and sent to the parish Clerk in due course.

**7. TO RECEIVE REPORTS:**

**a. County Councillor Report**

Nothing to report.

**b. District Councillor Report**

Cllr Cooper expressed that there was very little to report, however he endorsed his feelings of sorrow for the loss of Cllr Little. Cllr Cooper did however state that he had been a happy Gigaclear customer for a number of years and would welcome questions about their service.

Q: Is it expensive?

A: Cllr Cooper currently has the 300mb option and has retained his landline number. He had to make a request to retain his old land line number at a cost of roughly £3-4 per month.

Q: How do you get a regular TV service?

A: Cllr Cooper already had a Sky package in place before the Gigaclear installation, this was continued.

**c. Members Reports.**

Cllr Gorton expressed her concerns about tree felling taking place at Kellavie. Cllr Gorton had attempted to contact Tree Officer Mark Hemming at SDC to establish whether permission had been obtained. Cllr Shaw stated that the area was not in a conservation area and therefore didn't think permission was required.

Cllr Gorton confirmed that the laurel hedge had been cut at a cost of £748.20. The invoice would be sent to the parish Clerk to process.

**8. TO CONSIDER PLANNING APPLICATION:**

**S.20/2075/TCA VYNERs, HALFWAY PITCH – FELL TREES IN A CONSERVATION AREA**

It was suggested that the garden currently looked overcrowded and that felling the trees wouldn't have an impact on the neighbouring properties – there was nothing therefore to object to.

All members agreed to NO objection.

## **S.20/2381/TCA PITCHCOMBE MILL – MANAGE TREES IN A CONSERVATION AREA**

Cllr Shaw and Cllr Pearson were placed in the Zoom waiting room whilst this matter was discussed.

Cllr James mentioned that those living in neighbouring properties had been spoken to. They were able to contact SDC themselves.

It was agreed that NO objection would be submitted. Cllr Shaw and Cllr Pearson were readmitted into the meeting.

### **9. FINANCE**

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

Clerks Salary / Expenses (Oct, Nov)	£329.10
HMRC	£101.40
Laurel hedge	£748.20

**Total invoices for payment** **£1178.70**

The accounts were approved for payment. The parish Clerk will send the cheques to Cllr James to sign at a later date.

#### **b. To discuss website charges**

All members agreed to go ahead with the previous website quote of £160.

#### **c. To discuss donations – Pitchcombe church & CPRE**

The parish clerk explained that annual membership to CPRE was £36. It was agreed to pay the membership.

The parish Clerk read out an email received before the meeting requesting the village hall to be considered for a donation, also asking the question as to whether or not the parish council was allowed to fund the church?

Cllr Shaw explained that yes, the parish council could fund the church if it so wished.

The parish Clerk expressed her concerns that financially there were no surplus funds to pay additional donations, however as money for the church yard maintenance was in the current budget, this could be covered. It was agreed that £100 would be paid to the church.

Donations towards the village hall will be discussed at the March meeting.

d. **Agree precept for 2021:**

**- To set a budget for the FY 2021/22**

A draft budget was sent to all Cllrs prior to the meeting. All Cllr were happy with the budget, no changes were made.

**- To set a precept for the FY 2021/22**

Cllr Shaw proposed to leave the precept for the financial year 2021/22 as it had been raised in 2020/21. This was agreed.

**10. CONFIRM MEETING DATES FOR 2021**

11<sup>th</sup> March 2021  
13<sup>th</sup> May 2021  
16<sup>th</sup> September 2021  
9<sup>th</sup> December 2021

**THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS  
THE MEETING CLOSED AT 8.55 PM**