

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting

held at the Village Hall on Wednesday 2nd May, 2018 at 7:00pm

Present: Cllr Kate Greet (Chairman of Priddy Parish Council) and 16 parishioners

In attendance: William Newton Newey (Clerk)

1 **Apologies for absence**

Cllr Tom Killen (Mendip District Council), Mrs Sylvia Hobbs

2 **Acceptance of the Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 27th April, 2017 as a true record.**

The minutes were signed.

3 **Matters Arising from the Minutes of the previous meeting not otherwise included on the agenda**

There were no matters arising. The Chairman assured the meeting that the minutes of the 2017 Annual Parish Meeting had been considered by the Parish Council and topics discussed.

4 **Reports from the Parish Council, Parish and Village Organisations**

a) **Parish Council**

The Chairman of the Parish Council, Cllr Kate Greet, made a verbal report on behalf of the Parish Council: The Chairman thanked the Councillors and Clerk for their work. She then stated that the Annual Parish Meeting provided the opportunity feedback to the Council and to give opinions on some key issues. Emails and letters to the Clerk were also encouraged.

The Chairman gave a summary of the Council's last year and future activities.

Commenting on planning applications was a significant activity and local training had been provided so that councillors were more able to influence sensible outcomes, even when not in accord with the Local Plan.

The Council had commissioned a Housing Needs Survey which had established a need for more, smaller homes and the main priority was to find land.

Possible traffic calming measures in Pelting Road had been discussed with the Highways Authority and the Council had offered to pay the cost to paint lateral white lines to reduce speed.

The traditional cast iron fingerpost at Nordrach had been repaired and it was anticipated that the finger post at Bristol Plain and others would be refurbished.

The edge of the Village Green at Manor Farm yard would be kerbed.

The old defibrillator in the phone box had been replaced and was regularly checked by volunteers. The code for the defibrillator cabinet was CX1234.

The old Lower Green noticeboard had been moved to Nordrach and the Fountain noticeboard would be replaced.

The area behind Pincross was in the process of being registered as an ancient right of way in order to protect it.

Another Rural Fun Day would be held in September and might again include an Implement Sale.

General Data Protection Regulations would mean that parishioners will need to give the Clerk express permission to hold and use their email addresses.

Voneus had brought Wireless Broadband to some of Priddy, and there was a wifi telephone option from Voange. Gigaclear had been awarded the Connecting Devon and Somerset contract for the area and was working to improve services.

The Chairman then mentioned the topics for consideration by the meeting and there was immediate discussion of the following, two topics:

Affordable Housing: Advice had been received from Mendip District Council and one company had expressed an interest in identifying and developing a site. Nina Richards, Affordable Housing Officer at Mendip District Council, had confirmed that the district council would appraise sites before the formal planning procedure was started.

Townsend Pool: This area had been suggested for improvement as the current scrub filled depression was not pleasing at an entry to the village. Options such as puddling or lining the pool were being considered, though it was noted that there was no obvious source to feed the pool. It was wondered whether the kerbing on the roadside had stopped water from reaching the Pool. It was thought a good idea to clear the self-seeded sycamores.

b) **Other Reports**

Reports from Mendip Community Orchestra, Monday Club, Priddy Cricket Club, Priddy Friendly Society, Priddy Folk Festival, Priddy Bowls Club, Priddy Line Dance Group, Priddy History Group, Priddy School, Priddy Pre-School, Priddy Village Hall and Priddy Singers had been reproduced in a small booklet. There were various displays in the Hall.

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5` **Items for Discussion**

As well as inviting suggestions from the floor, the Chairman invited people to put suggestions under each of the headings on the sheets provided in the Hall during the refreshments that would follow the meeting. Comments would also be welcome in the form of emails to the Parish Clerk.

a) **How to Spend £22,000**

The Chairman reminded the meeting that the sum in question was the consideration against the granting of an additional easement over the Village Green. The Parish Council was minded to use the sum for a significant project rather than ordinary, revenue expenditure.

The Clerk had received an email suggesting that the money could be used for traffic calming or road safety measures. Suggestions from the floor were: more works in Dark Lane, a children’s play area (it was noted that there were bodies which would make grants to cover these costs), information boards for Priddy Pool, outdoor fitness trail and a Youth Club. In connection with the final suggestion, it was noted that there had been a Youth Club in the past but that it had been wound up due to a lack of numbers participating. The Bus Shelter had been the result of the latest consultation with young people in the village. It was thought that it might be opportune to canvass opinion again. It was also suggested that the funds could be used to buy land for affordable housing; this would have the additional benefit of producing investment income for the Parish Council.

b) **Protecting Top Green**

Cllr Oren drew attention to the fact that the Top (Village) Green was used for car parking by the schools, for church services (weddings and funerals) and events at the Village Hall. The damage caused by the parking meant that the Green could not be mowed. The Parish Council had discussed plastic gridding which would maintain the form of the Green but would prevent the creation of ruts and other damage. The cost of the gridding was £10 to £11 per square metre and it was thought that the high traffic areas extended to 500 square metres.

A discussion then ensued during which alteration to the surface of a registered village green figured largely. It was reported that the Parish Council had consulted the Open Spaces Society who had advised that driving on the Green fifteen yards off the highway was legally permitted.

There was a concern that the use of gridding would alter the surface and be detrimental to the recreational use and the enjoyment of the benefit of the Green. Others felt that protection of the Green against further damage to its surface was paramount and that recreational use and benefit needed to be interpreted in a wider sense. It was stated by some that the damage was only seasonal and that the Green would recover during summer months but this view was challenged in that others felt that the Green was not recovering year on year.

The Chairman said that the matter was continually being raised by the community and there seemed to be support for doing something to improve the situation. The needs of parents and those with limited mobility to have accessible parking were raised.

The meeting was reminded that the Village Green was protected by acts of parliament. There was a danger that any solution which was permanent would become de facto a car park.

Referring to the suggestion that the damage was only seasonal, the Chairman asked if people could consider temporary, removable solutions which could be put in place during the winter months.

It was felt that the opinion of a solicitor and Defra should be sought in addition to the opinion which had been offered by the Open Space Society.

c) **Restoring Townsend Pool**

This topic had been covered in the Chairman’s report from the Parish Council.

d) **Affordable Housing**

This had been covered in the Chairman’s report from the Parish Council

6) **Any Other Business**

No other business had been notified.

The meeting closed at 19:50 and was followed by refreshments.

Signed
(Chairman)

William Newton Newey, 25th May, 2018
parish.clerk@priddyparish.org

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