

# PRIDDY PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of the Parish Amenities, Recreation and Countryside Committee held on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> November 2015 at the Hunter's Lodge Inn at 7.30pm

**Present:** Judith Coles (Chairman), Tina Bath, Glenda Collier, Kate Greet,  
Kate Lawrence, Robin Maine (RM)

**In attendance:** William Newton Newey (Clerk)

1 **Apologies for absence**

Mr Ruud Matingh

2 **Recruitment**

Nothing to report

3 **Public Forum**

No members of the public were present.

4 **Declarations of Interest**

*Members are required to act in accordance with the Priddy Parish Council Code of Conduct dated 1<sup>st</sup> August 2012 (clauses 10 – 14) where a matter arises at the meeting in which he/she has a disclosable pecuniary interest or other interest as detailed in the Code. Unless a dispensation has been granted the member shall not participate in the discussion or vote on the matter or shall withdraw from the meeting as required by the Code.*

None.

5 **Resolutions as to the Conduct of the Meeting**

None.

6 **Acceptance of the Minutes of previous meetings**

15c was amended to read "Invasive Plants – can be reported to Mendip District Council to record the occurrence of invasive plants"

Apart from the foregoing, the Minutes of the PARC Committee meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> September were signed as a true record.

7 **Matters Arising and continuing business from previous meetings**

There were no matters arising not appearing as agenda items.

8 **Village Greens**

- a) **Hedge at Pincross** – RM reported that the hedge had been cut.
- b) **Top Green** – RM and TB reported that the bollards were in place and successfully protecting the Green.
- c) **Village Green Events** – it was noted that 'Strictly Priddy' and Bingo would see some parking on the Top Green. The Friendly Society Christmas Tree would be put in place on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> November.

9 **Highways, Verges and Assets**

- a) **Asset Register update** – to be reviewed at the February Meeting of the Committee. JC/GC
- b) **Netting for Hurdle Stack** – TB confirmed that this was in hand. TB
- c) **Adoption of Signposts** –KG confirmed that SCC had no funding to repair or replace finger posts. At the suggestion of Community Council Somerset she had visited the Heritage Lottery Fund site and it seemed that finger posts might be eligible for a matched funding grant. As the minimum project cost was £3,000, Kg thought that it might be a case of producing a package to do several finger posts. TB said that Blagdon Parish Council had contributed £600 to repair of their finger posts but thought that the replacement of the Castle of Comfort post had cost £1,600. KG said that that not only was the Nordrach post missing its fingers, it was very rusty. She believed that the replacement posts with the AONB collar had cost £2,500 each. JC suggested including the subject of finger posts in the next Newsletter to see if this was a subject of concern or interest to the Parish. It could include pictures from RMh photographic record of posts. It was agreed that KG would complete an expression of interest with the HLF to see what the likelihood was of funding. From the notes of the site visit with Steve Watts of SCC Highways, JC noted that SCC had said that they simply wanted to

# PRIDDY PARISH COUNCIL

be kept informed of who was working on finer posts. TB & KG confirmed that there was still a requirement to work on the highway but that such a certificate was held by several people in the village.

## 10 Parish Council Business:

- a) **PPL RoW Report** – There was no report at RMh was no present.
- b) **Dark Lane** – JC had spoken with Dave Gibbons at the beginning of November. TB had wondered if there might be any spare materials from the works being undertaken by Wessex Water in Townsend but JC said that there had been no sign of many materials being used. RM wonder about the availability of road planings but JC said that materials had been included in the cost of the works. TB had spoken with Dave Gibbons and this matter was in hand.
- c) **Coxton End Lane** – The Clerk confirmed that the Council had received a grant of £1,000 from Priddy Folk Festival for tree cutting and coppicing in Coxton End Lane. GC said that the intention was to selectively remove trees and coppice others to allow for the creation graded verge which would promote the growth an under storey. The works would need to be undertaken between November and March and, after the initial works, coppicing would be required every 8 years. TB and KL agreed to undertake a survey of the area and to draft a report. GC agreed to develop a management plan for the Council. TB / KL
- d) **Church, Hall and School Notice** – TB had obtained a quoted for a powder coated aluminium finger post (with single finger) and ball finial. It was agreed that the post needed to be approximately the same height as the current notice. It was further agreed that the post and finger be dark green with white writing. TB

## 11 Ancient Monuments

None to report.

## 12 Flora and Fauna

- a) **Seed Collecting and Planting** – it was hoped that Coxton End Lane might be ready for planting in the spring.
- b) **Verge Mowing and Management** – A helpful and positive meeting had been held with Neil Corp of SCC Highways. Clearance of brush could be undertaken with reasonable precautions. Any verges to be left out of the verge cutting programme should be notified by the early spring.
- c) **Churchyard Wildflowers and Information Board** – After discussions with the PCC of St Lawrence's' it was hoped to extend the wildflower area (the current area had been mown and cleared) and to have a board relating to the growth of wildflowers. Priddy Folk Festival and the Somerset Wildlife Trust were offering help in funding walk cards and a photographic record for the website. TB suggested that GC look at the cards already on sale in Westbury-sub-Mendip, which KI believed might include parts of Priddy. GC said that she already had examples from the campsite and Charterhouse activity centre.
- d) **Priddy Pool** – John Dixon (Reptile and Amphibian Group) would be visiting. It was noted that some patching had been undertaken by SCC in respect of the lower area by but not yet the upper half.
- e) **Coxton End Lane** – It was agreed that there needed to be a management plan for the trees in this area. Again Jake Chant would arrange for some informal advice as a first step. GC

## 13 Committee Business

The Committee reviewed the 2015 Project Plan List and made amendments as necessary before agreeing to its submission to the Finance Committee to be held in October.

- a) **Adoption of Signposts** – already discussed.
- b) **Projects for Consideration**

The Committee briefly reviewed the Projects under Consideration list produced by the Finance Committee.

  - i. **Security Light for Old Phone Box / Defib** – It was noted that this had not been actioned and KG said that the quotation could not be found. It was

agreed to recommend to Council that this be re-instated as a project, with a new or renewed quotation being obtained.

WNN

- ii. **Kerbing** – As had been discussed at the previous meeting KG had met with Neil Corp of SCC Highways to discuss the kerning of Nine Barrows Triangle, the condition of neighbouring verges and the existence of an unofficial lay-by used for parking. JC wondered if the Council should be encouraging parking by residents in this area. KG said that the parking was more than local residents and was used by visitors as well. The more vehicles were off the road, the greater the protection for the triangle; Neil Corp had already offered some work in this area because of the potholes which had been created. JC said she was loathed to see kerbing on the verges in the village increase. GC felt that the laying of gravel might improve drainage and allow the re-growth of grass. KL was concerned that parking was being encouraged at a junction. KG said that the unofficial lay-by did take vehicles off the roadway itself. RM observed that kerbing protected the edge of the roadway and GC said that it could be sympathetically undertaken with granite sets. TB said that low kerbing could also help prevent soil erosion and the blockage of drains by eroded soil. RM said that this had been suggested for Church Farm and TB noted that the tarmac had already been raised to try and prevent blockage of the drain.
- KL wondered if an area in front of Church Farm might not be more sensible for parking. KG repeated that the area in Nine Barrows Lane was used by residents and visitors, which an area by Church Farm would not be so used. TB wondered if any repaired and re-seeded area could be temporarily cordoned off until grass had regrown. GC said that the current arrangement was liable to population by rank docks and other unsuitable plants.
- It was agreed that obtaining the opinion of local residents would be beneficial before recommending the kerbing of Nine Barrows Triangle as a project to the Council.

WNN

## 14 Recommendations

- a) The inclusion of an article about finger posts (with photographs by RMh) in the January Newsletter with a view to gaining an opinion as to the importance of finger posts to the community
- b) The purchase and installation of a powder coated, aluminium, finger post (Church, School and Village Hall) for Top Green.
- c) That a confirmed or fresh quotation for the installation of a security light in the old Phone Box be obtained and included in the Council's Projects List.
- d) That the Clerk write to residents in the vicinity of Nine Barrows Triangle to obtain views on kerbing this triangle.

## 15 Matters of Report

None

## 15 Date and Time of Next Meeting

The next scheduled meeting: Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> February, 2015.

The meeting closed at 8:45pm