

PRIDDY PARISH COUNCIL

**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON
WEDNESDAY 4th DECEMBER 2013**

VENUE AND TIME OF THE MEETING: PRIDDY VILLAGE HALL @ 7.30pm

		<i>Present:</i> Cllrs Alan Hutfield (Chair), Rachel Thompson, Kate Greet, Sharon Sparkes, Chris Dyke, Richard White; also in attendance Alan Butcher (Clerk)	
	1	<i>Apologies for absence.</i> Harvey Siggs, Tom Killen.	
	2	<i>Co-option of new member to fill casual vacancy.</i> There had been no applications to fill the vacancy, Clerk to re-advertise.	
	3	<i>Public Forum:</i> The Chairman adjourned the meeting for a maximum of 15 minutes to allow public participation. Six members of the public were present, there were no questions.	
	4	<i>Declarations of Interest:</i> None	
	5	<i>Resolutions relating to the conduct of the Meeting.</i> Resolution to exclude the press and public from the meeting for item 16 of the Agenda due to the confidential nature of the business to be discussed. This was agreed, all in favour.	
	6	<i>Acceptance of the Minutes of previous meetings:</i> Minutes of the meeting held on 6th November 2013 were agreed and signed as a true record with the following amendment: The sentence beginning “ <i>She felt the clerk....</i> ” at the end of the second paragraph of clause 13c: on page five was omitted.	
	7	<i>Matters Arising from the Minutes of the previous meetings:</i> a: Fly tipping: none reported. b: Adoption of roads to Top Green: The fittings to the barrier at the bottom were welded in place; clerk to liaise with Barry Payne and Robin Maine regarding their removal.	

		<p>c: Continuing verge damage in Pelting Drove: Rachel had spoken to Julian Clothier who had said that they had done their best to reinstate the verges with stone, soil and seed. It was noted that some sections of the walls adjoining gateways had been knocked down and that it would be possible to widen the gateways to prevent further damage. Mr Clothier to consider this option. The gates in Dursdon Drove were also discussed. The possibility of some form of annual licence for the gates which were used to control animal movements were discussed, Rachel to speak to highways.</p> <p>d: Fingerpost sign at Nordrach: Clerk to progress the matter further with highways and AONB. It was also noted that the sign at Townsend has the fingers turned to face the wrong directions.</p>	
	8	<u>Police Report.</u> No report.	
	9	<p><u>Council Reports:</u> a: Somerset County Council: No report. b: Mendip District Council: No report.</p>	
	10	<p><u>Parish Council Matters:</u> a: The New Inn: i) Review Panel Decision: The Clerk and Dean Collier had attended the review and summarised the PC case. However, following the review, the review panel had decided that the New Inn should be removed from the register. It was felt that this would make little difference and that the PC should still proceed with the bid. There was a discussion about the possibility of a planning application for change of use which had been mooted before and Kate summarised a discussion she had held with the planners at MDC.</p>	

		<p>ii) Report on meeting and support from Plunkett Foundation: A meeting with a David Fisher of the PF had been held which was attended by members of the community; Kate's notes of the meeting had been circulated and others had noted additional points which had been raised. David Fisher had outlined the support available but advised that it would be necessary for a community group to be constituted to take the matter forward as they would work with the community rather than the Parish Council. Alan H felt that the PC should continue to be involved, a lot of work had been done over the last few months, there was a group in place and enthusiasm from the community which, in recent weeks, seemed to have dissipated. An email received from Dean Collier outlining what he felt should be done to move the process forward was quoted. Rachel noted that David Fisher had expressed concern about the proximity of the Queen Victoria. Chris queried how applications for feasibility study and other grants which could only be applied for by the PC as a corporate body, could be sought by a community group. Kate felt that not enough had been done to recruit a community group. Alan H noted that the PC would have stood aside if such a group had been formed by the community but this had not been the case and the PC had therefore taken things forward. It was agreed that as the previous application for the feasibility study grant had been close to approval level consideration should be given to re-submitting an updated application. Matter to be discussed further under item 16.</p> <p>b: Clerks review: This to be held on 11th December with Alan H, Rachel and Richard.</p>	
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	11	<p><u>Committee Business:</u></p> <p>a: PARC Committee:</p> <p>i) Recommendation that an advisory committee be set up to conduct an appraisal and updating of the Village Design Statement and Parish Plan: It was agreed that an advisory committee be formed; Kate to co-ordinate and Parish Council to ratify membership, chairman and agree programme and reporting procedures.</p> <p>b: Sheep Fair Committee:</p> <p>Report on the meeting with the Sheep Fair Committee held on 27th November: The meeting had centred on police suggestions about regarding the format of future fairs and the possibility that there could be a charge for policing in the future if the format of the fair was not reconsidered. The clerk advised that any such charge would immediately render the fair financially unsustainable. It was noted that the number of police on duty on the day was thought to be excessive. It was agreed that the PC should support the SFC in any changes to the fair which might be necessary.</p>	
	12	<p><u>Planning:</u></p> <p>Applications will be available for inspection for fifteen minutes before the meeting commences. No applications had been received.</p> <p>A refusal of the application for a proposed extension to Sunnycroft, Wells Road, Priddy had been received.</p>	
	13	<p><u>Financial:</u></p> <p>a: Clerks salary and expenses for November: £216.82; this was agreed and a cheque raised.</p> <p>b: Invoice from Matt Clarke: £39.92 for materials used in the re-building of the dam at Priddy Pool; this was agreed and a cheque raised.</p>	

		<p>c: Invoice from D Gibbons: £84.00 for grass cutting; this was agreed and a cheque raised.</p> <p>d: Invoice from M Edwards: £600.00 for strimming during 2013; this was agreed and a cheque raised.</p> <p>e: Invoice from McAllister and Co: £840.00 in respect of works on the feasibility grant application and funding options. Funded by AONB and PFF, VAT recoverable by PC; this was agreed and a cheque raised.</p> <p>f: Date for Finance Committee Meeting: It was agreed to cancel the PARC meeting on 18th December and substitute the Finance Committee meeting.</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>	
	15	<p><u>Matters of Report</u> Kate asked for contributions to the newsletter due in January.</p>	
	16	<p>Members of the press and public left the meeting at this point.</p> <p>The New Inn: a: Acceptance of the minutes of the meeting held on 21st October 2013 as a true record. These were agreed with the following amendment to para 4b) sixth sentence “It was also agreed that <i>the community would</i> manage the refurbishment and operation of the New Inn.”</p> <p>b: Clerks interpretation of resolution to proceed with feasibility study grant application and the acceptance of grants from the AONB and PFF for specialist advice. It was agreed that no further action was required.</p> <p>c: Options available to the Parish Council and Community including funding options: Kate was happy that things should be moved forward but advised that if the Plunkett Foundation was involved then a community group must be set up. Chris was concerned that effective progress</p>	

		<p>needed both the community and PC. Alan H felt that the Feasibility bid should be re-submitted. Kate reiterated her objections to the way the original grant application had been submitted. Sharon wanted the PC to make a definitive decision on the way forward and wanted the PC to proceed with the preparation of a bid for the New Inn and to re-submit the feasibility grant application. Rachel also wanted to be clear about the PC involvement. The formation of a community group was discussed on the basis of those who attended the meeting with the PF and others who had expressed interest.</p> <p>It was agreed to ask Dean Collier if he would be prepared to manage the proposed bid, liaise with the community over the formation of a suitable community group and move the project forward. An advisory committee could be set up with a membership of such people as required with Dean to chair the proceedings, the committee to report back to the PC. Clerk to speak to Dean regarding membership, Terms of Reference, etc.</p> <p>It was therefore agreed unanimously that, on this basis and in response to a question circulated by Rachel, Priddy Parish Council should structure a bid to purchase the New Inn.</p>	
	17	<p><u><i>Date and Time of Next Meeting:</i></u> The next scheduled meeting is on THURSDAY 2nd January 2014. Wednesday 1st is a bank holiday</p>	

The meeting closed at 9.40pm

Alan Butcher,
Parish Clerk,
23rd December 2013
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