

PRIDDY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH AMENITIES, RECREATION AND COUNTRYSIDE COMMITTEE

HELD ON WEDNESDAY 16TH September 2015

AT THE HUNTERS LODGE INN AT 7.30pm

	Present: Judith Coles (Chairman), Tina Bath, Glenda Collier, Kate Greet, Kate Lawrence, Robin Maine (RM) and Ruud Mantingh (RMh) In attendance: William Newton Newey (Clerk)	
1	<u>Apologies for absence.</u> There were no apologies for absence.	
2	<u>Recruitment</u> JC said that she had not been able to contact Carly but would do so about joining the Committee.	
3	<u>Public Forum</u> No members of the public were present.	
4	<u>Declarations of Interest:</u> Members are required to act in accordance with the Priddy Parish Council Code of Conduct dated 1 st 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. None.	
5	<u>Resolutions as to the Conduct of the Meeting</u> None.	
6	<u>Acceptance of the Minutes of previous meetings:</u> It was noted that the spelling of Ruud Mantingh's name was not consistent throughout the minutes. The correct spelling was noted. Apart from the foregoing, the Minutes of the PARC Committee meeting held on 26th August 2015 were signed as a true record.	
7	<u>Matters Arising and continuing business from previous meetings:</u> There were no matters arising not appearing as agenda items.	
8	<u>Village Greens:</u> a) Hedge at Pincross – The Clerk confirmed that he had written to Mr Walker of St Cuthbert's Farm. b) Top Green - RM was concerned about traffic on the grass. TB said that she had created some new signs and would collect bollards from RM. RM confirmed that the Parish Council had bought 15 bollards so there would be sufficient for Top Green and the Implement Sale. c) Village Green Events - Friendly Society Christmas Tree – KG confirmed that this would be placed on the Green as normal and that extra lights for the Tree and Hurdle store had been obtained. RM repeated the request that the lights should not flash and KG confirmed that this function could be overridden.	TB
9	<u>Highways, Verges and Assets:</u> a) Asset Register update – JC and GC confirmed that the Asset Register had been updated and that the process had suggested some items in need of repair or refurbishment. The Register would need to be reviewed again in November. RMh asked what form the Asset Register took. The Clerk explained that it was not a bound volume but simply a spreadsheet held electronically. The Asset Register could be viewed on the priddyparish.org website.	

	<p>b) Netting for Hurdle Stack – TB confirmed that she had sourced appropriate netting at £48 per roll and thought that 1 roll would be sufficient. A final measurement would be made to ensure correct width was purchased.</p> <p>It was also confirmed that the damage to the netting had been by children and not birds, as some young children had been observed picking at the netting.</p> <p>c) Adoption of Signposts –KG informed the meeting that Somerset County Council Highways had said that they did not have funds to bring the signposts up to an acceptable standard before they were adopted by the Parish Council. They could undertake or instruct such works but would recharge the Parish Council. It was further confirmed that the signposts even if adopted by the Parish Council would remain the property of Somerset County Council.</p> <p>RMh had undertaken a survey of signposts and reported that 10 required refurbishment, 3 required no refurbishment and that one “off parish” should be considered as well. It was agreed that photographs of the signposts would be obtained.</p> <p>SCC Highways had quoted the cost of providing a new signpost at £2,000. JC asked if an adopted signpost was damaged in car accident would it be covered by insurance. This was not thought likely unless a claim was made against the driver of the vehicle.</p> <p>KG said that the recent plan for AONB volunteers to clean signposts had failed due to a lack of the relevant insurance. TB also raised the issue of those who held a certificate to work on the highway but said that if one person in a working party held such a certificate this would be sufficient. It was noted that signposts in Blagdon Parish had recently been cleaned and repaired and it was thought that this might have been with AONB funding from North Somerset Council, ring-fenced for the purpose. It was wondered if the Mendip District Council funding might be so directed. TB undertook to investigate this with councillors in Blagdon.</p> <p>JC and TB suggested that a rolling programme of signpost repair ought to be sought from SCC Highways. To facilitate further discussion it was agreed that KG would arrange a site meeting with SCC Highways. She would be joined by TB and RMh (if able).</p> <p>i. RMh said that he had cleaned the sign indicating the way to the Church and Village Hall but that it was in need of replacement. RM said he was not sure how it had been placed there but it was agreed that its replacement would be useful. It was agreed to include it in the Project List.</p>	
10	<p><u>Parish Council Business:</u></p> <p>a) PPL RoW Report – RMh said that he had completed and returned his registration form to Somerset County Council. He continued surveying Rights of Way and reported problems such as Fly-tipping. KG said that there was a means of reporting Fly-tipping via the Mendip District Council; website.</p> <p>The Clerk undertook to provide an email address for the PPL RoW when he had had an opportunity to discuss IT matters further with Alan Butcher.</p> <p>b) Dark Lane – TB had spoken with Dave Gibbons and this matter was in hand.</p>	WNN
11	<p><u>Ancient Monuments</u></p> <p>None to report.</p>	
12	<p><u>Flora and Fauna:</u></p> <p>a) Seed Collecting and Planting – Seeds had been collected in the Churchyard and Chancellors Farm. Some seeds were already germinating.</p>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> b) Verge Mowing and Management – Nigel Corp had not contacted KG but it was understood that Jake Chant (Somerset Wildlife Trust) was now dealing with this matter. c) Churchyard (Wildflower) Information Board – JC had written to the Parochial Church Council secretary and RM confirmed that there was to be a PCC meeting on 28th September. d) Priddy Pool – TB had contacted John Dixon but had not received a reply. e) Coxton End Lane – It was agreed that there needed to be a management plan for the trees in this area. Again Jake Chant would arrange for some informal advice as a first step. f) Folk Festival Grants – GC wondered if the Parish Council should approach the Folk Festival for a grant toward some of the items discussed. KG said that the bulk of items were already included in the PARC Committee Project List but some new projects could be the subject of such an application, including further projects of a matched funding nature. It was noted that the closure date for applications for Folk Festival Grants was after the next Council Meeting and the meeting of the Finance Committee. 	
13	<p><u>Committee Business:</u> The Committee reviewed the 2015 Project Plan List and made amendments as necessary before agreeing to its submission to the Finance Committee to be held in October.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Lower Green <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Telephone Box – removed as complete. ii. Pincross Registration – this was noted as being dealt with at Parish Council Meetings b) Upper Green <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Signpost to Church, School and Village Hall Replacement – Costed at £500 with recommendation that Clerk be instructed to apply for a grant to Priddy Folk Festival. c) Priddy Parish <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Wild Flower Meadows, Coxton End Lane, Photographic Record Booklet – GC has created a working party and will produce management / project plans. A sum of £1,500 was included in the Projects List but it was noted that a small amount of funding may be available from Somerset Wildlife Trust. ii. Priddy Pool (Phase II) – further expenditure would be funded from funds already made available by the Parish Council and Priddy Folk Festival. iii. Gateway at Townsend – there had been difficulty sourcing stone. TB said that the standard rate was £120 per ton but that she would investigate further. The Finance Committee was asked to consider extra expenditure. iv. Gateway at Hunters / Wells Road – to be included in the 2016 – 17 budget after discussion with residents and SCC Highways. v. Kerbing – £50 was already identified in the Projects List, though it was not clear why this was such a small sum. It was agreed to explore the issue of kerbing for the Nine Barrows Triangle. KG thought that this would be commensurate with the kerbing installed at Pincross. TB suggested that the triangle could be reduced in size but KL was concerned that any widening of the roadway might increase the speed of vehicles. Nine Barrows Triangle and the verges at Church Farm were to be reviewed at the site meeting with SCC Highways. vi. Signposts (Finger Posts) – the possible adoption was to be discussed at the site meeting with SCC Highways. Restoration and repair at Nordrach was proposed as well as a review of other locations. 	

	<p>Alternatives to an annual clean in conjunction with AONB Rangers to be considered. No estimate of costs could be made.</p> <p>d) Charterhouse Funds had been agreed for a noticeboard. Local research and discussion with residents continued as to location of noticeboard, if required.</p> <p>e) Nordrach £750 was included for the cost of a noticeboard. Local discussions again were inconclusive and it was agreed that that matter be discussed at the site meeting with SCC Highways.</p> <p>f) Community Projects Public Rights of Way – it was agreed that ways of sharing footpath routes and other information be included in the Projects List, even though no estimate of cost could be made. GC was to investigate material produced by AONB and the possibility of interactive, electronic mapping was also discussed. Any interactive map could be used for a variety of purposes.</p> <p>There was a brief discussion of Asset Register items needing repair or refurbishment, including the Lower Green Noticeboards.</p>	
14	<p><u>Recommendations:</u> There were no recommendations to Council not included in the Projects List (see item 13)</p>	
15	<p><u>Matters of Report</u></p> <p>a) Soil and Spraying of Area at Lower Green – to be referred to site meeting with SCC Highways</p> <p>b) Rural England - RM had been in contact with Rural England but no reply had been received.</p> <p>c) Invasive Plants - KG reported that there was a contact point on the Mendip District Council website to report the occurrence of invasive plants</p> <p>d) Nine Barrows Lane Flooding – there had been no serious re-occurrence of the problem.</p> <p>e) Walks Leaflets at Charterhouse Centre – GC was to investigate.</p> <p>f) Clearance of Bushes in Eastwater Lane – RMh said that the bushes had encroached so that this no longer had the nature of a drove. It was suggested that the Hunt Kennels or the Ramblers' Association might be approached to help with clearance and JC suggested that it became the subject of a Volunteer Event. It was agreed to include the mater on the agenda for the next meeting of the Committee.</p>	
15	<p><u>Date and Time of Next Meeting:</u> The next scheduled meeting: Wednesday 18th November 2015.</p>	
	<p>The meeting closed at 9:00pm</p>	

Signed

18th November, 2015

William Newton Newey

5th September 2015

parish.clerk@priddyparish.org

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