

**PRIDDY PARISH COUNCIL**

<p align="center"><b>MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 6<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2013 VENUE AND TIME OF THE MEETING: PRIDDY VILLAGE HALL @ 7.30pm</b></p>		
		Present: Cllrs Rachel Thompson, Kate Greet, Sharon Sparkes, Chris Dyke, Richard White: also in attendance Tom Killen, Harvey Siggs and Alan Butcher (Clerk). In the absence of Alan Hutfield the vice chair, Rachel Thompson took the chair.
	1	<u>Apologies for absence:</u> Alan Hutfield.
	2	<u>Co-option of new member to fill casual vacancy.</u> There had been no applications to fill the vacancy, Clerk to re-advertise for co-option at the next meeting in December.
	3	<u>Public Forum:</u> The Chairman adjourned the meeting for a maximum of 15 minutes to allow public participation. Six members of the public were present: Judith Coles (in attendance) expressed concern about the proposal for Conservation Areas within the parish. Kate outlined the process and the steps taken to date. Judith was concerned that this would be lead to the designation of conservation areas without proper village consultation. She advised that she would be happy to assist with the updating of the Design Statement but felt that the designation of parts of the village as conservation areas might be a step too far given that there was protection via the AONB, local plan and that areas were covered with an SSSI designation. Robin Maine (in attendance) reiterated these concerns, he felt that with the AONB, English Heritage, the Environment Agency and the SSSI's there was no need for further protection.
	4	<u>Declarations of Interest:</u> None.
	5	<u>Resolutions relating to the conduct of the Meeting.</u> None
	6	<u>Acceptance of the Minutes of previous meetings:</u> Minutes of the meeting held on 2 <sup>nd</sup> October 2013 were agreed and signed as a true record. Minutes of the extraordinary meeting held on 16th October 2013 were agreed and signed as a true record.

Clerk

		Minutes of the meeting held on 21st October 2013. The acceptance of these minutes was deferred until a later meeting.	
	7	<p><u>Matters Arising from the Minutes of the previous meetings:</u></p> <p><b>a: Fly tipping:</b> nothing reported</p> <p><b>b: Adoption of roads to Top Green:</b> Roads Records had acknowledged the application and were awaiting a formal inspections.</p> <p><b>c: Continuing verge damage in Pelting Drove:</b> A copy of the letter from Highways to the firm causing the damage had been received. The damage was still continuing. The clerk to forward a copy of the letter onto the landowner. It was also noted that Somerset CC Enforcement Officer was dealing with the gates which erected across Dursdon Drove.</p> <p><b>d: Fingerpost sign at Nordrach:</b> A letter had been received from Somerset CC advising that there were no plans to refurbish signs in the foreseeable future and that any funding for the works would have to come from the Parish Council; an anticipated cost of £500+ was advised. This matter to be passed onto the PARC Committee.</p> <p><b>e: Conservation Area Status:</b> This matter had been passed onto PARC but a number of parishioners including those present at the meeting had expressed concern about the implications of such a designation. Sharon felt unable to comment until she had seen specific proposals but did not want to see a wide area covered by the designation, similarly Chris and Richard, who wanted the designation only to cover small areas with an updated Parish Plan. It was generally agreed that work should continue on the draft appraisal with proposals being presented to the community sooner rather than later. It was also agreed that the PARC Committee should be asked to discuss the matter further in the light of the concerns that had been voiced.</p>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>PARC</p> <p>PARC</p>
	8	<u>Police Report.</u> No report.	

9	<p><u>Council Reports:</u></p> <p><b>a: Somerset County Council:</b> Harvey Siggs (in attendance) advised that it would be necessary to make savings of £100m over the next three years affecting highways maintenance, bus subsidies, etc. He advised that, unlike some councils, Somerset did not go in for “15 minutes slots” when it came to adult social care. There had been redundancies and external contracts had been sharpened up. As in previous years salt for use by the council would be available for collection. He still had a health and wellbeing budget to encourage healthier lifestyles; ideas should be sent to the clerk in the first instance.</p> <p><b>b: Mendip District Council:</b> Tom Killen (in attendance) advised that Mendip had been inundated by planning applications for wind turbines and solar panels schemes and a working group had been set up to deal with the issue. It would be necessary to make savings of £4m over the next three years. Toward this end they had started to provide services for other councils. A recent review of services had shown that the public considered litter, flytipping, anti social behaviour and social well being to be the top priority for the council. There was likely to be an increase in parking charges. A government scheme to licence scrap dealers was in hand. Recent newspaper articles had given information about changes to sports facilities in Wells and he advised that there was a proposal to amalgamate facilities to a new 30 acre site near Haybridge.</p>	
10	<p><u>Parish Council Matters:</u></p> <p><b>a: The New Inn (Asset of Community Value):</b></p> <p>i) Grants for feasibility stage; The application had just missed the target score required to be successful.</p> <p>ii) Future actions including funding options and community interest company: Kate had spoken to the Plunkett Foundation and it was agreed that she should make an application for support/funding and arrange a meeting on a date to be advised to discuss the options.</p>	Kate

		<p>The review of the ACV listing was on 7<sup>th</sup> November and the clerk would attend supported by Dean Collier as a community representative. A PC meeting to be convened when the outcome of the review is known</p> <p><b>b: SALC Training for autumn/winter 2013:</b> There were no takers for this training.</p>	
	11	<p><u>Committee Business:</u> <b>a: PARC Committee:</b></p> <p><b>i)</b> Recommendation to spend £350 installing kerbing to the Pincross triangle using the balance of monies remaining after completion of phase 2 of Priddy Pool. This was agreed</p> <p><b>ii)</b> Recommendation that funding to sought to construct two further village gateways at an approximate cost of £2000. Concern was expressed that, whilst there were monies for one gateway, funding was being sought for a second gateway when there were other projects also needing funding. It was agreed three for, one against and one abstention that works could proceed on the Townsend gateway subject to confirmation from PFF that they were happy that their grant could be spent on this project. Funding to be sought for other projects including the gateway at The Hunters in subsequent years.</p> <p><b>b: Sheep Fair Committee:</b> A Meeting had been arranged with Sheep Fair Committee on an amended date of 27<sup>th</sup> November 2013.</p>	
	12	<p><u>Planning:</u> Applications will be available for inspection for fifteen minutes before the meeting commences. No applications had been received.</p>	
	13	<p><u>Financial:</u> <b>a: Clerks salary and expenses for October:</b> £216.82. This was agreed and a cheque raised. <b>b: Expenses</b> in respect of the recent village meeting from Rachel of £19.99 were agreed and a cheque raised.</p>	

		<p><b>c: Invoice from Macallister and Co</b> in respect of works on the feasibility grant application and funding options for £840.00: This had been part of the grant application and covered advice and a review of the application and provision of information on funding sources totalling 4 days work for which two had been charged. The cost of this was fully funded by the AONB and PFF and had been agreed by the clerk following the resolution to proceed with the grant application (Item 5, meeting of 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2013) and discussions with the AONB who were in support of the application.</p> <p>Kate expressed her concern at the way the application had been handled. The clerk advised that he had prepared the application as per the resolution assisted by Rachel, Dean Collier and Alan Hutfield. Kate felt that the works done by Macallister and Co had duplicated work she had done. Sharon was unhappy with the way the matter had been handled and stated that there was no authorisation to raise these funds or commit this expenditure. She felt the clerk had exceeded his remit.</p> <p>The invoice was not authorised for payment.</p>	
	14	<p><u>Correspondence:</u> all email correspondence received has been circulated to councillors, any further correspondence will be available at the meeting.</p> <p>Information about road closures on Ubley Drove had been received.</p>	
	15	<p><u>Matters of Report:</u> Sharon reported a suspicious vehicle HK51MPF, a Freelander in the area.</p>	
	16	<p><u>Date and Time of Next Meeting:</u> The next scheduled meeting is on 4<sup>th</sup> December 2013.</p>	

The meeting closed at 9pm.

Alan Butcher,  
Parish Clerk,  
20th November 2013  
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