

PRIDDY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council
held at the Village Hall at 8:00pm on Wednesday 2nd May, 2018

Present: Cllrs Kate Greet (Chairman), Chris Dyke, Alan Butcher, Mark Leach, Robin Maine, and Gilad Oren

In attendance: William Newton Newey (Clerk)
Six members of the public
Cllrs Tom Killen (Mendip DC), Mike Pullin (Somerset CC)

PPC18/057 **Apologies for absence**

Nil

PPC18/058 **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

PPC18/059 **Election of Chairman for 2018 – 2019**

Cllr Greet was proposed by Cllr dyke and seconded by Cllr Wilkinson. Cllr Butcher felt that, as 2019 was an election year, Cllr Greet should not stand for election to allow a new chairman a full year in office. After a discussion of the fact that Cllr Greet might not complete a year in office before moving from the village, Cllr Butcher was proposed by Cllr Leach.

At a vote, Cllr Greet was elected as Chairman.

PPC18/060 **Election of Vice-Chairman for 2018 – 2019**

Cllr Wilkinson was proposed by Cllr Greet and seconded by Cllr Dyke. There were no other nominations.

At a vote, Cllr Wilkinson was elected as Vice-Chairman.

PPC18/061 **Confirmation of Proper Officer**

Mr William Newton Newey (Clerk) was confirmed as the Proper Officer of the Council

PPC18/062 **Confirmation of Responsible Financial Officer**

Mr William Newton Newey was confirmed as the Responsible Financial Officer of the Council.

PPC18/063 **Appointment of Internal Auditor**

Mrs Pamela Lloyd was re-appointed as Internal Auditor.

PPC18/064 **Appointment of Parish Council Committees and Confirmation of Terms of Reference**

The Terms of the reference for the Finance Committee were confirmed and it was noted that all councillors were members of this Committee.

The Clerk as was asked to present Terms of Reference for the Personnel Committee to the June meeting of the Council

PPC18/065 **Agreement Schedule of Meeting Schedule for 2018 – 2019**

The schedule of meetings, based on the full council meetings on the first Wednesday of the month, was agreed. It was noted that the meeting in January would be on the second Wednesday. Finance committee meetings would be held four times a year.

PPC18/066 **Appointment of Representatives to Outside Bodies**

a) It was agreed that Cllr Dyke continue as representative on the Village Hall Committee.

PPC18/067 **Public Forum**

Mr Mike Dodd read a letter that he had sent to the Parish Council and local residents concerning tree felling and replacement associated with the building of the new dwelling at New House. In the letter Mr Dodd recorded the fact that the policy of replacing any felled tree with two new trees meant that there had been an increase in the number of trees on the site. Once building works were complete, further planting would take place including a hedge row of native species.

Mr Dodd noted that some of the trees that were being felled were Ash and were likely to be subject to Ash Die Back disease. These would be replaced with trees not susceptible to the disease. Mr Dodd wondered if the Parish Council in conjunction with him and other

landowners should be considering a scheme of replacement of other Ash trees on the edge of the Village Green.

PPC18/047 **Acceptance of the Minutes of Previous Meetings**

The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 4th April, 2018 were signed as a true and correct record of proceedings.

Council Reports

PPC18/073 **Somerset County Council**

- a) Cllr Pullin referred to the announcement made by the County Council in respect of the creation of a unitary authority for Somerset. The coverage had been unfortunate in that it was not clear that all that was being sought was discussion of the proposal. There also appeared to be a break down in communications with the District Councils, including Mendip. Councillor Pullin said that the views of parish councils on the creation of a unitary authority would be welcome.
- b) Cllr Pullin noted the recent response from Highways to the request for white lining in Pelting Drove. This had followed a site visit he had made with the recently retired highways engineer. The Chairman said that the Parish Council did not agree with Highways decision or then reasoning behind it. A fresh approach would be made by the Council in the near future.

PPC18/074 **Mendip District Council**

- a) Cllr Killen said that it was felt that the announcement by the County Council in respect of the creation of unitary authority could have been better handled; there had been some very rapid staff briefings in the district councils. Mendip District Council would explore options and any potential for financial benefits. The continued delivery of frontline service in Mendip would be a priority and, as had been already reported, Mendip District Council was already exploring other options.
- b) Connecting Devon and Somerset had confirmed that Gigaclear were beginning the rollout that would see fibre coverage in Mendip by 2020, which would include Priddy. Other companies such as Truespeed were also seeking to rollout fibre networks. There had been delays with Gigaclear due to sub-contractors and Brexit but progress was now being made.
- c) Mendip as a district was being asked to provide 40% extra housing and the target had moved as some allocation had been moved from North Somerset and Bath and North East Somerset. A review of the Local Plan would be undertaken in 2018 and the views of parish councils on development would be helpful. "Tertiary" village which had not seen any development in the Local Plan could expect to see appropriate development being identified.
- d) The Litter picking and consequent bags awaiting collection were part of an initiative by Mendip Quarries. The initiative was proving so successful that reports of bags not being collected were spurious; they were not the same bags but a fresh set of bags awaiting collection.
- e) Mendip District Council's cabinet was likely to recommend an increase in car parking charges (including season tickets) in line with the RPI at its May meeting, though there would be a reduction for under-used car park. A wider review of car parking provision would be undertaken in the autumn.

PPC18/069 **Chairman's Report**

a) **Training Provided by the Somerset Association of Local Councils**

The forthcoming training was noted and commended by those who had attended training in the past. Cllr Leach confirmed that he would attend the "Essential Councillor" session at Shepton Mallet on 17th May and the Clerk was asked to reserve a place for Cllr Oren who would attend if he was available.

It was resolved that the Clerk should book a provisional place on "Being a Successful Chairman" in June.

PPC18/070 **Clerk's Report and Continuing Business from Previous Meetings**

a) **Mowing and Strimming of the Village Green**

RP & S Maine had confirmed that costs would remain the same as 2017 at £80 per cut. The Clerk had not had a response from Cole Major, the contractor responsible for strimming, but this was not due to commence until June.

The Clerk reported that he had received to emails about the grass not being cut at Pincross. Cllr Maine confirmed that this was due to a vehicle being parked and denying access for mowing.

It was agreed that the Clerk should write to the occupier of 1 Pincross asking that the access be maintained.

WNN

b) **General Data Protection Regulation Training (SALC)**

It was resolved that the Clerk should book a place for Cllr Butcher and himself on the Training to be held on 22nd May.

WNN

c) **Verge Protection Works: Village Green at Manor Farm**

The Clerk had circulated papers to the Councillors showing tender responses and costs. The original specification had been for standard road kerbs which Cllr Butcher believed would offer better protection. The Clerk had been asked to alter the specification so that the kerbs used matched the kerbing already undertaken around the Lower Village Green. The difference between the requested kerbs and the standard kerb was estimated at an inch to an inch and a half. Cllr Butcher was concerned that larger vehicles might ride over the lower kerb and form ruts behind the kerbing which might damage smaller vehicles which might try the same manoeuvre.

WNN

At a vote (six in favour and one abstaining) it was resolved to proceed with the kerbing of the Village Green at Manor Farm, using Charcon K Lite Traditional Kerb, at a cost of £6,638 plus VAT.

It was noted that the VAT was recoverable. The Clerk reminded Council that fees would be payable in respect of a Section 171 Licence (£90) and permission for the use of temporary traffic lights (£28.50).

PPC18/071

Planning

- a) **2018/0764/TPO** - Works to various trees including: felling, canopy reduction, crown reduction and pollarding - The New Inn Priddy Green Priddy Wells Somerset
The Council voted unanimously to support the application with the following comment; "The Council would look for suitable re-planting with indigenous trees (such as birch) of similar stature".
- b) **2018/0912/FUL** - Erection of a horse riding arena. - 1 Wellington Farm Cottages Cliff Road To Wellington Farm Cottages Priddy Nr Wells Somerset BA5 3BT
Discussion was based on councillors viewing of the application on the planning portal as the paper copy of the application had not been received by the Clerk. It was noted that the area would be in an area not easily seen from the road or by neighbours. The Council voted unanimously to support the application
- c) **2018/0819/HSE** - Extension to the existing approved dwelling, replacing existing barn C - Higher Eastwater Farm East Water Lane Priddy Cheddar BA5 3AX
The Clerk had tabled the paper version of this application which had been received after the distribution of the agenda. An extension to the consultation period, which was due to end on 1st June, had been sought but it was possible that an extraordinary meeting might be required to consider the application.

PPC18/072

Parish Council Matters

- a) **To Approve the Parish Council's Publication Scheme (FOI)**
The Scheme was approved.
- b) **To review and re-adopt Standing Orders**
The Standing Orders were re-adopted without change.
Cllr Butcher believed the National Association of Local Councils (NALC) would be issuing a revised set of model Standing Orders in 2018.
- c) **To review and re-adopt Financial Regulations**
It was noted that these had been altered in December 2017 to take account of comments by the Internal Auditor.
The Regulations were re-adopted without change.
- d) **To agree Part 1 of the Annual Return for 2017 / 18**
Part 1 of the Annual Return was agreed without qualification. It was signed by the Chairman and the Clerk.
- e) **To note the Somerset Waste Partnership briefing**
The briefing was noted.
- f) **To note Somerset Village of the Year Competition**
It was thought that Priddy was not eligible to enter.

g) **To agree a contribution to Dipping Platform at Priddy Pool**

The Chairman had confirmed with the School that the School conduct its own risk assessment and be the controlling body when the children were visiting as part of the Forest School curriculum.

It was thought that the Parish Council would need to put up some form of disclaimer. This would be considered at a later date.

It was resolved to contribute £300 towards a dipping platform at Priddy Pool.

PPC18/073

Police Matters

There was no report or matters raised.

PPC18/075

Financial

a) **Annual Accounts for 2016 – 2017**

The Clerk presented the final account including a bank reconciliation at 31st March. The Clerk noted that there was a reconciliation item due to the erroneous payment made by the Council's bankers in November 2017, which had been refunded but short by 79p

b) **Council's Insurance Premium (£428.56)** Payment was authorised and a cheque raised.

The Clerk noted that the Council, after a review in 2017, had entered into a three year agreement with the Insurance Brokers (Came and Company). The Clerk was asked to confirm that the new defibrillator was included in the cover provided by the insurance policy.

c) **Annual Parish Meeting Refreshments**

Cllr Dyke declined payment of expenses. She was thanked for providing the refreshments.

PPC18/076

Matters of Report

a) **Unitary Authority**

It was thought best to wait before making any comments about the possibility of a unitary authority for Somerset.

PPC18/077

Date and Time of Next Meeting

The next scheduled meeting: Wednesday 6th June at 7:30pm

The meeting closed at 21:28

Signed
(Chairman)

6th June, 2018

William Newton Newey
10th May, 2018
parish.clerk@priddyparish.org