

PRIDDY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH AMENITIES, RECREATION AND COUNTRYSIDE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 18TH FEBRUARY 2015.

VENUE AND TIME OF THE MEETING: THE HUNTERS LODGE INN, PRIDDY @ 7.30pm

	Present: Rachel Thompson (Chair), Simon Eastham, Alan Hutfield, Kate Greet, Tina Bath, Glenda Collier, Judith Coles; also in attendance Rosie Winch (SWT), Paul Bryan (AONB) and Alan Butcher (Clerk)	
1	<u>Apologies for absence:</u> Robin Maine.	
2	<u>Public Forum:</u> The meeting will be adjourned for 5 minutes to allow public participation. No members of the public were present.	
3	<u>Declarations of Interest:</u> None.	
4	<u>Resolutions relating to the conduct of the Meeting:</u> None.	
5	<u>Acceptance of the Minutes of previous meetings:</u> The minutes of the meeting held on 21 st January 2015 were agreed and signed as a true record.	
6	<u>Matters Arising from the Minutes of the previous meeting:</u> i) Car park adjoining village hall – The planners had advised that their recommendation was for refusal on the grounds of impact on the landscape and the trees at the boundary of the site. They had, however, asked for an updated drawing which had been previously prepared and sent showing litigation works to the tree adjoining the access point. This had been sent and a final outcome awaited. There was a discussion about withdrawing the application but it was noted that the original application had been withdrawn and so there was no advantage of a further withdrawal as another fee would be payable for a revised submission. It was agreed that the process should be allowed to reach its conclusion whichever way the decision went.	
7	<u>Village Greens (Robin Maine)</u> i) Village Greens condition – The lower green was generally in good condition although a vehicle had driven onto the green leaving prominent tyre marks.	

	<p>There were a number of potholes on the area known as the cavers triangle and it was also noted that the section of highway at this point was breaking up and that the white lines had almost disappeared.</p> <p>It was also noted that there were some deep potholes on the gravel area outside The New Inn.</p> <p>ii) Top green restoration – Alan H advised that 15 dragons’ teeth would be required to protect the area above the road at a cost of £20 per 175mm square post plus the cost of fixing in place. A number of members felt that these would be unsightly especially if reflectors had to be fixed to each post as was likely.</p> <p>Judith suggested that consideration should be given to providing a surface such as grass gridding to allow access onto the green and Kate, in support of the idea, advised that the Case Officer at the Open Spaces Society had indicated that such an approach would be “for the better enjoyment of the green.” Rachel advised that the laws governing the village green did not allow this. Alan H noted that the Parish Council had previously received monies to carry out grass gridding but had not proceeded under the threat of legal challenge against which it did not have the resources to defend.</p> <p>A number of other solutions were discussed including placing signs asking drivers not to drive along with one wheel on the green, the signs from the sheep fair could be used for this.</p> <p>It was agreed that Tina would raise the matter with the school as there were only a small number of drivers who persisted in ignoring the request not to drive along the green and that the fencing should be tidied up in the short term.</p> <p>It was also agreed to investigate the cost of purchasing cones to replace the orange fencing currently in place.</p> <p>iii) Village green events in 2015 – The Friendly Society event was on 25th May and there was a proposed pre-school event on 6th June. In addition there was the Folk Festival, Implements sale and hunt meetings later in the year.</p> <p>iv) Pincross land registration – Rachel had spoken to Albert Thompson who was assembling the various documents. She also noted that there was a need to establish a longstanding use of the land as a highway.</p>	
8	<p><u>Highways, Verges and assets</u></p> <p>i) Flagpole – Alan H was preparing a mock-up of the flagpole for the consultation meeting.</p>	

		<p>The question of whether planning permission was required was still to be resolved, clerk to contact planners.</p> <p>ii) Assets register update – in hand.</p> <p>iii) Repairs to telephone box following vandalism – in hand.</p>	
9	<u>Rights of Way, Commons, Open Spaces (Rachel Thompson)</u>	<p>i) Dark Lane restoration project – awaiting D Gibbons to proceed with works.</p> <p>ii) PPLO ROW report – nothing to report.</p> <p>iii) Ubley Drove – Illegal use – the matter had been brought to the attention of the recent PACT meeting and the matter was ongoing with Somerset Rights of Way dept.</p>	
10	<u>The Mineries:</u>	Nothing to report.	
11	<u>Ancient Monuments (Kate Greet):</u>	Nothing to report.	
12	<u>Flora and Fauna</u>	<p>i) Wildflower project - Rosie Winch (in attendance) outlined the proposals for a three year project in three parishes including Priddy run in conjunction with Plantlife to save wildflower meadows for the future. Three people from SWT would be involved and there was funding available. There would be an informal Public meeting on 25th February to involve the community. The projects would involve community land and other training or related events could be organised in the Parish.</p> <p>It was suggested that Coxton End Lane could be used as a possible site and Deer Leap car park and Ubley Drove were also mentioned. It was suggested that a map be marked up with the various areas.</p>	
13	<u>Committee Business:</u>	<p>i) Grass cutting tender process.</p> <p>The clerk advised that he would be seeking tenders from Robin Main, Shepton Mallet Landscapes, Dean DLO; Chris Winter and the company who cut the grass in Cheddar were also suggested.</p> <p>It was agreed that tenders should be based on 10 cuts per year (variable depending on weather, etc) and that they should also include strimming the various areas 4 times per year. Martin Edwards to be asked to quote for strimming as well.</p>	

		Clerk to provide map showing areas to be cut. Clerk to organise pre-tender advertisement to seek additional tenderers.	
	14	<u>Recommendations to the Parish Council:</u> Parish Council to be advised of situation with car park.	
	15	<u>Matters of Report:</u> Tina had spoken to John Dixon who had advised that the pond at Townsend which took run off from the surrounding roads would be unsuitable for wildlife. Rachel was meeting with Neil Corp on 20 th February to discuss the flooding at Townsend and would also raise the matter of the pond. Alan H confirmed that the grit bin had been refilled from stocks and that a small shovel had been provided by the clerk. Simon noted amounts of litter around the village and it was agreed to organise a litter picking event at the end of March.	
	16	<u>Date and Time of Next Meeting:</u> 15 th April 2015; 7.30pm; venue Hunters Lodge Inn, Priddy. Please note there is no meeting in March	

The meeting closed at 9pm.

Alan Butcher
Parish Clerk
26th February 2015
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