

PRIDDY PARISH COUNCIL

**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON
WEDNESDAY 7th JANUARY 2015**

VENUE AND TIME OF THE MEETING: PRIDDY VILLAGE HALL @ 7.30pm

		<u>Present:</u> Cllrs Alan Hutfield, Rachel Thompson, Simon Eastham, Chris Dyke, Kate Greet, Barry Wilkinson; also in attendance Tom Killen and Alan Butcher (Clerk)	
	1	<u>Apologies for absence.</u> None.	
		<u>Co-option of new member to fill casual vacancy.</u> Despite interest being expressed in the vacancy no co-option took place.	
	2	<u>Public Forum:</u> The Chairman will adjourn the meeting for a maximum of 15 minutes to allow public participation. Three members of the public were present; no matters were raised.	
	3	<u>Declarations of Interest:</u> Chris Dyke – Greenhill Cottage. Kate Greet – Newsletter expenses. Kate Greet and Rachel Thompson in respect of item 1 ii) Planning – both advised that they operated holiday lets.	
	4	<u>Resolutions relating to the conduct of the Meeting.</u> None.	
	5	<u>Acceptance of the Minutes of previous meetings:</u> Minutes of the meeting held on 3 rd December 2014 were agreed and signed as a true record.	
	6	<u>Matters Arising from the Minutes of the previous meetings:</u> a: Fly tipping – a mattress had appeared at Townsend, clerk to report. b: Fingerpost signs at Nordrach and Townsend – Alan H and Barry Payne (in attendance) agreed to meet to tap out the bolt holes and fix the bolts to stabilise the sign. Details of funding for the Nordrach sign to be advised (if any); Rachel to check with highways. Rachel also to advise Sarah Jackson that, contrary to previous statements the sign at The Castle of Comfort had not been replaced. c: Flooding near Townsend – clerk to pursue with highways. d: Phone box repairs – clerk to speak to Tim Hancock about installing a security light and other measures to be pursued. Alan H to locate fuse-box cover from suppliers other than Unicorn Kiosks. Door from previous box to be fitted when dried out. e: Caravan in Nine Barrows Lane – clerk to report to enforcement.	Clerk AH RT Clerk Clerk AH Clerk
	7	<u>Police Report.:</u> No report.	

8	<p><u>Council Reports:</u> a: Somerset County Council – No report b: Mendip District Council – Tom Killen (in attendance) reported on the contract for Leisure Centres with Fusion which will remove the MDC subsidy; confirmed that the local plan had been adopted, that council tax would be frozen for the coming year and that those who had required housing over Christmas had all been found permanent homes rather than bed and breakfast.</p>	
9	<p><u>Parish Council Matters:</u> a: The New Inn: awaiting developments. b: Parish Plan update: awaiting the next meeting; an appeal for volunteers had been put in the newsletter. c: Other matters: i) Purchase of Flagpole to be located outside Manor House and funding for same: information had been included in the newsletter and a decision would be made at the February meeting subject to comments received. ii) Land registration and access to Greenhill Cottage: clerk was awaiting confirmation from Ian Davison about the proposed exchange of letters. iii) Improving communications between council and Parishioners: a number of responses from the last newsletter had been received and the matter was in hand. iv) Newsletter: this had been completed and distributed.</p>	Clerk
10	<p><u>Committee Business:</u> a: Finance Committee recommendations: i) That existing granted funds totalling £2069 be used for the improvement of Dark Lane to be carried out by D Gibbons Contractors subject to final agreement of the price for the works as proposed. This was agreed; clerk to draft letter to D Gibbons and pass to Rachel for confirmation that the works specified were those agreed verbally. ii) That the precept for 2015/16 be set at £9636 being no increase on the 2014/15 figure. This was agreed unanimously. b: Sheep Fair: Village consultation. Clerk to confirm with Bevis that he will give a report to the meeting proposed for 11th March 2015.</p>	Clerk RT Clerk

11	<p><u>Planning:</u></p> <p>i) Application 2014/2549/FUL – Change of use land to domestic curtilage. Demolition of an existing outbuilding with a replacement single storey annex to provide additional living accommodation for the ground floor flat of Minery House. Minery House, Hill Farm Road, Priddy for Mrs S Wilkins. This was approved unanimously.</p> <p>ii) Application 2014/2521/FUL – Change of use and enlargement of stone barn to dwelling house and erection of two holiday lodges. Willoughby House, Charterhouse BS40 7XW for Mr Stuart Francombe.</p> <p>Much concern was expressed about the application which proposed new build holiday lets on agricultural land contrary to NPP para 115 – Building in AONB’s and the new Local Plan where a strong and exceptional case was required for new buildings in Priddy. The site was also away from the village environment and without transport or amenities. Councillors agreed that an application for the stone barn only would be more acceptable but voted unanimously to object to the current application. Clerk to circulate draft of comments prior to submission to Mendip.</p> <p>iii) Advice of changes to Snowdrop Cottage planning application 2014/2137/OTA discussed at the November 2014 meeting. The change to the “red line” boundary was noted but no further comments made.</p>	Clerk
12	<p><u>Financial:</u></p> <p>a: Clerks salary and expenses for December: 300.90 – This was agreed and a cheque raised.</p> <p>b: Invoice from Hedleys for legal fees: £772.80 - This was agreed and a cheque raised.</p> <p>c: Kate Greet newsletter expenses: £107.99 - This was agreed and a cheque raised.</p> <p>d: Update of Financial Regulations and Internal Control procedures: The clerk outlined the items to be discussed, it was agreed to remove reference to officers duties as the clerk was the only officer and to set £2000 as the reference point for quotations, etc. With these changes the regulations were agreed and would be formally adopted at the next meeting.</p> <p>e: Quarterly financial update: the clerk presented a quarterly update and advised that a councillor who was not a cheque signatory should verify that the accounts balanced and tallied with the bank statements included.</p>	Clerk

13	<u>Correspondence:</u> all email correspondence received has been circulated to councillors, any further correspondence will be available at the meeting. a copy of the Mendip Society newsletter was circulated.	
14	<u>Matters of Report;</u> Simon advised on progress with the youth Twitter and Facebook accounts, to be added to the agenda for future meetings.	Clerk
15	<u>Date and Time of Next Meeting:</u> The next scheduled meeting is on Wednesday 4 th February 2015, 7.30 Priddy Village Hall. It was agreed to hold an extraordinary meeting on 21 st January 2015 before the PARC Committee meeting to deal with planning applications that had been received.	

The meeting closed at 8.55pm.

Alan Butcher,
Parish Clerk,
17th January 2015
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