

PRIDDY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at the Village Hall at 7:30pm on Wednesday 10th January, 2018

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

In attendance: William Newton Newey (Clerk)
Cllr Mike Pullen (Somerset County Council) [from item PPC18/007e]
Three members of the public

PPC18/001 **Apologies for absence**
None

PPC18/002 **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

PPC18/003 **Co-option to fill Casual Vacancy**

Mr Gilad Oren had sent his apologies that he could not attend as he was working. He had confirmed that with notice he could so arrange his shifts to attend Council meetings. In the absence of Mr Oren, his co-option was deferred to the February meeting of the Council. The Clerk reported that he had received another expression

PPC18/004 **Public Forum**

No matters were raised by the members of the public.

PPC18/005 **Acceptance of the Minutes of Previous Meetings**

The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 6th December, 2017 were signed as a true and correct record of proceedings.

PPC18/006 **Chairman's Report**

a) **Parish Newsletter**

The Chairman had circulated a draft Parish Newsletter. Revisions were discussed and the final text and content agreed.

It was noted that there were new residents in the Parish who would not be included in the email distribution list. It was agreed that paper copies would be produced for delivery to the homes which had recently seen a change of owner / occupier.

The subject of the General Data Protection Regulations, which would come into force in May 2018, and the records held by the Council was raised. This would need to be discussed by the Council at a future date.

b) **Clerk's Review**

The Clerk's Review had been circulated to Councillors. Objectives had been set for the Clerk in respect of completing the CiLCA qualification and the creation of a new Parish Website.

It was resolved to increase the Clerk's remuneration by one scale point.

PPC18/007 **Clerk's Report and Continuing Business from Previous Meetings**

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

The Clerk said that the Police had noted an unsubstantiated report of a fox being chased on Boxing Day. The Hunt meet itself had passed with little or no comment being received. Cllr Maine reported that there had not been much damage to the Green, most impact being where horses and riders had taken a jump onto the Green.

The Clerk stated that thanks had been received from the Hunt for the use of the Green and that an offer to roll the Green had been made. Cllr Maine said that it was probably better that he undertook this as he would be able to choose the most opportune time.

RM

b) **Invitation to Training evening by the Chairman of the Planning Board Mendip District Council**

The date and venues were noted. Cllr Butcher, the Chairman and the Clerk said that they intended attending the Training at Glastonbury on Thursday 15th March.

WNN

c) **The Great British Spring Clean (2nd to 4th March, 2018)**

It was noted that events in Priddy had often been held later than the National Event.

It was resolved to hold a Spring Clean in Priddy on Sunday 4th March at 10:00am (meeting at the Hurdle Stack).

WNN

Cllr Butcher would check the equipment that he held. It would be necessary to contact Mendip District Council about collection arrangements.

AB
WNN

d) **Dementia Friendly Mendip Steering Group (17th January, 2018)**

Details had been circulated to Councillors and it was agreed that individual councillors would respond directly if they wished.

e) **Mendip Parish Forum (18th January, 2018)**

Councillors were encouraged to attend the Forum. The Clerk confirmed that he would be attending.

f) **Growing a Rural Community Survey – Mendip**

Details of this online survey had been circulated to Councillors.

It was resolved that the Clerk would complete the survey on behalf of the Council and that councillors should make comments or specific responses to the Clerk before 31st January.

g) **Somerset Waste Board Briefing**

It was noted that this had been circulated to councillors and had been a topic at the last Mendip Parish Forum.

PPC18/008

Parish Council Matters

a) **Mendip Local Plan Part II Consultation**

Notice of the Consultation had been circulated to councillors. The Chairman thanked Cllr Butcher for the extract he had made of sections relevant to the Parish, which had also been circulated to councillors.

Cllr Butcher noted that Priddy now had shops which was not shown in the Plan document. He also felt that the building of houses in the village was implied by the shortfall in the Plan total and the quota allocated to Mendip by central government. Cllr Wilkinson felt there were some internal contradiction in the Plan. The Chairman noted that the Local Plan Part II was to be a topic at the Parish Forum on 18th January.

Open Spaces had been considered at the December meeting and no changes were required. Cllr Butcher thought that inclusion of the self-build policy was interesting. Cllr Pullin urged the Council to make a careful study of the consultation draft of the Plan and to make a suitable response as the plan would be key to future developments and planning.

It was resolved that a further discussion take place at the February Council meeting and a response prepared for submission before deadline on 12th February,

WNN

b) **Statement on Affordable Housing Development (addendum to VDS)**

It was resolved to agree the following as an addendum to the Village Design Statement.

In response to the Housing Needs Survey of July 2017, Priddy Parish Council will

- 1 Look to support the development of further sites in the Parish that meet the specific needs of people with a local connection.
2. Support open market or affordable housing as appropriate.

The following priorities were identified in the survey:

- 2 bedrooms, possibly 3 bedrooms are preferred.
- Older people, young people and local families. Adaptations may be needed for older people.
- Affordable homes for people with local connections, renting or possibly discounted or shared ownership.
- Conversions, infill, brownfield sites, small sites, preferably not individual plots.
- Traditional cottage/house design, possibly eco-friendly. Two storeys with two off-street parking spaces, gardens.
- Protecting the character of village.

The statement would be included on the Parish website.

WNN

c) **Registration of Pincross**

Cllr Butcher noted that the area at Pincross had been included amongst the Public Open Spaces in the Mendip Local Plan. Registration was still ongoing.

AB

d) **Nordrach Finger Post**

Cllr Butcher reported that the post had been refurbished and the fingers installed. Appreciation of the refurbishment had been received from a resident. It was noted that collars had only been fitted to the posts which the Mendip Hill AONB had refurbished.

e) **Townsend Pool**

The pool required clearance, possibly the use of a digger, and the drainage from the road also needed to be cleared or a new pipe installed. It was thought that the pool would not retain water for long. Cllr Butcher felt that the water, being highway runoff, would not be that good for supporting any flora or fauna. Further discussion was deferred until better weather for works to be undertaken.

BW

The Chairman reminded the meeting that Priddy School were to undertake wild flower planting at Priddy Pool and that a dipping platform would be constructed.

f) **Defibrillator Monitoring and Accreditation**

Cllr Wilkinson confirmed that the defibrillator was in place and was registered with South West Ambulance Service Trust (SWAST). As with the previous registration a monthly check and online return were required. An additional requirement by SWAST was a daily check of the unit to make sure that the green service light was showing. It was agreed that a hole be drilled in the cabinet door so that the service light could be seen without opening the cabinet. Cllr Wilkinson was seeking volunteers to undertake the daily check as this would not always be possible; he would continue with the monthly check.

BW

Cllr Wilkinson confirmed that training in respect of basic life support and the use of the defibrillator would be made available, free of charge, to any resident who wanted to avail themselves of the training. He suggested that a donation in respect of pads used during Training might be appreciated.

BW

PPC18/009

Police Matters

A report from PCSO Nikki Housley was noted.

PPC18/010

Council Reports

a) **Mendip District Council**

Cllr Killen had sent apologies as he was attending another meeting in Wells. There was a brief discussion of Mendip District Council' borrowing and investment policy to fund services with Cllr Pullin.

b) **Somerset County Council**

Cllr Pullin reported that it was likely that the crossroads at the Miners Arms was likely to be the subject of a major improvement scheme. In the meantime, he had persuaded the Forestry Commission to cut back trees at the junction to improve visibility.

Cllr Pullin raised the issue of pedestrians on Priddy Road approaching the junction with the A39. The road was dark and had no pavement for those using the bus stops. He wondered if the Parish Council could write to highways to seek improvement. It was noted that the section of Road was not in the Parish but the Council thought that it would not be inappropriate to write as this could impact on residents.

WNN

Cllr Pullin was concerned about marshalling at the Boxing Day meet of the Mendip Farmers Hunt; he felt that spectators were too close to the horses as they made the jump at St Cuthbert's Farm. The Council did not feel that this was their responsibility and Cllr Pullin said that he would contact the Chairman of the Hunt directly.

There was concern that the weight restriction signs which had been covered during the recent roadworks at Green Ore had not been uncovered. The Clerk was asked to write to Mr Neil Corp of Somerset Highways, though it was noted that Cllr Wilkinson had already made contact.

PPC18/011

Financial

- a) **To receive a Bank Reconciliation** – the Clerk reported that an unauthorised payment had been made from the current account and that this had been raised with the bank. He also reported that the payment to RP & S Maine had been incorrectly recorded in the minutes of 6th December (the correct amount was £170.00).

- b) **To authorise payment of invoice for Arnold Baker on Local Council Administration Tenth Edition (£143.00) [Lexi Nexis]** – the Clerk explained that the invoice was for two copies but that he had remitted the cost of one copy to the Council – **the payment was authorised and a cheque raised.**
- c) **To authorise payment of hosting for Parish Website (£107.92) [Alan Butcher]** – the Clerk explained that, in common with companies of the same type, the hosting company would not accept cheques as payment and that Cllr Butcher had undertaken to make payment from his own account electronically – **the payment was authorised and a cheque raised.**

PPC18/012 **Matters of Report**

a) **Priddy Pool / Dark Lane**

Further to the report that a number of Land Rovers had attempted to traverse Dark Lane from its upper end, it was thought that another tree trunk to restrict access might be a suitable solution. Cllr Maine offered to move any tree trunk and Cllr Wilkinson undertook to review the situation.

RM
BW

b) **Top Green**

Cllr Maine was concerned about the condition of the Top Green after its use for car parking. A number of comments had also been received. Cllr Butcher was concerned that any use of grasscrete or a plastic alternative might alter the surface of the Green which was counter to the nineteenth century law governing village greens. Further discussion was deferred to the Finance Committee meeting.

c) **Additional Easement – new dwelling at New House**

The Clerk reported that the Council's solicitors had informed him the other party was now ready to complete the deed. The situation remained unchanged from when the Council had completed the deed.

WNN

PPC18/013 **Date and Time of Next Meeting**

The next scheduled meeting: Wednesday 7th February at 7:30pm

The meeting closed at 8:53pm

Signed
(Chairman)

7th February, 2018

William Newton Newey
17th January, 2018
parish.clerk@priddyparish.org