

PRIDDY PARISH COUNCIL

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

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

In attendance: William Newton Newey (Clerk)
Cllr Tom Killen (Mendip District Council)
Cllr Mike Pullen (Somerset County Council) [from item PPC18/020c]
Three members of the public

PPC18/014 **Apologies for absence**
None

PPC18/015 **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

PPC18/016 **Co-option to fill Casual Vacancy**
Mr Gilad Oren was unanimously co-opted to serve on the Council.

PPC18/017 **Public Forum**
No matters were raised by the members of the public.

PPC18/018 **Acceptance of the Minutes of Previous Meetings**
The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 10th January, 2018 were signed as a true and correct record of proceedings.

PPC18/019 **Chairman's Report**

a) **Mendip Parish Forum**

The Chairman and Clerk had attended the Forum. Topics covered were the Mendip Local Plan Part II, Spark and Ageing Well in Mendip.

b) **Planning Briefing**

The Chairman and Cllr Wilkinson had attended the Mendip District Council Planning Briefing in Frome. Topics covered included National Planning Practice, Material Issues in relation to applications, Section 106 contributions to local infrastructure and projects. It was noted that the Enforcement Team only had statutory responsibility to investigate infringements and legal action would only be taken where there was demonstrable harm. There would be another session at Glastonbury on 15th March and attendance was commended to councillors who had not yet attended a session.

c) **Parish Newsletter**

Paper copies of the Newsletter had been distributed to properties which had new occupants and placed in shops and pubs. There had been no feedback on the Newsletter.

PPC18/020 **Clerk's Report and Continuing Business from Previous Meetings**

a) **Village Green Kerbing at Manor Farm**

The Clerk reported that the contractor's costs would include traffic control but not fees or licence costs. A Licence is issued in accordance with the Highways Act 1980 (Section 171), Road Traffic Act 1984 (Section 65) and Environmental Protection Act 1980 (Section 34) would cost £90 without Planning Permission or £250 with Planning Permission. The fee for Traffic Lights would be £28.50.

The Finance Committee Clerk had asked the Clerk to contact the contractor regarding a different type of kerb from that shown in the tender specification. The Clerk had been unable to identify the type of kerb required and Cllr Maine was asked to supply details from the stock of kerbs that he held from the last works on the Green.

b) **Heavy Good Vehicles and Weight Restrictions**

The Clerk had received an email from a resident expressing concern about heavy goods vehicles passing through the Village. It was thought that this might be due to the suspension of weight restrictions associated with the road works at Green Ore and the failure to uncover all restriction signs. It was noted that all roads into the Village were already covered by

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restrictions and that further signage would be considered unnecessary. The Clerk was asked to reply to the correspondent.

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

Cllr Butcher said that he had four functioning pickers and that he would produce a poster advertising the event. The Chairman said that she would arrange to borrow high visibility vests from Priddy Friendly Society and buy some heavy duty sacks. The Chairman would also investigate the possibility of serving refreshments. The Clerk would contact the PEW magazine and advertise the event on the parish website.

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d) **Growing a Rural Community Survey**

The Clerk confirmed that he had completed the survey on behalf of the Council, including comments received from councillors.

e) **Somerset Waste Board Briefing**

It was noted that various briefings had been circulated to councillors.

f) **Spark forum for Mendip Voluntary and Community Groups**

Details of this event on Friday 16th February were noted. Cllr Oren said that the Pre-School had benefited from advice and support provided by Spark. The Clerk was asked to circulate details to the School, PTA and Monday Club.

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PPC18/021

Planning

- a) **2017/3033/FUL** Change of use to Holiday Let (Retrospective) Hill View Farm, Plummers Lane, Priddy, Wells, Somerset

It was resolved unanimously to support the application.

PPC18/022

Finance Committee

- a) The minutes of the of the meeting held on 24th January, 2018 were noted including the fact that the meeting was just quorate and that the Clerk had not been present due to ill health.

b) **To Adopt a revised Asset Register**

The review of the Register undertaken by the Chairman and submitted to the Finance committee was discussed. It was thought that the Sheep Fair items (hurdles, road signs and fencing) were stored at Warren Farm and Cllr Wilkinson agreed to confirm this on his next visit to the Farm. The Sylvester Speed Bench was still at Manor Farm awaiting repair and Cllr Maine undertook to research this further. Cllr Butcher confirmed his willingness to clean / repaint the Priddy Stones in the spring. It was noted that the notice board at the Fountain was in a poor state of repair and the Clerk was asked to obtain costs for replacement.

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As there was still uncertainty about several items a further review of the Asset Register was referred to the Finance Committee

c) **To resolve on the removal of the bench at Two Trees for safety reasons**

Cllr Butcher said that he would be willing to remove the bench and consult Somerset Forge to see if it was capable of repair.

It was resolved to remove the Bench and consult Somerset Forge as to its repair.

PPC18/025

Council Reports

b) **Somerset County Council**

Cllr Pullin reported that that the latest Ofsted inspection of Children Services had adjudged them as "Good" though there was still improvements to be made.

Signage and road marking improvements had been made at the Miner Arms crossroads. Cllr Pullin believed that the junction itself was likely to be altered to make it a staggered crossroad.

A visit to Pelting road had been made by Cllr Pullin and a highway engineer. The engineer's report was not supportive of white lining. Factors included, the lack of central white line, likely to compromise road use in foggy conditions, there had been no reported injuries or accidents, traffic flows were low and it was used mainly by local people who knew the road, there was no speed limit on the road and that it might set a precedent. Furthermore though the initial costs would be £1,000, it was unlikely there would be funds in the County Council budget for future renewal or re-instatement.

c) **Mendip District Council**

Cllr Killen reported that the District Council's budget would be considered by the Council later in the month. In common with most councils there would be an increase in Council tax. Investment in commercial property continued, including a distribution centre in Chepstow and a retail park in Swindon.

Nominations for Mendip Business Awards would close on 23rd February.
The District Council was starting its pre-submission review of it Local Plan Part II and would start a review of Part I later in the year.

PPC18/023

Parish Council Matters

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

The Chairman told the meeting that it had been indicated that there was flexibility in terms of submissions and that those submitted after 12th February would be considered. It was noted that the central government quota for new housing in Mendip related to part I of the plan. References to self-build and exception sites were relevant to Priddy and the results of the Housing Needs Survey had indicated that there was a demand in Priddy. This would be included in the response to the part II consultation. The statement that there were no shops in Priddy, when there were in fact three, would be addressed.

Cllr Butcher offered to draft a response which he would circulate to councillors for agreement. It would then be submitted by the Clerk by 12th February.

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b) **Registration of Pincross**

Cllr Butcher had started the process but it remained a work in progress.

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c) **Townsend Pool**

Cllr Wilkinson reported that a call for volunteers had produced one response. These works would need to be undertaken when the weather improved but before growth of vegetation started.

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d) **Arrangements for 2018 Annual Parish Meeting.**

The Annual Parish Meeting had been held on a separate evening from the Annual Meeting of Parish Council for a couple of years. It was thought that this had not been successful in 2017.

It was resolved that the Annual Parish Meeting be held on Wednesday 2nd May before the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council.

After further discussion it was agreed that the Annual Parish Meeting would be held at 7:00pm to be followed by refreshments and that the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council would be held at 8:00pm.

The Clerk was asked to contact Village organisations, including the newly formed Line Dancing Group, to invite them to submit reports or put up a display for the Annual Parish Meeting.

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PPC18/024

Police Matters

No report had been received and no matters were raised.

PPC18/026

Financial

- a) **To receive a Bank Reconciliation** – the Clerk apologised that there was no reconciliation as the bank statement had not been received and he had not had time to visit the bank for a transaction statement.

PPC18/027

Matters of Report

a) **Priddy Village Hall**

Cllr Dyke reported that the Village Hall Committee had been advised to ensure it had appropriate booking details from Parish Hall users. The Clerk said that he would complete the paperwork on behalf the Council

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b) **Voneous and Gigaclear**

Cllr Wilkinson reported that Voneous, who had provided a wireless broadband service in the Village, had signed a contract with Gigaclear to provide fibre broadband in the locality. They had contacted him about holding an evening, possible in a public house, to inform residents of the potential offering. Details would be included on the Parish Website and in Council emails but on the basis that other internet service providers might be available.

c) **Grasscrete or other measures at Top Green**

Cllr Butcher requested that the subject of installation of grasscrete or similar material at Top Green to provide sustainable parking be included on the agenda of the next Council meeting.

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d) **Pot Hole on the Village Green**

Cllr Oren reported that a large pothole had appeared in the road which ran in front of the New Inn. The Clerk was asked to report this pothole.

PPC18/028

Date and Time of Next Meeting

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

The meeting closed at 8:55pm

Signed
(Chairman)

7th March, 2018

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

Draft for Comment

Initialed