

Priddy Parish Council

PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting

held at the Village Hall at 7:30pm on Wednesday 4th November, 2015

Present: Cllrs Kate Greet (Chairman), Tina Bath, Alan Butcher, Judith Coles, Chris Dyke, Robin Maine, Barry Wilkinson

In attendance: William Newton Newey (Clerk)
Cllr Tom Killen (MDC), Cllr Harvey Siggs (SCC)
Two members of the public

1 **Apologies for absence**

None

2 **Public Forum**

The members of the public raised no matters for discussion.

3 **Declarations of Interest**

Members are required to act in accordance with the Priddy Parish Council Code of Conduct dated 1st 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.

Cllr Dyke item 5a

Cllr Butcher item 6

4 **Acceptance of the Minutes of previous meeting**

At the request of Cllr Butcher, the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 7th October, 2015 were corrected as follows:

Item 7g (Bus Shelter) line 8 to read, "Cllr Butcher reported that Doultling Parish had recently investigated the purchase of a standard glass and steel shelter which would cost approximately £5,500." The spelling of the word play (from "paly") was also corrected in the succeeding paragraph.

They were then signed as a true and correct record of proceedings.

The minutes of the meeting held on 7th October were amended to reflect that Cllrs Bath and Dyke attended for the Finance meeting but not the Council meeting.

They were then signed as a true and correct record of proceedings.

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

a) **Land registration and Greenhill Cottage** – a draft letter had been passed to the owners by Cllr Dyke and would be returned to the Council if agreeable.

CD

b) **Purchase of flags** – the clerk confirmed that he had received the pro forma invoice for a new flag of St George from Cllr Butcher. **It was agreed that a cheque for £82.74 be raised to cover the cost of the flag and delivery.**

WNN

c) **Planning: Higher Eastwater Farm** – the Clerk told the meeting that he had spoken with the enforcement team but that their email to him had been lost somewhere in the web and that he would pursue the matter with Mendip District Council. It was noted that an application had been made to vary the terms of a recent planning application changing roofing materials from tiles to slates.

WNN

d) **Contingency Plan** – It was agreed that only minor changes were required for the plan before it was re-adopted at the December Council meeting. Mr Richard White would be removed from the named contacts and Cllr Coles would be added. There was a brief discussion of the use of the School buildings but it was thought that these had not been included because of safeguarding issues.

WNN

e) **Greens Policy and Access to New House** – discussion was deferred until item 15 on the agenda, when the Press and Public would be excluded.

f) **Priddy Folk Festival Grant** - the Clerk confirmed that informal notification had been received that a grant of £1,500 was to be made to the Council. £500 was a contribution towards a notice for the Church / Hall / School on Upper Green and £1,000 for coppicing and other tree works at Coxtan End Lane. Cllr Bath said that she would bring details of possible notices to the next meeting of the PARC Committee

TB

Initialed

6 Planning

2015/2342/HSE - Two storey extension from the side elevation, Fircrest Farm, Wells Road, Priddy, Cheddar, Somerset BA5 3AZ

Cllr Wilkinson noted that there was an external entrance and no link at 1st floor level to the extension. There were no other comments and **it was agreed by six votes (Cllr Butcher not voting as he declared an interest) to recommend approval to Mendip District Council.**

WNN

7 Parish Council Matters

a) Broadband Update

Cllr Wilkinson said that he had been to a meeting where the SW Director of BT had been present. BT had been inundated with requests but no replies had yet been received. The Chairman noted that many parish councils were having similar debates in terms of broadband. Cllr Wilkinson said that Satellite Broadband wanted to meet the local group again and Cllr Dyke said that she was still waiting for the free trial to which she had agreed.

b) Replacement / New Noticeboards

The Chairman and Cllr Maine had agreed to meet highways and were to discuss the location of the Nordrach noticeboard but Highways had failed to attend. A suitable location was felt to be on the right of the drive to Nordrach House.

Cllr Wilkinson said that he had received a quote for a noticeboard from Simons and Sons of £879 with an additional £250 for fitting (each exclusive of VAT). Carved lettering at the head of the board would also be extra. Cllr Butcher opined that a noticeboard might be obtained for the same or less cost from one of the larger, national firms.

It was becoming increasingly clear from conversations with Linda Jones and others, that the residents of Charterhouse did not want a noticeboard. Alternative means of communicating would be investigated including the use of email. The Chairman had prepared a questionnaire about communication which she proposed was sent to the ten or so households at Charterhouse or who might consult a noticeboard at Charterhouse. It was agreed that a fourth question asking about any other issues or needs be added to the questionnaire.

A budget of £10.00 was agreed to cover postage of the questionnaires.

c) Update Risk Assessment

It was agreed that Financial Regulations of the Council would be adopted annually by full Council annually at its March Meeting.

The Clerk noted that the Scheme of Publication did not currently appear on the website and undertook to make sure that it did. The acquisition of computer equipment by the Council for the use of the Clerk would be included in the relevant section of the Risk Assessment.

It was agreed that the Clerk should register the Council with the Information Commissioner as stated in the Risk Assessment at a cost of £35.00

d) Improving Communications with Parishioners, including website and PE

The Clerk regretted that it had not been possible to write anything for the Pew magazine due to pressure of work.

Cllr Butcher said that the website had been moved to a new server with the expectation that stability of service would improve.

The Chairman said that she and Cllrs Wilkinson and Maine were to attend a Community Council Somerset event on Digital Communities the following day.

e) Sheep Fair

The Chairman was concerned that the discussions about the Sheep Fair should have begun before the question as to whether there should be a Sheep Fair in 2016 and beyond was put in February. The Sheep Fair Committee was dormant, having had no new members appointed or elected to it. It seemed appropriate to raise the matter in the January Newsletter with an emphasis on the need for reform and this being the last opportunity for people to become involved in the running of the event. Cllr Coles said that there was a view that the Council had stopped the sheep Fair but Cllrs Maine and Butcher pointed out that the Fair had stopped due to changes in regulation (which

meant that sheep could not be sold on the Green) and a lack people to organise the event. Cllr Dyke pointed out that the implement Sale and Rural Craft Fair which had been held in September had been a one off event, to test the feasibility of such an event; the Implement Sale having originally been part of the Sheep Fair. Neither event had made a significant amount of money but the refreshment tent run by the Church had raised a significant sum for Church funds.

The subject of funds held in the charitable trust associated with the Sheep Fair was briefly discussed, including its dissolution. Cllr Butcher confirmed that the last monies received by the Council in respect of the Sheep Fair had not been transferred to the trust and remained in the Council's Sheep Fair bank account.

f) Youth Projects

A design for the bus shelter as awaited form Charlie Arnold. Tamsin Smith was continuing her discussions with young people in Priddy, including the possibility of fund raising events to fund trips and activities.

8 Committee Business

a) Finance Committee:

i. Projects under consideration

An initial discussion was held as to prioritising the projects identified for consideration by the Finance committee. It was noted that the exchange of letters in respect of Greenhill Cottage was already in hand.

The meeting about finger posts had not taken place but Steve Watts of Highways had told the Chairman that there was no money in the budget for the repair or replacement of finger posts. Mr Watts had suggested that some funding might be obtained from the County Council's improvement grant fund but Cllr Siggs said that he did not believe that this would be the case. The Heritage Lotter Fund was also suggested as another source of funds. It was clear that the Parish Council could 'adopt' finger posts and carry out repairs but that they would remain the property of the Highways authority; this would be the case with a new finger post a Nordrach. If repairs or cleaning were to be undertaken, the Highways authority would need to be informed of the credentials of those undertaking the work.

The subject of kerbing at Church Farm was raised. This would be to prevent soil erosion and avoid the blockage of the drains with eroded soil.

ii. Nine Barrows Lane Potholes and Verges

As part of the conversation about kerbing Nine Barrow Triangle, Neil Corp of Somerset Highways had suggested that he could undertake to repair damage to the verge at the village end of Nine Barrows Lane and also to repair the potholes in the Lane.

The Clerk was instructed to write Mr Corp requesting the repairs be carried out at SCC Highways expense.

WNN

iii. Budget Setting

The Council noted that the budget and precept setting process would be one month later than usual and the Clerk undertook to confirm this with Mendip District Council.

9 Police Matters

None

10 Council Reports

a) Somerset County Council

Cllr Siggs told the meeting that he was no longer the portfolio holder for Highways and Transport but was now responsible for Finance and Resources. The projections of the County Council's budget for 2016/17 showed an extremely large deficit, which Cllr Siggs said was the effect of reduced central government grant, inflation and increased demand, especially in adult social care. The County Council had been making improvements after the Ofsted report into its Children's Services and was seeking to recruit new, skilled social workers and closing the last of its children's homes.

b) Mendip District Council

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Cllr Killen encouraged all present to attend one of the consultation sessions on the Mendip Plan Part II. He could report that Priddy was not a zoned for development and was designated as an open area of local significance. The nearest consultation event would be a Westbury Village Hall on 12th November. The deadline for comments on the draft plan was 16th December, 2015.

Mendip District Council were working with the Somerset Association of Local Councils (SALC) on a number of initiatives including the rural and urban forums, Code of Conduct and other training.

The scale of cutbacks at Mendip District Council would become clear at the end of November though the Council was probably in better position than the County Council. Work continued on collaborative schemes to ensure value for money and cost effectiveness were obtained in purchasing (with five other councils in Oxfordshire and Hampshire) and other support functions.

The subject of migration was being discussed with the Local Government Association. There had been a lack of clarity as to what was to be delivered in terms of broadband service from Connecting for Devon and Somerset. As many a 95% of all premises being connected was the stated aim on part II of the plan but MDC were looking for closer to 100% and was investigating alternative technologies.

Fly tipping was mentioned and Cllr Killen confirmed that reports of fly tipping could be made by telephone or using the form on the Mendip District Council website.

11 Financial

a) Budget Statement

The Clerk presented the latest budget statement and explained that there was no significant change for the version discussed at the Finance Committee. The reconciliation presented with the budget statement was based on the latest figures from the bank.

b) Vat Reclaim

Cllr Butcher confirmed that this was in hand and asked for copies of the latest invoices from the Clerk.

AB /
WNN

12 Clerk's Report

a) Sedgemoor Development Plan

As the neighbouring district council, Sedgemoor District Council had sent details of their Local Plan consultation events to the Council. The nearest session to Priddy was in Cheddar on 24th November.

b) Dogs for the Disabled 7

A letter of thanks had been received from Yasmin Stockwell for the stall at the Implements Sale and Rural Crafts Fair. Not only had some funds been raised but it was good training for the dog.

c) Winter Service

The Clerk said that notification of the winter service provided by the County Council had been received. It was noted that Paywell Lane, Manor Farm Road, Tynings Lane and Longbottom would no longer be gritted. It was agreed that as the 'salt bins' had been topped up by Highways and there were already 10 to 15 bags of gritting material stored, the Council would not collect any further gritting material from the Highways Depot in Glastonbury.

13 Matters of Report

a) Wells Road Noticeboard

Cllr Dyke had been approached to ask if Parish Council information might be posted on the notice board near Beeches on the Wells Road.

It was agreed that contact details for the Council, including the website, could be supplied for the noticeboard.

WNN

b) Hunt Kennels

Cllr Wilkinson said that there had been an incident in and around Eastwater Lane when the Hunt had lost control of its dogs. The dogs had been chasing cattle and there had

been quad bikes in the lane trying to round up the dogs. Cllr Butcher said that Priddy Hill Road had also been obstructed by cars parked in passing places.

The clerk was requested to write to the Kennels raising this as a matter of concern to the local community.

The Chairman reminded the Council that it had supported the application for the building of the Hunt Kennels.

c) Road Closure at Townsend

Cllr Coles confirmed that residents had been informed of the road closure at Townsend. There was away through for horse riders and at night the highway was passable with care.

d) Caravan

Cllr Butcher informed the Council that there was a caravan parked in a field opposite Rose Farm. Cllr Coles thought he caravan was being stored in the field. Cllr Wilkinson said that an enclosure for horses was also being created. It was agreed that a watching brief be kept on developments.

e) Interactive Map

Cllr Bath asked Cllr Killen if he could provide information as to the interactive map that Mendip DC used as the Parish Council wanted to explore the possibility of having such a resource. Cllr Killen undertook to supply details.

f) Another Mother's Son

The Chairman told the meeting that she had met with the representative of the film production company who were to film scenes 'For Another Mother's Son' in Priddy. They would be using St Cuthbert's Farm and Manor House Farm as well as the Green. Filming would take place until 27th November with 'portaloos' on the edge of Pincross and parking in the New Inn car park. Some track would be laid temporarily on the Green to allow for a camera dolly to be run along it. There would a limited amount of night filming (with balloon lights) and sunrise and sunset filming on 24th November. There might be some short delays to traffic but no road closures had been requested.

Cllr Bath wondered why the Council was not getting a donation as the Green was being used. The chairman said that she believed that charging for the use of the green had been discussed in the past and the decision not to charge had been made. The Chairman was requested to approach the film company for a donation.

g) New Inn

The Chairman said that he had been told that the New Inn had been sold to a company or individual in London, who intended to re-open the business as a public house.

14 Date and Time of Next Meeting

The next scheduled meeting: Wednesday 2nd December 2015.

15 Greens Policy and access to New House

Under the resolution passed at the Council meeting held on 7th October, the Press and Public were excluded from the remainder of the meeting due to the nature of the business to be discussed.

As it was 9:30pm Cllr Butcher cited Standing Orders which state that no meeting is to exceed 2 hours. On a vote, (6 in favour, 1 against) the Council decided not to suspend standing orders but to defer the confidential business to be considered to an Extra-Ordinary Council meeting at 7:00pm on Wednesday 18th November.

The meeting closed at 9:34pm

Signed
(Chairman)

2nd December, 2015

William Newton Newey, Parish Clerk
11th November, 2015

Initialed