

PRIDDY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting
held at the Village Hall at 7:30pm on Wednesday 7th December, 2016

Present: Cllrs Kate Greet (Chairman), Alan Butcher, Chris Dyke,
Robin Maine, Barry Wilkinson (Vice-Chairman)

In attendance: William Newton Newey (Clerk)
2 Members of the Public

PPC16/193 **Apologies for absence**

No apologies had been received.

PPC16/194 **Public Forum**

- a) Miss Tina Bath wished to raise the matter of the additional easement to New House. The Chairman reminded Miss Bath that she had written a letter on behalf of the Council which set out the Council's position and how it was proceeding with the matter. The matter would be the subject of further discussion later in the meeting.
- b) Miss Bath also wanted raise the possibility of raising the verge at Church Farm to prevent further erosion of the verge and reduce the speed of vehicles. She believed there would be no objection from Church Farm provided there was enough room for hay lorries.
- c) Miss Bath asserted that a building was being used a living accommodation without permission. The Chairman said that she had checked on this matter with the Enforcement Team at Mendip District Council in the past but would do so again.
- d) Mr James Head wanted to speak about Traffic Calming measures. He believed that there was still a problem with excessive speeds; his family had recently lost a pet cat in a road collision and a neighbour had recorded a 16 foot skid mark outside his property. Mr Head been in contact with Mr Chris Betty a Highways Engineer at Somerset County Council. Mr Betty was willing to offer help and assistance but it would be for the Parish Council to identify and get agreement to a way forward. Any previous work undertaken was no longer valid and it would be necessary to start from the beginning in terms of surveys and negotiations. A traffic speed limit would need to be in place before any zoning measures could be introduced. A concern was expressed over the increase of signage and Mr Head said that all his discussions had led him to believe there was a national desire to reduce the clutter of many signs. Mr Head concluded by saying that there were other areas in the Parish, in addition to the village centre, which suffered from speeding traffic.

The Chairman thanked Mr Head for his efforts and asked that he remain for the discussion on Traffic Flows and Speed which was to follow later in the meeting.

PPC16/195 **Declarations of Interest**

Members are required to act in accordance with the Priddy Parish Council Code of Conduct adopted 6th July, 2016 (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 declared an interest in agenda items 181a, 181e

Cllr Maine declared an interest in agenda item 188a

PPC16/196 **Acceptance of the Minutes of Previous Meetings**

Miss Tina Bath's title was changed from Mrs and the minutes of the Council Meeting held on 2nd November, 2016 were signed as a true and correct record of proceedings.

PPC16/197 **Chairman's Report**

- a) **Arrangements to Co-opt to Casual Vacancies** – although some interest had been expressed, no one had yet offered themselves for co-option. The vacancies would be advertised in the January Newsletter
- b) **Broadband Advertising** – The Chairman noted that Cllr Wilkinson had used the funds voted at the previous meeting to circulate information about Broadband proposals for Priddy. Cllr Wilkinson said that an announcement was due from BT and Connecting Devon and Somerset (CDS) in December. It was agreed that an update on Broadband provision should be included in the January Newsletter.
- c) **January Newsletter** - The Chairman asked for items for the newsletter. Those mentioned were: Broadband, Noticeboards, Dissolution of PARC Committee, Housing Needs Survey, New House Easement and Traffic Calming.

- d) **Letter from James Heapey MP** – The Chairman had received a letter from Mr Heapey relating to the Local Government funding settlement and referendum proposals in relation to precept increases. This stated that the extension of the referendum requirement would not be happening. The final paragraph was extremely complimentary about parish and town councils and the work they did for their communities.

PPC16/200

Parish Council Matters (I)

c) **Traffic Flows and Speed**

Cllr Butcher reminded the meeting of the previous poll on a 30mph speed limit in the village and the strong opposition there had been based on the need for signage. Cllr Dyke noted that the signage was needed as there were no street lights in the village. Cllr Butcher noted that there had been no objectors in Pelting Drove and reflected on his experience in another place where, after three or four years of discussion, there will still be issues of signage and cost. Cllr Maine thought that a limit of 30mph might not be adequate and 20mph would be better given the types of road.

Cllr Butcher commended the process of painting white lines to create a virtual footpath along roadsides. In other places this did seem to restrict the perceived width of the road and produce a reduction in speed. This approach would need to be discussed with Highways.

The Chairman said that there did appear to be a problem but wondered if people would take notice of a speed limit alone. The previous traffic survey had established that most vehicles in the Village were travelling 30mph or less, though there was a problem with high speeds at specific times and place. She also noted that the legislation said that limits needed to be reasonable.

Mr Head was then invited to contribute to the discussion from his discussions with the Highways Department. A 20mph or 30 mph zone would only be considered in high traffic areas, Priddy only reached this criteria certain peak times. There was a national desire to reduce signage and it might be that the AONB might also have a view on traffic calming measures. Speed limit signs would be spaced at 300m but could be a roundel on the road as well as a sign on a pole (a sign on a pole was only required at the entrance and exit of the speed limit). There were other issues such as verge erosion and the layout of junctions, the Castle of Comfort and Townsend junction being cited respectively. No street lights would be required in a 20mph zone if road humps were installed but these were now considered environmentally unfriendly. Road pinching or narrowing could also be considered but in all cases the speed limit would first need to be in place.

The Chairman asked what had changed since the previous discussion of a speed limit in the Village. The impression exists that there would be opposition to street lights but there might be other options. Mr Head said that he believed the Parish Council needed to enter into a dialogue with the Somerset County Council Highways Department.

Cllr Wilkinson was concerned that Pelting Drove and other roads were gradually increasing in width as pot hole repairs were undertaken at the edge of the road.

It was agreed that the Clerk would write to the Somerset County Council Highways Department raising the issues and concerns discussed.

PPC16/198

Clerk's Report and Continuing Business from Previous Meetings

Cllr Dyke left the meeting having declared an interest

a) **Land Registration and Greenhill Cottage**

The Clerk reported that the unaltered letter had been re-sent to the owners of Greenhill Cottage and that a response had not been received. The Clerk undertook to pursue the matter after the Christmas \ New Year holiday.

WNN

Cllr Dyke re-joined the meeting

b) **Mendip Farmers Hunt**

The Enforcement Officer had visited the Kennels but felt that there was nothing which could be done in respect of planning law. The Officer had passed the matter on to his colleagues in Environmental Health as there might be an issue in terms of a noise nuisance. The Enforcement Officer was also to visit the kennels after dark to ascertain if there was an issue with light pollution.

It was agreed that the noise nuisance diary sheet be posted on the Parish website.

It was noted that the Kennels had been used by a visiting Hunt and there was a concern that the hounds of the visiting hunt were not under control. It was not known what the reason for the visit was but it was suggested that the Huntsman at Mendip Farmer's Hunt had been unwell.

c) **Bus Shelter Noticeboard**

The Bus Shelter with Noticeboards had been completed. The Parish Council (glazed) noticeboard was smaller than anticipated and the Clerk was negotiating for further space for Parish Council notices.

d) **Nordrach Noticeboard**

The Clerk had requested a quote for refurbishing and re-siting the old Parish Council noticeboard at Nordrach.

e) **Nordrach Finger Post**

The Clerk reported that he had heard nothing from Somerset County Council Highways Department, despite asking for the assistance of Cllr Siggs. The Clerk had obtained a quotation from Dorothea Restorations for the refurbishment of the finger post. The quotation was for £8,350 plus VAT.

It was agreed that a locally managed project with cast aluminium fingers from Wards of Bristol would be the best option.

Final agreement was deferred until Cllr Butcher had obtained agreement and price from those who would be approached in connection with the removal and replacement of the post and the shot blasting of the post.

AB

f) **Housing Need Survey**

A partially completed Awards for All application form had been received from Mat Day of Community Council Somerset (CCS). The Clerk would complete the form before returning it to Mr Day. It was agreed that Cllr Butcher would be the named member of the Council on the application.

WNN

Cllr Maine asked what would happen next. The Clerk replied that if the application were successful, CCS would undertake the survey for the Parish Council. If the application were not successful, the Council would have to decide if it could afford to fund the survey.

PPC16/199

Planning

- a) **2016/2606/VRC** - - Application for variation of condition 4 (proposed septic tank and safeguard measures) on planning permission 2010/2009 - Dursdon Drove Farm Dursdon Drove Rookham Wells BA5 3AW

It was noted that this application had been withdrawn

- b) **2016/2738/FUL** -Proposed storage extensions to shower / laundry block and new detached storage shed. Caravan Park Mendip Heights Townsend Priddy Cheddar BA5 3BP. It was noted that the postal address on the application erroneously stated Cheddar as the post town for Priddy.

Council unanimously agreed to support the application

PPC16/200

Parish Council Matters

a) **Wireless Broadband**

Cllr Wilkinson reported that he was aware that 65 vouchers had been issued by Connecting for Devon and Somerset. More might be issued as there was a delay due to the number of applications and the fact that the officer dealing with the applications was on leave.

The Voneous and BT engineers had visited the village and fibre had been ordered. It seemed that it would be delivered to the Townsend cabinet.

b) **Implement Sale and Rural Crafts Fair**

The Clerk had contacted Dr Stephen Banks who had expressed an interest in the fact that the Sheep Fair was no longer being held. Dr Banks had said that he would want to speak to councillors and other interested parties in the village.

It was agreed that the Clerk would invite Dr Banks to attend a Parish Council meeting.

PPC16/201

Parish Path Liaison Officer

No report

- a) Cllrs Wilkinson and Butcher had been to inspect the top of Dark Lane. The only solution to improve the condition of the area would be to dig out the area, and then infill with hard-core with a topping of gravel. Cllr Dyke thought this would be a good use of Council

resources as it would improve access and encourage the use of Dark Lane. Cllr Butcher suggested that a check be made with the Land Registry to confirm the exact course of the path and boundary with adjoining property.

It was agreed that Cllr Butcher would produce costings for the works, to include the hire of a digger and dumper truck.

PPC16/202 **Police Matters**

No report had been received from the Police.

- a) Cllr Maine said there had been thefts of electric fences
- b) Cllr Wilkinson said that the rear door of a pick-up truck had been forced when the vehicle had been parked on the Village Green during a cave rescue.
- c) Cllr Dyke reported that a caravan had been broken into but that nothing had been stolen or damage done.

Council Reports

PPC16/203 a) **Somerset County Council**

There was no report as Cllr Siggs was not present.

b) **Mendip District Council**

There was no report as Cllr Killen was not present.

PPC16/204 **Financial**

The following payments were agreed and cheques drawn:

Cllr Maine left the meeting having declared an interest

- a) Payment re mowing of the Village Green (£672.00) [RP & S Maine]

Cllr Main re-joined the meeting

- b) Payment Grant Thornton re 2015 Audit (£120.00)
- c) Reimbursement of costs associated with promoting take up of CDS Voucher scheme (£83.05) [B Wilkinson]
- d) Reimbursement for replacement Defib Pads (£70.55) [WD Newton Newey]
- e) Payment of registration fee to Information Commissioner (£35.00)

PPC16/205 **Matters of Report**

a) **Top Green: Damage by Vehicles**

Cllr Maine was concerned that this area of the Village Green was being damaged by the incorrect parking of cars. Cllr Dyke was concerned that parking on the track was causing an obstruction. Cllr Maine agreed to put out the bollards on the Green and Cllr Greet would ask for a notice to be put into the School newsletter. Cllr Butcher said that he would laminate some "Keep Clear for Access" signs. If these were successful, the Council could considered a more permanent arrangement.

PPC16/206 **Date and Time of Next Meeting**

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

PPC16/207 **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.

PPC16/208 **New House**

The Council discussed access arrangement to the proposed new dwelling next to New House **and agreed to include a motion as to an additional easement on the agenda for the next Council meeting.**

PPC16/209 **Report from the Personnel Committee**

The meeting received the report form the Personnel Committee.

It was agreed that the Clerk be awarded an additional scale point for having satisfactorily achieved target sin the previous year.

The meeting closed at 9:10pm

Signed
(Chairman)

4th January, 2016

William Newton Newey
17th December, 2016
parish.clerk@priddyparish.org