

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting
held at the Village Hall on Wednesday 15th May, 2019 at 7:00pm

Present: Cllr Alan Butcher (Chairman of Priddy Parish Council) and 17 parishioners

In attendance: William Newton Newey (Clerk)

1 **Apologies for absence**

There were no apologies for absence.

2 **Acceptance of the Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 2nd May, 2018 as a true record.**

The minutes were signed.

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

The Chairman noted that the discussion as to how to spend £22,000 at the previous Annual Parish Meeting had been inconclusive.

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

a) **Parish Council**

The Chairman of the Parish Council, Cllr Alan Butcher, read the report from the Parish Council which had been included in the booklet of reports prepared for the meeting.

b) **Other Reports**

Reports from the Monday Club, Cricket Club, Folk Festival, History Group, School, Village Hall, Bowls Club and Mendip Orchestra had been included in the booklet. None of these reports were read out and no other verbal reports were given. It was noted that reports had not been received from some organisations who had provided them in the past, including the Friendly Society.

5 **Items for Discussion**

a) **Somerset Wood**

The County Council was planting a wood outside Taunton to commemorate all those from Somerset who had died during World War I. The Parish Council had been approached about making a contribution towards ongoing maintenance of the wood, all the trees having already been sponsored. The Council had debated whether it would be more appropriate to fund the planting of tree in the parish to commemorate the four people from Priddy who died rather than paying maintenance for a wood which was some distance from the Parish.

The meeting supported the idea of a local planting and the Parish Council was requested to investigate a suitable location, trees and plaque.

b) **Malicious Mail**

A person who had recently moved into a house in the village had received an unpleasant letter saying that they and their family were not welcome. This letter had been brought to the attention of the Parish Council and discussed at its meeting on 25th April, 2019. The Council had requested that the matter be put on the agenda for the Annual Parish Meeting to give the subject a public airing. The letter was felt totally inappropriate and the Clerk informed the meeting that an 'Offence of sending letters etc. with intent to cause distress or anxiety' existed under the Malicious Communications Act 1988. It was believed that the letter had been taken to the Police.

The Clerk was requested to write a letter of welcome on behalf of the Annual Parish Meeting to the person who had received the letter.

The Chairman then invited the floor to suggest any other topics for discussion.

c) **Mowing of the Village Green**

It was noted that the cuttings produced by mowing the Village Greens were not recovered. These cuttings then stuck to footwear and clothing and thus transferred to people's homes. The Chairman noted that previous method mowing did not include collection of cuttings either but, being cut by a gang mower, the cuttings had been very much smaller. He continued to say that there was not a great number of people prepared to undertake the mowing of the Village Greens. The appropriate equipment also had to be used, e.g. a too heavy tractor would damage the surface of the Greens.

The Chairman said that the Parish Council would review the mowing of the Village Greens.

d) **Bus Shelter Notice Boards**

The way notices had been posted on the bus shelter was raised. The Clerk confirmed that as well as the glazed, parish council board on the side of the shelter, there were notice boards either side of the opening and inside. Unfortunately people were also pinning notices to the structure of the shelter itself. It was wondered if a new board could be provided next to the bus shelter. Cllr Dyke noted that the noticeboards

on the shelter were very hard and that pushing pins into them was very difficult. She wondered if this was why people were using the structure of the shelter itself.

The discussion then broadened to the topic of posting notices around the Village. It was noted that those for North Somerset Show on 6th May, 2019 were still in place and had been screwed into position.

It was noted that the noticeboard at the Fountain was due for replacement.

e) **Hardstanding by Cave System Plan**

The poor condition of the hardstanding by the cave system plan was raised. The Chairman said that he had proposed a working party to deal with the area by the Fountain where the pathway had also become obstructed.

6 **Any Other Business**

No other business had been notified.

The Chairman closed the meeting noting that there had been an uncontested election for the Parish Council but that four people had applied to be co-opted to the Council. He felt a priority for the new Council was to encourage young people to stay in the village and that affordable housing was a key element in any strategy.

The meeting closed at 19:34 and was followed by refreshments.

Signed
(Chairman)

William Newton Newey, 22nd May, 2018
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