

PRIDDY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting
held at the Village Hall at 7:30pm on Wednesday 1st March, 2017

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

In attendance: William Newton Newey (Clerk)
Cllr Tom Killen (from 17/43a)
3 Members of the Public

PPC17/036 **Apologies for absence**
Apologies had been received from Cllr Robin Maine.

The Chairman announced that item 17/043i (to authorise the signing of a deed) had been withdrawn as discussions were ongoing between the Council's solicitors and the solicitors representing the other party.

PPC17/037 **Public Forum**
Miss Tina Bath wished to raise an objection in relation to the planning application (2017/0296/FUL) to be considered later in the meeting. Citing the planning application and the documents relating to development and planning in the Village, Miss Bath considered the application to be inappropriate in terms of location and that it would be invasive of the privacy of surrounding properties.

PPC17/038 **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.
None

PPC17/039 **Acceptance of the Minutes of Previous Meetings**
The minutes of the Council Meeting held on 1st February, 2017 were signed as a true and correct record of proceedings.

PPC17/040 **Chairman's Report**

- a) **Co-option to Casual Vacancies** – despite several conversations, nobody had offered themselves for co-option.
- b) **Mendip Parish Forum** – the Chairman and Cllr Dyke had attended the Forum on 8th February. They had raised the topic of incorrect postal addresses on planning applications but there appeared little that could be done to prevent this in future. They had also raised the possibility of being informed of applications, which though they were in a neighbouring parish, were on the boundary of Priddy Parish. The advice had been to liaise with neighbouring councils. The officer to whom fly-tipping should be reported was now Mr James Gilbody. The Chairman and Cllr Dyke had spoken to Mr Andrew Turner of the Highways Department about white lining in Pelting Drove; this could not be planned or estimated until the next financial year. Mr Turner was also investigating means to prevent inappropriate roads being shown on SatNav equipment. Priddy suffered from the fact that Nine Barrows Lane was often shown as the main road into the Village.
- c) **Priddy Sheep Fair** – it was noted that a reference to the Sheep Fair from the Council minutes of November 2016 had been posted on the Romany Heritage Facebook page. This lamented the fact that the Fair was not taking place and that there would be no Romany fair either. The post had received several favourable responses from people in the Village.

PPC17/041 **Clerk's Report and Continuing Business from Previous Meetings**

a) **Noticeboards**
The Clerk reported that the old Parish Council noticeboard had not been collected from outside the New Inn but that Mr Charley Roberts-Arnold had informed him that it would be collected and refurbished. It would be re-erected at the new Nordrach location the week of Monday 6th March. At the same time Mr Roberts-Arnold would be addressing the issue of the new noticeboard on the bus shelter being too small.

b) **Sheep Fair Plaque**

Mr Robarts-Arnold was also planning to create and install the plaque in the week of Monday 6th March.

c) **Dark Lane**

No action had been taken in respect of the works at Dark Lane. Current weather conditions were not conducive to undertaking the works. Cllr Butcher undertook to liaise with Mr Tom Owen.

d) **Arrangements for Mowing and Strimming the Village Green**

The Clerk said that there had been no expressions of interest in respect of the specifications posted on the website and highlighted in the emails announcing Council meetings. He felt that the time had come to make some direct approaches and asked Councillors to let him have any suggestions or contacts.

e) **Priddy Friendly Society Club Day**

The Clerk had received a letter from Mr Mike Brown, Chairman of the Friendly Society, requesting permission to use the Upper Green for children's games and activities in conjunction with the use of the Village Hall on Club Day – 29th May. **Council agreed that the Clerk should write giving permission with all the normal By-Law considerations. It was also agreed that a Priddy Friendly Society Club Day Liaison Committee be established to oversee the outdoor activities.**

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The Clerk was requested to consult the Council's insurers as to cover for this event.

PPC17/042

Planning

- a) **2017/0296/FUL** – Change of use of land from agricultural land to residential curtilage – The Stables, The Batch, Priddy, Cheddar BA5 3BD Cllr Butcher was concerned that the application might set a precedent when taken in the context of the remaining land. Cllr Wilkinson acknowledged that it was only a small piece of ground but it was noted that the refusal of an application to build a house on the same land had been precise in terms of it being in open country. The Chairman thought the photograph included with the application had helped identify the area under application as opposed to the remainder of the paddock but noted that the area lay outside the area for development in the Village Design Statement.

At a vote (three abstentions and one against), it was resolved not to support the application. [The Council wished to remain neutral.]

The Clerk was asked to include the following statement in notifying the result to Mendip District Council, "Whilst not perceived as harmful in itself, there is a concern that a precedent not be set."

- b) The approval the Installation of a Septic Tank at Dursdon Drove Farm (2016/2925/FUL) was noted.
- c) The approval of a storage extension and new detached storage shed at Mendip Heights Caravan Park (2016/2738/FUL) was noted.
- d) The refusal of permission of an extension to the Main House at Higher Eastwater Farm (2016/2989/HSE) was noted.

PPC17/043

Parish Council Matters

a) **Awards for All grant for Housing Needs Survey**

Cllr Butcher reported that a provisional offer of a grant had been made. He would complete the forms to obtain the grant, which would be paid directly to the Council's bank account. Cllr Butcher passed the formal contract paperwork to the Clerk for signature and return by 16th March.

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Cllr Butcher was asked to arrange a meeting with Mr Matt Day of Community Council Somerset to discuss the Housing Needs Survey before the next meeting of the Finance Committee on 15th March. Cllr Butcher believed that 13th March would be the best day and having made arrangements, would circulate Councillors so that those who could attend might be present.

AB

b) **Wireless Broadband**

Cllr Wilkinson reported that the transmitter and communications cabinet had been installed earlier in the day and previously there had been three days of installation at individual properties. All that was now required was the back feed from BT to allow the system to go live. It was noted that a delay on BT's part would risk some properties being left without service as existing contracts expired.

c) **Priddy Spring Clean**

It was noted that the Keep Britain Tidy Spring Clean was to take place 3rd to 5th March but that information had been received too late to allow arrangements to be made locally. Mr Gilbody of Mendip District Council had confirmed that refuse sacks and collection would be available to the Council even though the Priddy Spring Clean was not to take place at the same time as the national event.

It was agreed that the Priddy Spring Clean should take place on Sunday 2nd April.

The Chairman and Cllr Butcher undertook to produce posters and the Clerk was asked to include the event in emails, on the website and to contact the PEW magazine. The Chairman would ask for the event to be included in the School newsletter.

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d) **Road Markings and Priorities at Castle of Comfort Junction**

Cllr Butcher had been contacted by a resident of East Harptree who had narrowly avoided being involved in a car accident at the junction with a car coming from West Harptree. It was noted that there was damage to a boundary wall at this location. Councillors agreed that road markings, signage and priorities could be confusing at the junction.

It was resolved to ask the Clerk to write to the Highways Department to see if all was correct or any improvement could be made.

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e) **Flag Flying on the Village Green**

The schedule of official flag flying days was reviewed.

It was agreed that a Somerset Flag would be flown on Somerset Day – 11th May.

It was noted that the Union flag could not be flown at half-mast unless instructed by Her Majesty's Government.

It was agreed that the Union Flag be flown on Holocaust Memorial Day.

Thanks were expressed to Cllr Butcher for flying the flags.

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f) **Annual Parish Meeting**

The date of the Annual Parish Meeting had been set as the last Wednesday of April in 2016 and had been advertised at the previous Parish Meeting.

The format of reports from the Parish Council and other village groups or bodies followed by Cheese and Wine and a small number of presentations seemed to have worked well. The production of a booklet had also worked well and a number of groups had taken the opportunity to make a display in the Village Hall.

It was agreed to retain the 2016 format with a start time of 7:30pm

The suggested presentations were: Broad Band, Housing Needs Survey and Uses for the funds received for the additional easement at New House.

The Clerk would write to Parish organisations, groups and societies to ask them to submit a report and mount a display.

WNN

g) **Annual Meeting of the Parish Council**

This was confirmed as Wednesday 3rd May, 2017.

h) **South West Regional Conference of Local Councils**

It was agreed that there would be no attendance at the Conference.

i) This item was withdrawn.

PPC17/044

Parish Path Liaison Officer

No report

PPC17/031

Police Matters

a) The January Crime Report for Wells Rural Team area was noted.

Council Reports

PPC17/032

a) **Somerset County Council**

There was no report as Cllr Siggs had sent apologies. Cllr Killen confirmed that Cllr Sigs would be standing down from the County Council at the forthcoming election. He would be remaining as a Mendip Councillor.

b) **Mendip District Council**

Cllr Killen reported that the budget for 2017 / 2018 had been agreed by Mendip District Council and council tax would increase by 1.99%. Further savings of £3m had to be achieved in the next financial year and a transformation programme was in place. A £40m borrowing limit had been agreed to invest in property and assets to ensure a future income stream when central government funding ceased in 2020.

Cllr Killen explained that whilst 100% of the Business Rates that Mendip District Council collected was returned to local government, Mendip only received about 10%. The balance was top-sliced by central government to support local authorities in more deprived areas.

The Shape Mendip Lottery had been launched and would support local charities and organisations.

The Economic Development Team were offering a series of II workshops in Wells during the week of Monday 6th March.

Mendip District Council had agreed support for the "Changing Places" initiative which sought to improve facilities for disabled people. Improvement of toilet facilities beyond basic requirement was seen as a matter of ensuring dignity for individuals.

Mendip district Council had undergone a three-day peer review and would receive the findings shortly.

Cllr Killen told the meeting that he was also a member of the Somerset Rivers Authority. He wanted to dispel the impression that the Authority was only concerned with what happened on the Levels. He cited works to be undertaken on the River Chew between Litton and Chewton Mendip to alleviate flooding.

Cllr Killen offered continued support with matters affecting the parish, such as BT provision of services.

PPC17/047 **Financial**

- a) The Clerk asked Councillors to note the Budget Statement and Bank Reconciliation that the he had circulated in advance of the meeting.
- b) The Payment of the Open Spaces subscription was agreed and a cheque for £45.00 was raised.
- c) The Clerks remuneration for January, February and March was agreed and cheques for £106.80 (HMRC) and £426.80 (Clerk) were raised.

PPC17/034 **Matters of Report**

a) **Hazel Manor**

The Chairman reported that she had received an email from Salmon Planning to say that an application had been made in respect of a new dwelling at Hazel Manor. The email had included copies of the plans and drawing submitted as well as an invitation to a site visit. The meeting felt that it was appropriate to wait for formal notification by the Council before taking any action.

b) **Pincross**

It was noted that resurfacing had been undertaken in the area adjacent to the house at Pincross. The Clerk was asked to write to the occupier of the property thanking them for undertaking the work but noting that permission should have been sought from the Parish Council as this was part of the Village Green. Agreement had been reached with the previous occupant that potholes could be filled subject to permission from the Parish Council.

PPC17/035 **Date and Time of Next Meeting**

The next scheduled meeting: Wednesday 5th April at 7:30pm

The meeting closed at 8:20pm

Signed
(Chairman)

5th April, 2017

William Newton Newey
11th February, 2017
parish.clerk@priddyparish.org