

# PRIDDY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at the Village Hall at 7:30pm on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> June, 2018

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

**In attendance:** William Newton Newey (Clerk)  
Two members of the public

PPC18/085 **Apologies for absence**  
Cllr Gilad Oren

PPC18/086 **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.*

The Clerk stated that a dispensation had been granted to all councillors for agenda item PPC18/091 (Planning Application 2018/105/HSE). Though the Council had received a payment from the applicant there was no personal pecuniary interest. As all Councillors were equally affected, it served the interests of the community for a dispensation to be granted so that the Council could discharge its duty in respect of commenting on the application.

PPC18/087 **Public Forum**

A parishioner registered an objection to the application for a curtilage garage outbuilding at New House Priddy. It was felt to be inconsistent with local plans and policies, and would have an adverse effect on the appearance of the Village Green.

PPC18/088 **Acceptance of the Minutes of Previous Meetings**

- a) With the addition of Cllr Barry Wilkinson to those present, the minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 2<sup>nd</sup> May, 2018 were signed as a true and correct record of proceedings.
- b) The minutes of the meeting of the Extra-Ordinary Council held on 16<sup>th</sup> May, 2018 were signed as a true and correct record of proceedings.

PPC18/089 **Chairman's Report**

a) **Pelting Road**

The Chairman reported that she had received comments about the stones placed on the verge by householders in an attempt to protect the verge. Cllr Butcher stated that stones or other items placed within half a metre of the highway could leave a householder open to legal action if a vehicle was damaged or it proved a trip hazard to a pedestrian.

**It was resolved that the Clerk should write to the residents of Pelting Road drawing the fact of half metre requirement to their attention.**

It was agreed that white lining for the edges of the highway in Pelting Drove should continue to be sought. It was noted that some individuals had reinstated the verge in front of their property and that in other places, the highway had been widened by the Highways Authority by their patching of ruts created by vehicles on the edge of the highway. The Clerk confirmed that he had written to the Highways authority about the white lining and that Cllr Mike Pullin had said that he was pursuing the matter.

b) **Chair's Training**

**It was resolved that the Clerk should cancel the Chairman's Training which had been provisionally booked.**

c) **Emails**

The Chairman noted that emails were being received from people that were not known. She advised that caution should be exercised in any reply. In particular, councillors were asked to note the Council's media policy. If criminal wrongdoing was alleged, the authors of correspondence should be advised to contact the police.

PPC18/090 **Clerk's Report and Continuing Business from Previous Meetings**

a) **Access to Pincross**

The Clerk had written to the occupants of 1 and 2 Pincross Cottages. Cllr Maine reported that access for mowing had improved.

- b) **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 but had not received a reply.
- c) **Village Green Kerbing at Manor Farm**  
The Clerk advised that the contractor had confirmed cost and stated that three to four weeks' notice was required for the commencement of the works. It was agreed that the Clerk should arrange for the kerbing to be carried out in August.
- d) **Arrangements for Strimming the Village Green and other areas**  
Comments had been received about the fact that the verges around the Green had not been cut, even though the Green itself had been mowed. The Clerk reminded councillors that the period for strimming in the contract had been set at June, July, August and September (as opposed to the contract for mowing which was April, May, June, July, August and September).  
**It was resolved that the contract be revised to add set an earlier start date of May each year.**
- e) **Insurance Cover for Defibrillator**  
The Clerk had written to the insurance brokers but had not received a reply.
- f) **Events Committee and Insurance**  
The Clerk had written to the insurance brokers but had not received a reply.

WNN

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PPC18/091

### **Planning**

- a) **2018/1015/HSE** Erection of curtilage garage outbuilding New House Priddy Green Priddy Cheddar BA5 3BB  
At vote, the Council decided not to support the application which it felt did not accord with the Parish Policy on the Protection of the Village Green, the Parish Plan or Mendip Local Plan. There was a concern about the over intensification of the site.  
The Clerk was asked to draw attention to item 10 (under the heading *Character and Appearance*) in the Planning Inspectorate Appeal Decision (17 December 2013) permitting the building of a new dwelling on the site.
- b) **2018/1078/HSE** Replacement of existing garage and Old Lime Kiln with new garaging and Hobby Room Whitegate Lodge Nordrach Lane Priddy Cheddar BS40 6LJ  
At a vote, the Council decided not to support the application. The lime kiln was considered to be an important landscape feature.
- c) **2018/1228/FUL** Alteration and change of use of agricultural building to B8 use; alteration of access to road Nettwood Farm Hill Farm Road Priddy Cheddar BS40 6DA  
At a vote, the Council decided to support the application as it was to put a redundant agricultural building to a new use and there appeared to be no access issues.

PPC18/092

### **Parish Council Matters**

- a) **To Approve signature of Financial Statement of Annual Return**  
It was resolved that the Chairman and Clerk sign the statement section of the Annual Return.
- b) **To agree Terms of Reference and Membership of Personnel Committee**  
It was agreed to adopt the Terms of Reference as circulated and that membership should remain as Cllrs Greet, Wilkinson and Maine.
- c) **To note the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting.**  
The notes of the meeting held on 2<sup>nd</sup> May were noted without comment.
- d) **To review the suggestions made at the Annual Parish Meeting**
- d1) **How to spend £22,000**  
The meeting discussed spending or investing the monies. It was felt that one larger project rather than many small projects was a better use of this one off income, even if this meant waiting for the right project.  
It was felt that some of the suggestions were already matters in hand, such as Priddy Pool in conjunction with the School. Other suggestions, playground / outdoor fitness equipment, Dark Lane and signage could be included in the normal budgeting process.  
The suggestion of purchasing land for affordable housing continued to receive support. The Clerk was asked to investigate investment options for discussion at the Finance Committee in July.
- d2) **Protecting Top Green**

The suggestion of a temporary, carpet like material to protect the Green, suggested at the Annual Parish Meeting, had been investigated by Cllr Butcher and been found not to be suitable.

In addition to advice previously received, the Chairman had contacted Defra. The opinion of the case officer in Common Land casework team was that whilst valid reasons for installing grass gridding might be accepted, it had never been tested at law. The outcome of any court case would depend on the lawyers involved.

Cllr Maine felt it would be appropriate to gauge the views of the entire village. Cllrs Wilkinson and Leach were concerned that any action which altered the surface of the Green might lead to costly legal action, given that there were people objecting to any such alteration.

The suggestion that part of the Top Green be deregistered and designated as a car park had been made. It was noted that this would require the provision of an equivalent area to compensate for the area de-registered.

Cllr Butcher suggested either sowing fibrous material or the type of turf with the grass, as was with sports pitches, to improve wear or digging up the area and improving the drainage before relaying the grass. Cllr Maine felt that the second option would not improve the situation.

The only solution seemed to be to restrict access during winter months as was already the case by using the green cones.

d3) **Restoring Townsend Pool**

Cllr Wilkinson reported that he was waiting for a reply from the AONB. He believed they were planning their activities for the year. A wetland, wildlife area had been the suggestion from the Annual Parish Meeting.

d4) **Affordable Housing**

This had been discussed under the heading of "How to Spend £22,000". The process to identify a suitable parcel of land or infill site continued.

e) **To note GDPR Audit**

The Clerk told the meeting that the Information Commissioner was not regarding 25<sup>th</sup> May as an end date and would endeavour to be a fair and proportionate regulator for those who could demonstrate that they were taking their responsibilities seriously.

The Clerk reported that consent had been requested from those receiving Parish Council emails and the mailing list had been updated to include only those who had replied, giving their consent. An option to sign up for Parish Council emails would be included on the parish website.

The GDPR audit was noted.

Cllr Butcher, who had attend the recent training as well as the Clerk, that the provisions of the Data Protection Act applied to all systems, paper or electronic. The advice was to destroy all paperwork once it was no longer required. Cllr Leach said that good housekeeping had been commended in the essential councillor training he had attended; this included deleting old emails.

It was resolved that no non-councillor names should be recorded in the minutes of council or committee meetings. Consideration was also given to re-structuring the agenda for Council meetings.

f) **To approve Privacy Notice**

The Clerk stated that two versions of the Notice were required. A general version and one for staff, councillors and office holders. These would be included on the parish website.

It was resolved to approve both versions of the Privacy Notice based on the NALC template.

g) **Mendip District Council Statement of Principles 2018**

It was agreed that councillors would make individual responses to this consultation related to gambling licences.

PPC18/093 **Police Matters**

There was no report or matters raised.

PPC18/094 **Council Reports**

**Mendip District Council**

There was no report as Cllr Killen was not present.

**Somerset County Council**

There was no report as Cllr Pullin was not present

PPC18/095

## **Financial**

a) **To note a budget statement**

The Clerk apologised and reported that a new statement had not been circulated as there was little change from that previously circulated.

b) **SALC / NALC Affiliation 2018 / 2019**

**Payment of £167.03 to the Somerset Association of Local Councils was authorised.**

c) **Essential Councillor Training**

**Payment of £50.00 to Somerset Association of Local Councils was authorised.**

d) **GDPR Training**

**Payment of £50.00 to Somerset Association of Local Councils was authorised.**

A single cheque was raised for items PPC18/095 b to d.

e) **Venue Hire**

**Payment of £60.00 to Priddy Village Hall was authorised and a cheque raised.**

f) **Clerk's Remuneration for April, May and June, 2018**

**Payment of £597.86 was authorised and cheques raised (£119.40 HMRC, £478.46 WD Newton Newey).**

g) **Annual Subscription for Virus Protection [Parish Computer]**

**Payment of £29.99 to WD Newton Newey was authorised and a cheque raised.**

h) **Strimming of the Village Green and Other Areas**

**Payment of £200.00 (under contract) was authorised and a cheque raised (Cole Major).**

PPC18/096

## **Matters of Report**

a) **Mendip Farmers Hunt Hounds**

Various complaints had been received about the hounds whilst they were being exercised or when the Hunt was meeting. It was confirmed that the Parish Council had no powers in this matter, except in relation to the use of the Village Green by the Hunt. It was re-stated that any alleged criminal activity should be reported to the Police.

b) **Greenhill Letterbox**

Cllr Dyke asked if there was any information regarding the reinstatement of the letterbox. The Clerk said that the last correspondence from the Royal Mail in Wells had stated that the hole for the post could not be located. Cllr Dyke undertook to get the hole marked (flagged) and the Clerk would contact the Royal Mail to say that this was the case.

c) **Pelting Road Play Area**

The Clerk had received a report of blood and glass in the play area of the Queen Victoria Inn from Mendip District Council, who in turn had been notified by the Police. Cllr Wilkinson reported that the incident had nothing to do with the Queen Victoria Inn but that the area had been cleaned.

d) **Memorial Bench**

Cllr Wilkinson said that he had been approached by a family who wished to donate a memorial bench in memory of a caver. He thought the preferred location would be on the Lower Green near the Swildon's plaque. It was agreed that a proposal from the family be submitted to the Clerk.

e) **Pelting Road – Passing Places**

Cllr Maine asked if it would be possible to explore the creation of passing places on Pelting Road. It was agreed that the matter would be discussed at the next Council meeting and councillors were asked to identify specific locations.

f) **Village Green Standpipe**

Cllr Maine reported that this was lying on the ground. Cllr Butcher said that the supporting post was broken and that he was to replace the post.

g) **Fly Tipping**

There had been further fly tipping in Nine Barrow Lane. If the problem persisted contact with Mendip District Council to request signage and monitoring by camera might be requested.

h) **SALC Mendip Area Meeting**

CD  
WNN

BW

All

Cllr Leach said that he and Cllr Oren would act as contacts for this group.

PPC18/056

**Date and Time of Next Meeting**

The next scheduled meeting: Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> July at 7:30pm

The meeting closed at 21:32

Signed .....  
(Chairman)

4<sup>th</sup> July, 2018

William Newton Newey  
14<sup>th</sup> June, 2018  
parish.clerk@priddyparish.org

Final Draft

Initialed