

**Minutes of the Parish Amenities, Recreation and Countryside Committee
held on Wednesday 17th February 2016 at the Hunter's Lodge Inn at 7.30pm**

Present: Judith Coles (Chairman), Tina Bath, Glenda Collier, Kate Greet,
Robin Maine (RM), Mr Ruud Matingh (RMh)
Rachel Thompson (RT)

In attendance: William Newton Newey (Clerk), Barry Wilkinson

PPP16/001

Apologies for absence

Kate Lawrence

PPP16/002

Recruitment

Mrs Rachel Thompson was co-opted to the Committee

PPP16/003

Public Forum

No members of the public were present.

PPP16/004

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.

None.

PPP16/005

Resolutions as to the Conduct of the Meeting

None.

PPP16/006

Acceptance of the Minutes of previous meetings

The Minutes of the PARC Committee meeting held on 18th November were signed as a true record.

PPP16/007

Matters Arising and continuing business from previous meetings

- a) **Church, Hall, School Sign** - The Clerk confirmed that the sign had been ordered. It was agreed that the sign would be delivered to TB. Arrangements would then be made for its erection.

PPP16/008

Village Greens

- a) **Village Green Events** – the Clerk informed the Committee that the Parish Council had agreed a new guidance document for local, not-for-profit organisations using the Village Green. This could be found on the website and would be cascaded to organisations as opportunity arose.

RM queried the concern over the Hunt selling refreshments on the Green, when other organisations did the same. It was agreed that the difference lay in the fact that other organisations had sought permission from the Parish Council and had supplied evidence of risk assessments / relevant insurance.

It was noted that forthcoming events had yet to be confirmed but would include Bale Racing organised by the Pre-School and Friendly Club Day. Notification had been received from Albion Running Club of an ultra-marathon to be held in August and the Clerk was asked to forward details of the PEW magazine to the organisers.

WNN

PPP16/009

Highways, Verges and Assets

- a) **Asset Register update** – review was deferred to the April meeting of the Committee. JC
b) **Netting for Hurdle Stack** – TB would supply details of the netting to the Clerk so that he could order it on behalf of the Parish Council (VAT may only be reclaimed on invoices in the name of and paid directly by the Parish Council). Once the netting was received TB would replace the existing netting on the Hurdle Stack. TB WNN

PP16/010

Parish Council Business:

- a) **PPL RoW Report** – RMh told the meeting that it had been a quiet winter period. He now had a Parish Council email but that it had not been very active. With the spring he hoped to range further afield but he had reported some matters which were still under investigation. RMh noted that several styles between the Batch and Deerleap were in poor condition. He also wanted advice about clearing brush in Eastwater Lane, a job with which Mendip Ramblers had helped in the past. RT said that clearing was permitted outside the bird nesting season. RMh wonder what area could be cleared and RT replied

that the Lane was vested the County Council but anything beyond that boundary was the responsibility of the landowner. RT opined that in this case from wall to wall was drove and TB observed that this would mean that it was the responsibility of the Highways Department. RMh said that he would try to arrange some clearance, which it was agreed should not be funded by the Parish Council. There was concern that Durston Drove was being used by 4x4 vehicles, though some of the vehicle use appeared to be tractors. RMh said that he had been told that an email had been sent to his RoW email account but he had not received the email. It was felt that little could be done as the tractor use was legitimate and no restrictions could be made on access to the drove.

RMh

- b) **Dark Lane** – There had been a concern expressed about the materials used and the works carried out in Dark Lane. RT said that the project had been three or four years in gestation and that advice had been sought from a number of different sources including BANES Rights of Way Officer. Two quotations had been received and the lowest accepted. The works had been carried out according to the specification with the ditch having been dug out and the surface built up and graded. Now that it had been rolled it provided a good surface for horses. The works were identical to those undertaken in other places. KG said that there appeared to be no problem with run off from the road planings used to create the new surface in the lane; the water in them pond was clear. KG had been told that there was no concern about toxicity by the BANES RoW Officer and that they were commonly used in that area. RT confirmed this fact. To confirm that there was no problem with run off, Paula Milward would undertake a water sample test. KG said that she walked Dark Lane and was concerned that there was one root still protruding. JC was concerned that the lane would now be used by motor vehicles. RT said that as a bridleway the entrance had to be five foot wide. It was accepted that any access wide enough for horse would also be wide enough for use by a motorcycle. It was agreed to recommend to Council that a large tree trunk or rock be placed at the lower end of Dark Lane to restrict width and that the upper end be reviewed to see if a similar restriction was required.

- c) **Coxton End Lane** – GC reported that she had requested four quotes for the tree works in Coxton End Lane, with two only being received. These quotes were circulated to Committee members at the meeting. Both quotes had addressed the topics of removal dead or diseased trees, coppicing and crowning other trees. The contractors were happy to work to a management plan (which GC believed TB and KL might provide) or to provide advice as to what should be under taken. Works could be undertaken at the end of March or early April. Both quotations were very similar in price and appeared to be commensurate with the day rate for skilled labour. Both contractors believed that the works could be accomplished in three days, which would be under the £1,000 budget. Resulting logs could be left or taken away, chippings could be sprayed across the site or removed. The work of both contractors was known by Committee members.

KG
WNN

TB was concerned that there needed to be a management plan which related to only to the proposed works but to the management of re-growth in the future. GC said that Tim Andrews was keen to be involved in future planning. GC felt that it was a case of improving the situation by removing dead or diseased trees and crowning and coppicing the trees that were left. JC said that it was a case of not being able to establish a clear picture, literally not being able to see the wood for the trees. In this context RM suggested that developing a future management plan was an activity for after the initial works. JC pointed out that this area was not ancient woodland and RT said that when she had first come to the village the area had been an open verge and area suitable for the growth of wildflowers. In her opinion, the area should not be covered by trees and she would prefer to see the removal of as many as possible. RMh said that the works would produce a new path and RM that the area had only been planted with trees to prevent inappropriate use. RT believed that continued, unchecked growth of the trees would lead to damage to adjacent walls and road surface.

GC
RT
RM

It was agreed that GC, RT and RM would visit and review the site before works began. TB said that it would be necessary to ensure that the contractor had the required permits to work on the roadside.

Given the similarity in quotes and that the work of Chris Saunders was known to Committee members, it was proposed by RM (seconded by KG) to recommend to

Council that the contract be placed with Chris Saunders. This was agreed at a vote, six in favour, none against and one abstaining.

PPP16/011 **Ancient Monuments**

Nothing to report.

PPP16/012 **Flora and Fauna**

- a) **Seed Collecting and Planting** – GC reported varying success. The spring would reveal the proof of how successful planting had been.
- b) **Verge Mowing and Management** – It was agreed that GC should contact Neil Corp (SCC Highways) to remove Coxtan End Lane from the verge mowing programme for 2016.
- c) **Churchyard Wildflowers and Information Board** – The board was being designed by Somerset Wildlife Trust with some wording from RM as Churchwarden. Wildflower Walk cards were also being prepared with test walks being undertaken in June.
- d) **Priddy Pool** – This area would be reviewed now that the works on Dark Lane were complete. TB believed that John Dixon (Reptile and Amphibian Group) would visit in high summer.

PPP16/013 **Committee Business**

- a) Comments on the Project List
The Committee briefly reviewed the Projects List as agreed by the February meeting of the Parish Council.
 - i. **Priddy Pool** – It was thought that the funds might be spent in the autumn of 2016.
 - ii. **Defibrillator** - The Clerk asked if the pads on the defibrillator needed replacing. JC said that she would confirm the expiry date on her next inspection of the Defibrillator. JC
 - iii. **Village Green Protection and Prevention of Erosion** - Manor Farm Verge - The condition of the verge between Manor Farm to Bay Tree Cottage (opposite the Fountain) was raised. It was wondered if this area might be covered by the funds identified by the Finance Committee and agreed by the Parish Council. RT said that she believed that this area was vested in SCC Highways rather than the Parish Council. The Clerk was asked to confirm the situation with Neil Corp. TB was concerned that Church Farm verge had not been included in the Project List; it was being eroded and had huge pot holes developing.
 - iv. **Interactive Mapping** – TB said that she would speak to Tom Killen about the interactive mapping used by Mendip District Council. TB

PPP16/014 **Recommendations to Council**

- a) That repair or kerbing for the area outside Manor Farm to the Fountain be considered for addition to the Project List, once it has been established whether ownership is vested in the Parish Council or Somerset County Council (Highways)
- b) That a tree trunk or other item is placed at the lower end of Dark Lane to restrict width to five feet and that similar consideration be given to the upper end of the Lane if it is wider than five feet
- c) That Chris Saunders be contracted for three days, at £325 per day, to carry out the tree removal, thinning and coppicing at Coxtan End Lane, in line with the grant Received from Priddy Folk Festival.
- d) That the Parish Council clarify the intention and proposed use of the sum of £2,000 identified in the Project List for Village Green Protection and Prevention of Erosion
- e) That the protection and restoration of the verge at Church Farm be considered for addition to the Projects List.

PPP16/015 **Matters of Report**

- a) Clean for the Queen – this would be linked with the annual Village Litter Pick on 5th and 6th March. This event was being organised by Alan Butcher.
- b) RMh had found and removed a bag of Christmas rubbish by the Hurdle Stack.

PPP16/015 **Date and Time of Next Meeting**

The next scheduled meeting: Wednesday 20th April, 2016.

The meeting closed at 8:49pm

Signed _____ Date: 20th April, 2016