

PRIDDY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at the Village Hall at 7:30pm on Wednesday 3rd October, 2018

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

In attendance: William Newton Newey (Clerk)
Cllr Mike Pullin (Somerset County Council to item)
One member of the public.

PPC18/145

Apologies for absence

Cllr Kate Greet

In the absence of Cllr Greet, Cllr Wilkinson took the chair.

PPC18/146

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.

Cllr Butcher – 156d and 156f

PPC18/147

Acceptance of Resignation of Cllr Kate Greet as a member and Chairman of Priddy Parish Council

The Council accepted Cllr Greet's resignation due to her moving away from the Parish.

PPC18/148

Election of a Chairman

Cllrs Dyke and Cllr Leach proposed and seconded the nomination of Cllr Butcher/. Cllr Main proposed Cllr Leach but Cllr Leach declined the nomination.

At a vote (four in favour and two abstentions) Cllr Butcher was elected Chairman.

Cllr Butcher proposed and the Council agreed a vote of thanks to Cllr Greet for her service on the Council and as Chairman.

PPC18/149

Public Forum

No matters were raised

PPC18/150

Council Reports

a)

Mendip District Council

There was no report as Cllr Killen had apologised for not being able to attend.

b)

Somerset County Council

Cllr Pullin reported that the accountants had been reviewing potential cost savings from the County Council's unitary authority proposal. Results would be available in November. The chairman asked about the likelihood of a unitary authority. Cllr Pullin said that he was aware that Sedgemoor and Mendip District Councils were well run and there would be an issue with localism. The number of councillors would be cut by a third and there would be a saving on other posts. Conversely there would be costs associated with the transfer of staff and redundancy costs.

Cllr Pullin continued to support the Parish Council in its attempts to have White Lining in Pelting Drove.

It was agreed that the Clerk would send Cllr Pullin a copy of the email he had sent to Somerset Highways about the installation of signage to stop heavy goods vehicles from using unsuitable roads in the Parish (Western Lane and Nine Barrows Lane).

Cllr Main asked about overgrown hedges and the Chairman asked about County Council involvement. Cllr Leach said that his recent enquiries about BOATs (Byway Open to All Traffic) had resulted in a suggestion that the Parish Council might write to landowners.

PPC18/151

Police Matters

There was no report or matters raised.

PPC18/152

Acceptance of the Minutes of Previous Meetings

The minutes of the Council meeting held on 5th September, 2018 were signed as a true and correct record of proceedings.

PPC18/153

Clerk's Report and Continuing Business from Previous Meetings

a)

Pincross Licences

The Clerk reported that the Solicitors had stated that they held neither copy licences nor paperwork on this matter. The Clerk said that he had not been able to check the contents of the Council's filing cabinet as he did not have a key to the Village Hall where it was located. The Chairman said that he would check the contents of the filing cabinet and confirmed that the licences were concerned with parking and access next to 1 & 2 Pincross.

b) **Verge on Pelting Drove**

Somerset Highways had undertaken the requested inspection in with the Highway Safety Manual. No matters of concern had been identified.

c) **Requirements form Lloyds Bank**

The advice from SALC (Somerset Association of Local Councils) was that the requirement for a credit check on councillors was a standard requirement when opening bank accounts and might be required by insurers. The check was believed to be more of an identity check than a full credit check.

It was resolved that the Clerk should proceed with opening accounts with Lloyds Bank.

WNN

d) **Heavy Good Vehicles and Parish Roads**

As had been confirmed during the County Council report, the clerk had written to Somerset Highways about signage.

e) **Parish Website**

The Clerk had yet to contact the companies who had confirmed that they would tender to arrange a meeting to discuss requirements and costs.

f) **Annual Audit 2017 / 2018**

The annual audit had been completed. The only exception item was the fact that the two final boxes on the annual submission did not agree. The Clerk explained that this was due to the fact that Council accounts were on a receipts and payments basis and that the funds held at year end should be as in the accounts and not according to the bank statements.

g) **Mendip Farmer's Hunt use of the Village Green**

It was noted that the request was for the opening meet on 3rd November and Boxing Day. It was agreed that Cllr Maine would liaise with the hunt and direct them to the driest part of the Green. He would also attempt to ensure that they did not gallop off and cause damage to the surface of the Green. It was further noted that the Bonfire and Fireworks Party was due to take place on the Green the following Monday and the Clerk was asked to bring this to the attention of the Hunt.

It was resolved that use of the Green, subject to the Bye Laws and Council Policy, be granted to the Hunt for the Opening and Boxing Day meets.

WNN

h) **New House Additional Easement**

The completed deed had been received from the Council's solicitors and the easement added to the Land Registry record.

PPC18/154

Events Committee

a) **To note the minutes of the meeting held on 17th September, 2018**

The Chairman read the minutes of the Committee.

Cllr Maine questioned the need for a Committee. The Clerk and The Chairman explained that the Committee was to co-ordinate events in the Parish, so as to avoid diary conflicts, and for parish organisations to benefit from the resources of the Parish Council. The Chairman felt that the functioning of the Committee would improve as it settled to its purpose. Cllr Leach felt that there should be a light touch from the Parish Council; the Clerk expressed the situation as events being under the auspices of the Parish Council.

b) **Implement Sale, Rural Crats Fair and Funday**

A vote of thanks was made to Cllr Dyke and her organising group for a very good and positive day on 29th September. Cllr Dyke said that the group would be meeting for a post event review the following week and a report would be made to the Events Committee

c) **Bonfire and Fireworks**

The Clerk had sent the Risk Assessment for this event, being arranged in conjunction with the Priddy Friendly Society, to the insurance brokers. He had also queried the stipulation that the bonfire and fireworks must be 75m from any property not owned by the Council. It was noted that the bonfire was to be a brazier rather than a "free-form" bonfire.

The Chairman noted that as with previous events, parking would be off Wells Road and that the highway would be kept clear. Arrangements had been made for a commercial provider of refreshments who would offer tea and coffee. Hot dogs and burgers would be available from a barbecue.

Cllr Leach noted that the event was designed to be child friendly. The Chairman said that the intention was to start small with the event and that there would be low-key, Village advertising for the 5th November.

d) **The Battle's Over Beacon**

It was noted that arrangements for this event on 11th November were in hand. The same brazier would be used as for the Bonfire and Fireworks.

e) **Membership of the Events Committee**

It was confirmed that Cllr Butcher would become an ex officio member of the Committee following his election as Chairman.

PPC18/155

Parish Council Matters

a) **To discuss and resolve on an application for a grant from Mendip Hills AONB**

Cllr Wilkinson suggested that an application could be made for the puddling of the soon to be cleared Townsend Pool. Cllr Dyke noted that the AONB were already involved with the clearance of the Pool.

It was resolved that Cllr Wilkinson should obtain costs and that the Clerk would submit an application for these to the AONB.

BW
WNN

b) **To discuss and resolve on an application for a grant from Priddy Folk Festival**

It was resolved that no application be made to Priddy Folk Festival in 2018.

The Clerk was asked to write to the Festival organisers thanking them for grants in the past and confirming that no application was being made in 2018.

c) **To receive a report on the Implement Sale, Rural Crafts Fair and Funday**

This matter was referred to the Events Committee

WNN

d) **To receive a report on Plans for Townsend Pool**

Cllr Wilkinson said that the AONB had made an initial commitment of a day on 17th October. Cllr Maine had offered the use of a trailer and that the brush would be used for the Bonfire or Beacon if suitable, if not Cllr Dyke said the trailer could be unloaded on her land. Cllr Wilkinson was thanked for his work on this project.

e) **To receive a report from Priddy School in respect of plans for Priddy pool.**

No report had been received.

PPC18/156

Financial

a) **Annual Audit 2017 / 2018**

It was noted that if income and expenditure were less than £25,000 in 2018 / 2019, a request could be made for external audit to be waived.

The payment of the £240 audit fee to PKF Littlejohn for the 2017 / 2018 audit was authorised.

b) **To receive a Bank Reconciliation**

The Clerk had circulated a reconciliation to councillors. The reconciliation still included 79p Natwest Bank had still to refund in respect of their error in November 2017. Due to the amount of time dealing with this error had taken, the Clerk was seeking compensation from NatWest Bank. The reconciliation was signed by Cllr Maine.

To authorise the following payments

c) **Strimming of the village Green and other areas.**

Payment of £200 to Mr Cole Major was authorised.

d) **Protective Matting for Top Green**

Payment, by way of reimbursement, to Cllr Alan Butcher of £235 was authorised.

e) **Fee for section 171 Licence in respect of Works at Townsend Pool.**

Payment of £90 to Somerset County Council was authorised.

f) **Hosting for Parish Website**

This invoice had been mistakenly included on the agenda as it was for another Parish Council. No payment was authorised.

g) **Clerk's Expenses**

Payment of £86.21 to Mr W Newton Newey was authorised.

Matters of Reporta) **CPRE Affordable Housing Event**

It was noted that this event was due to be held at Glastonbury Town hall between 2:00pm and 5:00pm on 25th October.

b) **Somerset Waste Partnership Briefing**

The Chairman had been interested to read that aerosol cans could be included in kerbside recycling. There was a request to remove caps and nozzles before putting these items in the recycling boxes.

c) **Dr Steve Banks and Sheep Fair Research**

Dr Banks had made contact and was applying for a grant to carry out research.

d) **Gates at Dursdon Drove**

As Ebor Grove Farm had been sold, Cllr Dyke felt that the gates to the drove should be removed and that this should happen before the new owners took occupation on 1st December. It was felt that the previous owners or tenants should arrange this and that the Parish Council should set a deadline after which it would remove the gates and store them until collected.

The Clerk was asked to write to the previous tenants.

WN

e) **Dursdon Drove Hedges**

The Clerk was asked to write to Mr Martin Edwards and Mr Richard Masters about cutting the hedges and trees on their property which bounded the drove.

WNN

f) **Parish Path Liaison Officer**

An approach had been made to the previous Chairman by a person who was willing to be PPLO for Priddy.

The Clerk was asked to contact the individual so that more details could be obtained and that they could be invited to attend the next meeting of the Council.

g) **Charity Cricket Match**

Cllr Leach felt it was important to note that the match held in September had raised £950 for the air ambulance charity.

h) **Fallen Tree on the Green**

The owner of New House had apologised for one of the fallen trees and would clear the fallen timber. The other tree was from the New Inn and the Chairman undertook to follow up its removal.

i) **Pincross Strimming**

The Clerk was asked to include strimming the areas mown at Pincross to the area that were strimmed.

j) **Overhanging Branches in Nine Barrow Lane**

The Clerk was asked to contact the owners of Chapel House and Rock Cottage about the trimming back of overhanging branches.

k) **Parish Website**

Cllr Maine asked about updating information on the Parish Website. The Clerk undertook to update the Parish Church's entry if information was sent to him.

Date and Time of Next Meeting

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

The meeting closed at 20:43

Signed
(Chairman)

7th November, 2018

William Newton Newey
13th October, 2018
parish.clerk@priddyparish.org