

PRIDDY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at the Village Hall at 7:30pm on Wednesday 6th December, 2017

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

In attendance: William Newton Newey (Clerk)
Cllr Tom Killen (Mendip District Council)
Cllr Mike Pullen (Somerset County Council)
Five members of the public

PPC17/192 **Apologies for absence**
Cllrs Dyke and Maine

PPC17/193 **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.

Nil

PPC17/194 **Public Forum**

Mrs Lesley Houlton spoke about the arrangements which the Governors had made in respect of Priddy and St Lawrence's Academy Trust. From September 2018 the schools in Westbury-sub-Mendip and Priddy would be turned into centres of excellence on the basis of age group. St Lawrence's Westbury would be for Key Stage 1 (years 1 and 2 and Reception), while Priddy School would be for KS 2 (years 3 and 4). The decision had been made in the face of falling school numbers (predicted as 31 at Priddy in 2019) which could result in single class schools. The plan had already been communicated to parents at both schools and it was planned to make a similar presentation to Westbury-sub-Mendip and St Cuthbert's (Out Parish) Parish Councils in January. Mrs Houlton requested that comments on the plan be made via the Clerk to the Governors at the school.

PPC17/195 **Acceptance of the Minutes of Previous Meetings**

The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 1st November and the Extra-Ordinary Council on 15th November, 2017 were signed as a true and correct record of proceedings.

PPC17/196 **Chairman's Report**

The Chairman reminded Councillors that a Newsletter was due in January. There were items on the agenda which she thought councillors would want to include but asked Cllr Wilkinson if he would contribute a short article about Broadband in Priddy. It was also agreed that the School changes should appear in the Newsletter.

Cllr Butcher noted that there had been two vacancies on the Council for some time and he felt that the Newsletter should contain an appeal for those who might consider co-option. The Chairman said that the fact that there were vacancies had been advertised on the website and were included in the Parish Council's emails.

The Clerk was asked to approach Mendip District Council to see if any advice on recruitment could be obtained.

WNN

There were no items for report that were not covered elsewhere on the agenda.

PPC17/197 **Clerk's Report and Continuing Business from Previous Meetings**

a) **White Lining in Pelting Drove**

There was nothing further to report except that Cllr Pullin continued to support the request.

b) **Mendip Farmers' Hunt Boxing Day Meet**

Agreement to the use of the Village Green for the Boxing Day Meet was agreed nem con. It was further agreed that use would be after liaison and at the direction of Cllr Maine.

RM/
WNN

c) **Verge Protection – Specification for Village Green at Manor Farm**

The Clerk reported that four tenders had been received in response to five invitations to tender. These had been opened in the presence of Cllrs Butcher, Wilkinson and Greet and were currently being evaluated.

d) **Chairman and Vice-Chairman of Mendip Hills AONB**

A person specification for the roles of Chairman and Vice-Chairman to work with the AONB for a minimum of two years had been circulated.

It was agreed that invitation to express interest and person specifications these should be posted on the Parish website.

WNN

PPC17/198

Planning

- a) **2017/3014/FUL** - Dismantling of a redundant lattice communications tower, demolition of associated switch gear/ mess room building and the erection of new dwelling and detached garage/ B1 business building Communication Station Hill Farm Road Priddy Cheddar Somerset

As the changes in the plans represented a small change (extension) to the plans which had already been approved, **It was resolved (unanimously) to support the application.**

WNN

PPC17/199

Finance Committee

- a) To note the minutes of the Finance Committee held on 29th November 2017
The minutes were noted as draft.

- b) **To set a budget of Budget for 2018 / 2019 of £9,800 (£6,345 revenue, capital £3,455)**
The Clerk explained that the basis for setting the budget had been a 1% increase in costs adjusted to reflect anticipated outturn on 2017 / 2018 where this was significantly different from the budget. The largest increase was in respect of Village Green Maintenance.
It was resolved to set the budget as recommended by the Finance Committee.

- c) **To note an outline budget forecast for 2019 / 2020 of £9,898 and for 2020 / 2021 of £9,997**

The Clerk explained that the budget forecasts had been made on the same basis as used for setting the 2018 / 2019 budget. The only additional item was a provision for Election costs in 2019.

It was resolved to note the budget forecasts.

- d) **To agree project funding of £3,000 for a new parish website**

Cllr Butcher was concerned that this project budget was one third of the annual precept proposed for 2018 / 2019. He would have preferred to have been asked to vote on proposed expenditure against a specification and a forecast of initial and ongoing costs. He was further concerned that the Council should not become tied to a particular provider or into system that it would become obsolete. Cllr Wilkinson said that the project budget was a commitment to the project not authorisation of expenditure. The Clerk said that he would ensure that any website would be future proofed, transferable to another host and upgradeable.

At a vote (2 in favour and 1 abstaining), project funding of £3,000 was agreed.

- e) **To agree a precept for 2018 / 2019 of £9,800**

The Clerk noted that the Precept would remain unchanged from 2017 / 2018.

It was resolved to set the Precept for 2018 / 2018, as recommended by the Finance Committee, at £9,800.

PPC17/200

Parish Council Matters

- a) **Affordable Housing Development**

- i. **Feedback from meeting with Mendip District Council (Friday 1st December)**

The Chairman, Cllrs Dyke and Wilkinson had met with Nina Richards, Roisin McDermott of Mendip District Council and the Chairman had had a telephone conversation with Cllr Maine before and after the meeting. It had been a positive meeting but the officers had stressed the fact that the Parish Council should encourage anybody interested to register with Somerset Home finder. There would be a need to identify rural exception sites which Mendip District Council would appraise. The development of affordable housing would take time. The Housing Enabling team had offered to provide some text which could be included in the next Parish Newsletter, which the Chairman said she would circulate when received.

WNN

- ii. **Statement on Affordable Housing (Addendum to Village Design Statement)**

The Chairman read a draft statement which she proposed be an addendum to the Village Design Statement which, though a number of years old, was still referred to by the Parish and Mendip District Councils.

Given the number of Councillors absent from the meeting it was resolved to defer discussion to the January meeting of the Council.

b) **Replacement of the Defibrillator**

Cllr Wilkinson reported that the new defibrillator had been received and placed in the phone box. The code for the box containing the defibrillator had been given to neighbouring houses and included in the email notification of the Council meeting. It would be included in the PEW magazine.

While, the defibrillator is automatic, and recorded announcements guide the use of the unit, it had been agreed that some training would help make people more confident in using the defibrillator. Cllr Wilkinson had found a BHF nurse who would be prepared to train six people at a time and would arrange some sessions.

BW

c) **Registration of Pincross**

Cllr Butcher said that the matter was in hand, though he was still finding it difficult to contact the department at Somerset County Council.

AB

d) **Nordrach Finger Post**

Cllr Butcher reported that the fingers had been made and that they would be installed when the refurbishment of the finger post was undertaken early in 2018.

e) **Townsend Pool**

The Chairman, Cllrs Dyke and Wilkinson had made a site visit with Mrs Hobbs. It was agreed that it would be good to tidy the pond as it was at the entrance to the village. Cllr Wilkinson thought that water could come from the road gullies, though it was still not clear how long the water would be retained by the pond. Further investigation would require the bottom of the pond to be dug out. It was noted that there had been a reptilian project in the AONB which had looked at other dew ponds. It was agreed that an article be included in the Parish Newsletter asking residents to help with the project and make suggestions as to what should be done.

BW / KG

f) **Mendip Local Plan Part II – Proposed Local Green Spaces**

It was noted that the proposed Local Green Spaces were a nominated by the Parish Council and included Pincross.

PPC17/201

Police Matters

No report had been received.

PPC17/202

Council Reports

a) **Mendip District Council**

Cllr Killen reported that Mendip District Council was in a relatively healthy position for the removal of central government support in 2020. Steps which had been taken included outsourcing and investment in commercial property from which income rental would be invested in local communities.

There would be free parking from 20th to 25th December and unrestricted parking in council car parks. Wells would again host a Christmas Market from 20th to 23rd December and would feature 8 to 10 wooden cabins as an experiment.

Cllr Killen noted in terms of Economic Development that the Local Plan Part II included residential development and for an allowance to increase opportunities for employment. Support continued to be provided for business start-ups and small / medium enterprises. Workshops were being offered on digital media and the General Data Protection Regulation.

The Planning Department had been able to recruit new staff and was now back to full strength.

Discussions continued about a combined authority for Devon and Somerset. A joint committee would focus on improving productivity and infrastructure projects. The combined authority would be a means of gaining central government funding.

Fly-tipping continued to be an issue and a number of lane closures had been made in the Frome area to reduce the tipping. The clearance of tipped items in Priddy seemed to be very efficient.

i. Cllr Butcher asked Cllr Killen if the Mendip Local Plan was to be revised due to central government's request for 40% more housing in Mendip. Cllr Killen felt that officers

would be reviewing Part I of the plan after Part II had been published in 2018. Further residential development was being considered to ensure that viability and sustainability of rural communities. Some communities were already swamped with new developments whilst others had seen little or none. The AONB need not be an obstacle to any development; sensitive developments which delivered the needs of the local community had been achieved in National Parks and other AONBs. The Chairman noted that the lack of a frequent bus service had, in the past, counted against further development in Priddy.

b) **Somerset County Council**

Cllr Pullin reported that was in contact with the Highways Department about white lining in Pelting Road. He hoped to make a visit with a highways officer and it was confirmed that the Parish Council was prepared to pay for the white lining.

The latest Ofsted report on Children and Young People's Services had noted an improvement.

Adult Social Care was working towards promoting independence.

Road Safety statistics showed that the County's roads were safer than they ever had been with fewer accidents, even though there had been a rise in fatalities.

PPC17/203

Financial

- a) To receive a Bank Reconciliation – the reconciliation was noted.
- b) To authorise payment of Information Commissioner's Office registration fee 2017 / 2018 (£35.00) – **the payment was authorised and a cheque raised.**
- c) To authorise payment of Clerk's Remuneration [WD Newton Newey] for October, November and December (£545.35) – **the payment was authorised and cheques raised (HMRC £109.20, WD Newton Newey £436.15)**
- d) To authorise payment for Defibrillator [Cardiac Science] (£918) – **the payment was authorised and a cheque raised.**

PPC17/204

Matters of Report

a) **Priddy Pool / Dark Lane**

Cllr Wilkinson reported that a number of Land Rovers had attempted to traverse Dark Lane; parts of a Land Rover had been found in the Lane. The Chairman would check Priddy Pool to see if it had been damaged. It was confirmed that Dark Lane was a restricted bridle way and might need further protection at the Payne's Green end of the Lane.

KG

b) **Mendip Local Plan**

Cllr Butcher requested that a review of Mendip Local Plan be included as an agenda item in the New Year.

c) **Western Power Distribution / New Inn**

The Clerk reported that a request had been received from Western Power Distribution to dig a trench across the Village Green from the pole next to the telephone box to the New Inn boundary. This was to allow the electrical supply to be subterranean. As no objection was raised, the Clerk said that he would confirm agreement to Western Power Distribution on the basis that full reinstatement was made.

WNN

d) **Visit to the New Inn**

The Chairman said that she would contact Mr Sage about a proposed visit by councillors to the New Inn and would circulate a date.

KG

PPC17/205

Date and Time of Next Meeting

The next scheduled meeting: Wednesday 10th January at 7:30pm

The meeting closed at 8:54pm

Signed
(Chairman)

10th January, 2018

William Newton Newey
20th December, 2017
parish.clerk@priddyparish.org