

# PRIDDY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at the Village Hall at 7:30pm on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> August, 2018

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

**In attendance:** William Newton Newey (Clerk)  
One member of the public

PPC18/119 **Apologies for absence**  
None

PPC18/120 **Declarations of Interest**  
*Members are required to act in accordance with the Priddy Parish Council Code of Conduct adopted 6<sup>th</sup> 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.*  
None

PPC18/121 **Public Forum**  
No matter was raised by the member of the public.

PPC18/122 **Council Reports**  
b) **Somerset County Council**  
There was no report as Cllr Pullin was not present.

PPC18/123 **Police Matters**  
There was no report or matters raised.

PPC18/124 **Acceptance of the Minutes of Previous Meetings**  
The minutes of the Council meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> July were signed as a true and correct record of proceedings.

PPC18/125 **Chairman's Report**

a) **Pelting Road**  
The Chairman reported that an email had been received query the name of Pelting Road, which is shown on maps as Pelting Drove. It was noted that the road had several different names and that it seemed to have been changed by the Royal Mail and other to Pelting Drove a number of years previously. Cllr Dyke said that she, her family and other long-standing residents of the road had always know it as Pelting Road. Council agreed that it would continue to use the nomenclature Pelting Road.

*Cllrs Oren and Killen joined the meeting*

b) **Fly-Tipping**  
The Chairman had circulated pictures to councillors of Fly-Tipping in Eastwater Lane. It appeared that Mendip District Council were acting upon reports submitted using the online form, especially where a picture was included. There was evidence that there had been a barbecue in Granny's Garden which was not on the highway; the Chairman undertook to clear this material.

PPC18/122 **Council Reports**

a) **Mendip District Council**  
Cllr Killen reported that Gigaclear were actively working towards a roll-out of fibre broadband and that the Charterhouse cabinet was due to be enabled by September or October 2018. The Connecting Devon and Somerset contract with Gigaclear required full provision by the end of 2019 or costs would have to be met by Gigaclear.

The Contaminated Land Strategy had been considered by the Cabinet at Mendip District Council. Cllr Killen had ensured that it contained a proportionate response given that areas like Priddy had contamination from hundreds or thousands of years.

Unitary authority discussions were ongoing but there seemed little progress. Mendip District Council had been pressing that North Somerset and Bath and North East Somerset were included in the discussions.

There had been a revision of housing policies. Improvement grants of up to £30,000 were available as well as grants to landlords to make properties safer and more energy efficient. Grants between £3,000 and £15,000 were also available to make empty homes habitable.

The Planning Enforcement Policy had also been reviewed and it had been agreed that Mendip District Council would not take action on an infringement where it was thought likely to receive Planning Permission.

Cllr Killed noted that there had been a delay in the application for a new building at Mendip Woodshavings Ltd, due to the request for a contaminated land survey by the Environment Agency. He was trying to ensure that the application was expedited due to the importance to the local economy of the company. There continued to be delays in the Planning Department due to the inability to recruit Planning Officers

PPC18/126

### **Clerk's Report and Continuing Business from Previous Meetings**

a) **Pincross Licences**

The Clerk had written to the Council's solicitors asking advice about the licences relating to land adjacent to the cottages at the Village Green and was still awaiting a full reply.

b) **Tractor Noise and Slurry**

The Clerk had contacted Environmental Health at Mendip District Council and had received a helpful and fulsome response. Although his contact had been logged, the Environmental Health team would only be able to act on specific complaints from individuals.

c) **Verge on Pelting Road**

The Clerk reported that Somerset Highways had again refused to consider white lines at the edge of the road – saying that this was not their practice and the costs of re-painting the lines when worn. It was noted that similar lines had been painted on other roads in the Parish.

**It was agreed that the subject would be raised with the representative of the Highways Department who was to attend the meeting about Townsend Pool.**

The Clerk also reported that Somerset Highways had agreed to undertake an inspection of the verge with regard to stones and other items placed on the roadside.

d) **Strimming of the Village Green and other areas**

The contractor had been asked to suspend strimming whilst the hot weather continued.

**It was agreed that Cllr Maine would request strimming recommence when the Green was next mowed.**

e) **Greenhill Postbox**

Royal mail had confirmed their intention to re-instate box 40 but at a new location further up Greenhill at the junction with Vicars Path.

f) **Nordrach Noticeboard**

This would now have a semi-static display (Parish Council contact details etc.) as it appeared that it was not being visited between visits by the Clerk. Part of the display would state that information was available on the Parish website or on the Bus Shelter Noticeboard on Priddy Village Green.

PPC18/127

### **Finance Committee**

a) The minutes of the meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> July were noted.

b) **Banking Arrangements**

**It was resolved to open a current and interest bearing account with Lloyds Bank and that the Clerk investigate fixed term deposit arrangements.**

c) **Protection of Top Green**

The Committee's recommendation in respect of reinforcement matting was discussed. It was felt that the matting would best be laid when the ground was not as hard. Funding would be agreed at the Council meeting on 5<sup>th</sup> September

**It was resolved to accept the recommendation to install a trial area of matting but that its installation be deferred to the autumn.**

d) **Parish Website**

**It was resolved that the Clerk should obtain tenders for a new parish website according to the Finance Committee's recommendation.**

*Cllr Killen left the meeting*

e) **Townsend Pool**

Cllr Wilkinson had arranged a site visit with Somerset Highways for 8<sup>th</sup> August at 2:30pm. Cllr Leach said that he had spoken with a parishioner who had concerns about the amount of work required. To remove the large sycamore tree, line and puddle the pool so that it retained water she believed would cost £8,000. She was also concerned about contamination of the water which ran on off the highway into the pool.

Cllr Wilkinson noted that there were reeds in the bottom of the Poll.

**It was resolved that Cllr Wilkinson continue with plans for clearing and re-planting of Townsend Pool.**

PPC18/128

### **Parish Council Matters**

a) **To consider making an application for an AONB Grant**

It was noted that the AONB had already offered volunteers and to match the Parish Council's funding of £500 for the Townsend Pool project.

**As applications for grants could be made from 1<sup>st</sup> September to 31<sup>st</sup> October, it was resolved to defer consideration of the matter to a later meeting**

Cllr Butcher noted that Priddy Parish Council had never succeeded in receiving a grant from the AONB despite being the only parish entirely within the Mendip Hills AONB.

b) **To agree Terms of Reference for an Events Committee**

The draft terms of reference were discussed. The following amendments to the draft were agreed:

1.5 (new clause) Additional, non-voting members may be co-opted as felt necessary by the Parish Council.

5.1. that the committee should meet quarterly or as required

**It was resolved to create an Events Committee with the Terms of Reference as circulated, as amended above.**

It was noted that Cllrs Dyke and Maine were already part of the group arranging the Rural Crafts Fair and Implement Sale. The September Council meeting would confirm the membership of the Committee.

c) **To note arrangements for the Rural Crafts Fair**

The Auctioneer confirmed that he would be able to deal with the Implement Sale. Cllr Maine confirmed that the Parish church had arrangements in hand for the refreshment tent. There would be a number of competition classes for adults and children (Best Chutney, Heaviest Veg., and Miniature Garden on a Plate etc.) with rosettes to fourth place.

It was suggested that banners be produced as these could be displayed at a variety of heights and angles, especially when the Tour of Britain passed through the Village. Cllr Maine undertook to display banners at Manor Farm.

The Chairman undertook to submit a draft flier about the Parish Council to the next meeting of the Council. This would be used on the Parish Council stall. What form the stall would take would need to be agreed and whether it would be staffed or not on the day.

d) **Pelting Road Passing Places**

Cllr Maine felt that, given patience on the part of drivers, there were already a number of passing places on Pelting Road.

e) **To discuss and approve Finger Post refurbishment**

The Chairman noted that even the posts which the AONB had refurbished some years ago were now rusty and in need of attention. It was felt that refurbishment needed serious attention, with proper preparation, painting out and then repainting of the lettering. Councillors were asked to identify people who might undertake the refurbishment of Finger Posts, either individually or as a larger project.

**It was resolved to defer further consideration of the matter to the September meeting of the Council.**

f) **To agree a response to the Consultation on Byelaws on Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs)**

The Council felt that the need for Byelaws was unnecessary.

The Clerk was asked to respond to the consultations questions as follows:

Operation Policy with respect to making of Byelaws – no comment as not required

Byelaws in respect of SSSI – not required

Other ways in which Natural England could discharge its function – more staff active in local areas.

- g) **To resolve on opening current and other accounts with Lloyds Bank and to agree signatories**

It was resolved to open a current and interest bearing account in the name of Priddy Parish Council with Lloyds Bank. It was further resolved that the signatories to these accounts be the Chairman (Cllr Greet), the Vice Chairman (Cllr Wilkinson). Cllr Dyke and Cllr Butcher and the Clerk (to facilitate operation of the account).

- h) **To resolve on arrangements for the Battle's Over Beacon (11<sup>th</sup> November)**

The Council confirmed its intention to participate in this national event with a beacon on Dearleap. The Chairman would provide details to the Friendly Society meeting as they would be collaborating with the Council in the creation and firing of the beacon.

PPC18/129

**Financial**

- a) **To receive a Bank Reconciliation**

The Clerk tabled a reconciliation and noted that 79p still had to be refunded by Natwest Bank in respect of their error in November 2017. The reconciliation was signed by Cllr Maine.

PPC18/130

**Matters of Report**

- a) **Fibre Broadband**

Cllr Wilkinson said that a company called True Speed were also active in the area. They had stated that they needed 30 households to commit to their service before they could build the network. (It was believed there were five households signed up.) If True Speed were unable to provide service within six months, any contract would be voided with no liability.

- b) **Worcester Archaeology Site**

Cllr Wilkinson reported that the site had been recently wrecked in the middle of the night. Turves had been destroyed, and there was evidence that trenches had been damaged by horses and dogs. It was estimated that damage amounting to £300 had been caused at the site.

- c) **Defibrillator Training**

Cllr Leach said that he had been approached about training. Cllr Wilkinson said that he was still trying to arrange some training for the autumn.

- d) **Paths and Bridleways**

Cllr Leach was concerned about the condition of Durston Drove, Dark Lane and the future of the path at Ebbor Farm, now that the farm had been sold. It was confirmed that these Rights of Way were the responsibility of Somerset County Council. Cllr Butcher advised using the interactive map on the relevant page of the county council website to report concerns.

It was noted that the Parish did not have a Parish Paths Liaison Officer and that this role could be advertised at the Rural Crafts Fair and Implements Sale.

PPC18/131

**Date and Time of Next Meeting**

The next scheduled meeting: Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> September at 7:30pm

The meeting closed at 20:51

Signed .....  
(Chairman)

5<sup>th</sup> September, 2018

William Newton Newey  
2<sup>nd</sup> August, 2018  
parish.clerk@priddyparish.org