

PRIDDY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting
held at the Village Hall at 7:30pm on Wednesday 3rd August, 2016

Present: Cllrs Kate Greet (Chairman), Tina Bath, Alan Butcher, Chris Dyke, Robin Maine, Barry Wilkinson
In attendance: William Newton Newey (Clerk)
One member of the public

PPC16/125 **Apologies for absence**

No apologies had been received.

PPC16/126 **Public Forum**

Nil

PPC16/127 **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.

Cllr Dyke in respect of item PPC16/130a (Land Registration and Greenhill Cottage)

Cllr Dyke in respect of item PPC16/130d (Nordrach Finger Post)

Cllr Maine in respect of item PPC16/130e (Strimming of the Village Green and Other Areas).

The Clerk had received a dispensation request from Cllr Maine, whose family firm held the contract for mowing the Village Green. The Clerk had granted a dispensation for Cllr Maine to advise and give an opinion as to areas to be strimmed and frequency but not to be involved in discussion or votes on contractors. This dispensation was to run for the term of the Council.

PPC16/128 **Acceptance of the Minutes of Previous Meetings**

The minutes of the Council Meeting held on 6th July, 2016 and Extra-Ordinary Council meeting held on 20th July, 2016 were signed as a true and correct record of proceedings.

PPC16/129 **Chairman's Report**

The Chairman informed the meeting of the resignation of Cllr Judith Coles and asked the Clerk to explain the process for advertising a casual vacancy on the Council. The Clerk had contacted the Electoral Services Department at Mendip District Council and posted the notice of vacancy on the Parish Council noticeboard and website. If ten electors had not contacted the Returning Officer at Mendip District Council by 17th August (14 working days from the posting of the notice) requesting an election, Council would be empowered to co-opt to fill the vacancy.

PPC16/130 **Clerk's Report and Continuing Business from Previous Meetings**

a) **Land Registration and Greenhill Cottage**

There was nothing to report and this item was deferred until the September meeting.

WNN

b) **Mendip Farmers Hunt**

The minute from the meeting held on 20th July was read by the Clerk.

Cllr Dyke said that the issue which had not been raised with Mr Pullen at the meeting, that of the hounds running up to people, had got worse. Not only were they straying in the lane by the hunt kennels but were approaching people on the Village Green and public rights of way. In particular she cited an incident where a member of her family had to rescue a pet dog from the hounds, only to have the hounds jump at him as well. Similar instances of the hounds being out of control were cited by other councillors. On the occasions when the hounds were away from the kennels, the Whipper In was described as being ineffective.

Cllr Bath said that she had also heard from farmers that the Hunt were not clearing up faeces when the hounds were on private land.

The Clerk was asked to write to Mr Pullen drawing these issues to his attention.

c) **Replacement Noticeboards and Bus Shelter (Youth Project)**

The Chairman reported that Mr Roberts-Arnold had said that he would be erecting the bus shelter and new noticeboards in mid-September.

WNN

d) **Nordrach Finger Post**

The Clerk reported that he had not heard from the third firm approached for a quotation in respect of manufacturing replacement fingers.

This item was deferred to the September meeting.

e) **Strimming of the Village Green**

A plan showing the areas to be strimmed, prepared by Cllr Maine was tabled.

The areas identified on the plan were agreed with the addition of Townsend and Pelting Drove Gateway Stones, and the triangle between School Hill and the roadway behind Greenhill / St John's Cottage. It was also agreed that an annual cut be made by the boundary walls with New House, St Cuthbert's Farm and the School playing field.

PPC16/131 **Planning**

a) **2016/1783/FUL** Erection of a general purpose agricultural building, Paywell Farm, Paywell Lane, Blagdon, Bristol BS40 7XL

It was noted that the application related to open green space on the opposite side of the lane to the existing farm yard, which was stated as being unable to accommodate the new building. It was thought that the option of converting the existing buildings ought to be considered.

At a vote (none in favour, four against and two abstaining) it was resolved not to support the application as it was on green space on the opposite side of the road from the existing farm buildings.

b) **Lower Pitts Farm**

The approval of retrospective application 2016/1419/FUL and the closure of enforcement case ENF/2016/0065 were noted.

c) **Chew Valley Neighbourhood Plan**

The submission of a neighbourhood plan to Bath and North East Somerset Council by neighbouring parish councils was noted.

PPC16/132 **PARC Committee**

a) It was noted that the meeting of the PARC Committee scheduled for 20th July had not taken place as it was no quorate.

b) Consideration was given to the membership of the Committee as a Councillor and two Non-Councillor members were now required. Cllr Butcher proposed (seconded by Cllr Wilkinson) that the business of the Committee be brought to the September meeting of the Council and that a review of the Committee take place. If the Committee were to continue it could be convened with its revised membership in October. This was agreed unanimously.

WNN

PPC16/133 **Parish Council Matters**

a) **Wireless Broadband**

Cllr Wilkinson explained what appeared to be the current situation with regards to broadband internet connection in Priddy:

- Connecting for Devon and Somerset (CDS) were still in negotiating over contracts and it was not anticipated that any contract would be signed before the end of 2016.
- There was likely to be a significant lead time on any contract under the auspices of CDS (one fibre provider had expressed an interest but was already committed in the south of Somerset)
- BT had estimated £150,000 for supply a suitable connection to the Village, and stated they would retain ownership of the equipment even if funded by others.
- Independently a provider offering a wireless solution had expressed in offering a service in the Parish.
- CDS were offering a connection voucher per property. If 40 properties were to pool their vouchers, Cllr Wilkinson estimated that it would cover the installation costs of an alternative solution.

In relation to the final point, Cllr Wilkinson asked if the Parish Council would be willing to become involved in the support of the efforts to secure a better broadband connection and disseminating information. Cllr Bath asked if this would be a financial contribution and Cllr Wilkinson replied that the only cost would be help with advertising.

Cllr Butcher opined that the issue of poor internet connection was becoming a significant issue, especially in respect of the lack of progress with BT. Cllr Maine expressed the

view that the scattered pattern nature of the parish would continue to make it unattractive to BT.

Cllr Wilkinson said that from the contacts that he and Mr Mantingh had made earlier, 85 individuals had expressed an interest in alternative broadband solutions; the majority of these had agreed to their details being forwarded to providers

It was agreed that Cllr Wilkinson would liaise with the Clerk over the support that the Parish Council could give in advertising the potential wireless solution and disseminating information.

BW
WNN

Cllr Bath advocated the use of Doodle to issue an invitation to any meeting, which would also allow recipients to indicate they were going to attend. The Clerk said that there was functionality in the current email software to request responses.

WNN

Cllr Dyke and the Chairman both advocated the use of flyers and posters at forthcoming village events.

BW

b) **Arrangements for the Implement Sale / rural Crafts Fair (24th September)**

Cllr Dyke reported that contacts had been made and preparations were in hand. Car parking arrangements had been identified. A refreshment tent and bar would be run by the Priddy Parish Church.

PPC16/134

Police Matters

None from the Police.

Cllr Bath reported that she had contacted the Police and Mendip District Council about fly-tipping in the last month which was allied to aggravated trespass. The Police and Mendip District Council were taking action.

PPC16/135

Council Reports

a) **Somerset County Council**

The report circulated to councillors in advance of the meeting was noted.

b) **Mendip District Council**

There was no report as Cllr Killen was not present.

PPC16/136

Financial

a) **District Valuation Service** – the payment of the invoice received from the Valuation Office Agency for £715.92, in respect of the valuation report, was agreed and a cheque raised (signed by the Chairman and Cllr Wilkinson).

b) **Clerk's Expenses** – the Clerk apologised that he had not had time to calculate his expenses. These would be requested at a future meeting.

c) **Notification from Natwest Bank plc regarding negative interest rates**

The Clerk informed the Council that NatWest Bank had sent a notification warning that if interest rates should become negative, they would reserve the right to charge customers' for holding their money. The Council's banking arrangements would be reviewed in the case of this action by the bank.

PPC16/137

Matters of Report

a) **Housing Needs Survey**

Cllr Butcher said that he had not been able to speak to Judith Coles so as to prepare anything and had not been able to attend the session run by Mendip District Council. He undertook to prepare material for discussion at the September Council meeting. It was noted that Community Council Somerset and other organisations were continuing to offer support, financial and practical, for undertaking this type of survey.

AB

b) **Fire Signage**

Cllr Bath reported that she had agreed to collect some signs from the Fire and Rescue Service. These would be passed onto the Waldegrave Estate and Forest Enterprises. Forest Enterprises had reported that they had had to deal with fires in the woodland the previous weekend.

TB

c) **SALC AGM**

The Clerk reported that the AGM of the Somerset Association of Local Councils would be held on 17th September between 09:30 and 15:30. To members from each member council were invited to attend.

WNN

d) **Police and Crime Commissioner Consultation**

Though this consultation had been running since 24th June, the papers from the PCC had only been received in 28th July. A link to the consultation on the PCC's website had been circulated to councillors.

e) **Mendip Hills Fund**

The Chairman drew Council's attention to the fact that bids for this fund closed on 30th September and asked members to consider potential bids for inclusion on the agenda for the next Council meeting.

PPC16/138 **Date and Time of Next Meeting**

The next scheduled meeting: Wednesday 7th September, 2016 at 7:30pm

PPC16/139 **Motion to exclude the Press and Public**

It was resolved to exclude the Press and Public from the final item on the agenda due to the confidential and potential legal implications of the discussion.

The meeting closed at 8:45pm

Signed
(Chairman)

7th September, 2016

William Newton Newey
4th August, 2016
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