

MINUTES OF A PITCHCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL ON
THURSDAY 26TH SEPTEMBER 2024 AT 7.30 PM

Present: Cllr Philippa James Chairman
Cllr Beverly Gorton
Cllr Michael Parsons
Cllr Nigel Shaw

In Attendance: District Cllr Gary Luff, PCSO Nicky Wood and 2 Members of the Public.

Please note 1 member of the Public was co-opted in during the meeting after agenda item 4: Cllr Paul Swadling.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS

- PCSO Nicky Wood opened the meeting in Public questions approaching any concerns from the Public, or Parish Council. The first topic discussed was large lorries and noisy motorbikes on the A46 and at Pincot Lane. The PCSO confirmed that it may be worth checking the weight limit on the road and the Clerk suggested she may also speak with the Clerk in a neighbouring Parish to see if they also have issues. It was agreed that the problem with the lorries appeared to get worse when the M5 is closed and the PCSO thought that maybe the concerns regarding the noisy motorbikes may be highlighted on Sunday's when there are notably more bikers about. The PCSO also confirmed that often noisy motorbikes have their baffles removed therefore if a registration plate can be noted it can be investigated. The PCSO emphasised that whenever anyone tries to record the registration of any vehicle they must never put themselves at risk.
- Cllr Nigel Shaw also queried what powers a PCSO has. It was confirmed that whilst a PCSO can only action a public/ citizens' arrest, they do have other means of retaining people. It was also highlighted that it is important that PCSOs stay on the street, rather than in the office completing paperwork linked to an arrest they have made.
- General crime within the Parish was discussed. The PCSO confirmed the crime report was good however there was an incident recently where a number plate had been stolen in Pitchcombe. Winter nights and burglary advice was also highlighted where the PCSO reminded everyone to leave their homes as they normally occupy them with the same lights on and ideally cars on the drive.
- The PCSO closed her talks by providing her email address (Nicola.wood@gloucestershire.police.uk) and gave confirmation that she would provide the Clerk with the 'Dog Walker' contact information. The PCSO then left the meeting.

Initials & date:

1. **Apologies** (To receive apologies for absence).

The Council accepted apologies from County Cllr Sue Williams.

2. **Declaration of Interest** (Members are requested to declare any interest they may have in the business set out on the Agenda to which the approved Code of Practice appears.)

There were none. Cllr Nigel Shaw did confirm that we would be discussing a path near his residence however he confirmed he did not own it.

3. **Approval of the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 16th May 2024**

The minutes were accepted as an accurate record of the meeting and duly signed.

4. **To Consider any applications for Co-Option to the Council.**

The Council approved the Co-option of Cllr Paul Swadling with Cllr Philippa James proposing the nomination and Cllr Beverly Gorton seconding. Cllr Swadling signed his declaration to allow for participation in the remaining part of the meeting if he wished.

5. a. **To receive a report from County Councillor.**

The Clerk read out a brief summary of key points from the County Cllr in her absence. The County Cllr had confirmed that she was still investigating the MPC17 reopening of Bridleway issue with her contact in PROW. It was also confirmed that the County Cllr is still looking into the broken fence at Paradise and why the collapsed stone wall by Culvert Cottage on the A46 was not mended whilst the traffic lights were in place for fixing the culvert. It was also indicated that she would keep the Parish Council updated if she hears further progress on the A46 TRO.

b. **To receive a report from the District Councillor.**

The District Cllr Gary Luff delivered his update on Council matters including providing an update on the Stroud Lido refurbishment and reminding the Council on the Public Consultation for Brimscombe Port. District Cllr Luff also confirmed that progress on Tricorn House was slow, with the owners still thinking about the plans in terms of the roof and adding an extra storey. Finally the District Cllr reminded everyone about the new Crowd Funding Scheme and provided leaflets and details on the Home Upgrade Grant that is available (a copy of the leaflet is available on request).

c. **To receive a report from the Council Chairman.**

Initials & date:

The Council Chairman confirmed that there were no updates that needed to be discussed and no report was necessary,

d. To receive the Clerks Report.

The Clerk provided some updates on recent matters including confirmation the AGAR had been submitted in May and other items that had been investigated such as Parish vegetation issues, the Treasurers account and the Website domain.

6. To discuss updating the Parish Plan.

Cllr Nigel Shaw confirmed that whilst he had suggested this item for the agenda it was more to highlight its ongoing placement in future discussions rather than to re-write. It was suggested that the item be deferred until the Spring when its review can be discussed again. District Cllr Gary Luff as part of this discussion also briefly provided an update on the Local Plan and other pending changes the new Government are proposing such as an increase in house building quantities.

7. To adopt the Pitchcombe Parish Winter Plan document (circulated prior to the meeting).

The Parish Winter Plan was adopted for the Clerk to forward on to Highways.

8. To consider the requirement of a dog waste bin in the Parish.

The requirement for a new dog waste bin was discussed with problem areas being highlighted. Cllr Beverly Gorton confirmed that the situation had improved since the issue of abandoned dog waste bags had been highlighted on Pitchcombe.net and it appeared another resident had been leaving notes to warn dog walkers. It was agreed that the item should be reviewed at the next Parish Council Meeting and the Clerk confirmed that she would also make contact with the Dog Walking representative (discussed with the PCSO) should the problem arise again. Prior to the meeting an example of a small dog waste bin had been circulated showing the current purchase price of £139 however it should be noted that this did not include fixings (or delivery) and was a variable price based on time of purchase.

9. To discuss hedge and vegetation cutting within the Parish on roads and footpaths:

a. To specifically discuss the area around Manor Farm and the 'Village Loop' road.

b. To specifically discuss Bedcroft footpath

c. To discuss the voluntary Annual Village Tidy

The Parish Council discussed multiple issues within the Parish in reference to ongoing hedge and vegetation issues. Points can be summarised as follows:

Initials & date:

- a. The unnamed road considered to be the 'Village Loop' was discussed due to concerns regarding access for Emergency Vehicles (especially Fire Engines). The Clerk confirmed that she had been advised to log issues on FixMyStreet to ensure it is allocated a reference number and can be correctly forwarded to the relevant department. Whilst there were concerns on this, the majority of the Council voted for the Clerk to report this issue on the central database with 3 Councillors voting in favour.
- b. The history of the Bedcroft path maintenance was discussed with the Parish Council trying to identify why in recent years it has not been maintained to the standards of previous years. A member of the public suggested speaking with the local Ramblers Officer and the Clerk confirmed again that such issues could be logged on FixMyStreet.
- c. The voluntary 'Annual Tidy up' of the Village was approached with confirmation that the Parish Council should let community spirit happen but not directly approach residents requesting that tasks are completed.

10. To discuss the MPOC17 and any updates.

Please note this should be reference MPC17. It was confirmed that there had been no updates on this Bridleway and it's reopening.

11. To discuss matters relating to Highways:

a. The new TRO 5227/42.

There were no updates to discuss on this item.

12. Accounts.

a. To approve the Accounts for Payment as per the list circulated prior to the meeting.

Accounts for payment:			
For approval on 26th September 2024			
Payee	Chq Number	Amount	Reason
Ian Crowe	493	175	Annual Audit
T Slator	494	184.69	June Salary: £158.69/ Expenses: £26
HMRC	495	39.69	PAYEE Salary (Tax)
T Slator	496	184.49	July Salary: £158.49/ Expenses: £26
HMRC	497	39.8	PAYEE Salary (Tax)
T Slator	498	186.79	August Salary: £158.69/ Expenses: £28.10
HMRC	499	39.6	PAYEE Salary (Tax)
T Slator	500	193.04	September Salary: £158.69/ Expenses: (£34.35)
HMRC	501	39.6	PAYEE Salary (Tax)
	Total	£1,082.70	

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The Council agreed that the accounts be accepted for payment.

13. **To confirm the date of the next meeting: Thursday 28th November, 7.30pm The Village Hall.**

The next meeting date was confirmed as Thursday 28th November 2024, with the Chair also confirming the following dates had been reserved for future meetings 27th March 2025 and 22nd May 2025.

**THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS
THE MEETING CLOSED AT 9.12 PM**

Signature: _____
Date: _____

Initials & date: