

## PRIDDY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at the Village Hall at 7:30pm on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> January, 2019

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

**In attendance:** William Newton Newey (Clerk)  
Cllr Tom Killen (Mendip District Council) from item PPC19/004  
Mr Mark Gratton (Parish Paths Liaison Officer designate)  
Fourteen members of the public

PPC19/001 **Apologies for absence**  
Cllr Gilad Oren.

PPC19/002 **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

PPC19/003 **Public Forum**  
The Chairman said that he would adjourn the meeting immediately before considering the planning application for comments from members of the public.  
There were no other matters raised in the Public Forum

PPC19/004 **Council Reports**

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

PPC19/005 **Police Matters**  
There was no report and no matters were raised.

PPC19/006 **Parish Paths Liaison Officer**  
Comments on the consultation by Somerset Rights of Way team by the Parish Paths Liaison Officer had been circulated to councillors. Cllr Leach noted that there were limited funds for Rights of way and PPLO had highlighted the fact that the consultation warned that upgrading the category of one path would likely downgrade another path. One path that the PPLO had identified as needing to be in a higher category for maintenance was that between Dursdon Drove and Pelting Road (WS8/28). This was well used but became overgrown and rutted.  
**It was resolved that the Clerk should reply to the Consultation with the single request that WS8/28 was upgraded.**

PPC19/007 **Acceptance of the Minutes of Previous Meetings**  
The minutes of the Council meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> December, 2018 were signed as a true and correct record of proceedings.

PPC19/008 **Planning**  
The meeting was adjourned for public comment on application 2018/2041/FUL.  
One member of the public spoke in support of the application saying that the application had been made to allow a family who worked in the village to remain as residents. He could not see that the application was detrimental to neighbours or the near neighbourhood. The comments were supported by the members of the public present. It was ascertained that the mobile home had been the residence of the family for 11 years. Cllr Killen felt that the need for the mobile home represented a lack alternative, suitable accommodation in the village.

a) **2018/2941/FUL** Retention of existing mobile home for use as an independent dwelling, Rose Cottage Wells Road, Priddy, Cheddar, Somerset.  
Cllrs Maine and Wilkinson expressed support for the application from a couple who had not only been living but also working in the village. Cllr Leach too said that he supported the application and hoped that the landscaping in the application would enhance the site.

**At a vote, it was resolved unanimously to support the application.**

The Clerk was asked to include the fact that the application had the support of all present (councillors and public) as a comment when sending the response to Mendip District Council.

b) **Attendance at Planning Board 16<sup>th</sup> January regarding 2018/1015/HSE**

As the Chairman could not attend, it was agreed that Cllr Leach would attend and speak in respect of this application which the Council had voted not to support.

PPC19/009

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

a) **Old New Inn: Suggested Meeting**

The owner of the Old New Inn was interested in having a meeting to discuss the future development of the site. Rather than organising a meeting of interested parties himself, he was looking to the Parish Council to arrange meeting. The Chairman felt that the owner should be prepared to bring to the meeting his proposals for the site. It was agreed that the Clerk should communicate with the owner of the Old New Inn and try to arrange a meeting at which proposals could be discussed with councillors.

b) **Mendip Farmers' Hunt**

A Freedom of Information request had been received with respect to the Boxing Day meet of the Hunt on the Village Green. The Clerk had drafted a response to the questions contained in the request which had been circulated to councillors with the agenda papers.

**It was resolved that the response should be sent as drafted.**

It was noted that selling food and drink on the Green was in contravention of the Byelaws unless expression permission had been granted by the Council. No permission had been granted in respect of the boxing Day meet. It was further noted that there had been significant traffic congestion.

c) **Closure of Western Lane**

The closure from the junction with West Harptree Road to the Junction with Smitham's Hill from 14 January 2019 for 4 days was noted. The closure was to permit underground works by Gigaclear Ltd.

d) **Grit / Salt and Roadside Bins**

The Highways Department of the County Council had confirmed that that would fill the roadside bins in Priddy if they were identified to them. The meeting noted bins at Two Trees, Top Green and on Deer Leap, though the latter was not in the Parish.

Cllr Maine reported that there were three bags of grit / salt at the rear of the Village Hall.

e) **Welcome Pack**

This remained a work in progress.

PPC19/010

**Personnel Committee**

a) The minutes of the meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> December were noted.

b) **It was resolved, in line with the Committee's recommendation, that the Clerk's remuneration be increased by one scale point.**

PPC19/004

**Council Reports**

a) **Mendip District Council**

Cllr Killen confirmed that the County Council had reversed its decision to cut road gritting for 2018 / 2019 but it was likely to be subject of cost savings in 2019 / 20. There would be a review of the service in the summer of 2019 and Cllr Killen would be lobbying to ensure that Priddy was not deprived of precautionary gritting.

Feedback would be welcomed on the Christmas Markets, especially that held in Wells. It was hope that developments in 2019 would make the market more of a destination rather than simply an extended Wednesday / Saturday market.

There had been an increase in fly-tipping in Chewton Mendip. Cllr Killen thought this related to an increase in charges at waste sites by BANES. Unfortunately most of the tipping had been on private land and so the District Council was unable to deal with the matter.

Priddy being in an AONB was subject to additional planning regulation. However, it had become clear that the sites identified in Part II of the Local Plan was too restrictive in respect of development sites. A review of Part I of the Local Plan was to be undertaken and those would include housing development policies. It was clear that there was a need for some development to allow younger and older people to remain in their home villages.

Mendip District Council's finances remained sound. Somerset was part of a pilot which would see the local retention of business rates. The investment strategy continued to provide income in place of the grants no longer received form central government.

PPC19/011 **Parish Council Matters**

a) **To consider revised Village Green Bye Laws**

The Clerk had circulated a first draft of new Bye Laws based on the model set 2 issued by the Department of Communities and Local Government (DCLG). The Chairman asked councillors to review the draft and make comment to the clerk so that he could produce a second draft for the February meeting of the Council.

All

b) **To consider Priddy Village Green Information Leaflet and Notice (visiting and parking)**

The Chairman had circulated a draft of text which could be included in a leaflet. On New Year's Day there had been cars parked around the edge of main element of the Green. It was noted that there was no information about car parking and the Village Green.

The leaflet could include information about Priddy, including a suggested walk, as well as the information about car parking. The information could be presented on a noticeboard on the green as well as a leaflet. Both the leaflet and board could link to more information on the Parish website.

It was noted that in addition to the gravelled area in front of the New Inn and adjacent to Manor Farm, the grass in front of New House had also been used as short term parking at times of very high demand. Cllr Maine noted that there was a shortage of car parking space. The idea of a leaflet and information board received support and it was agreed that this project would be developed further.

AB/  
WNN

c) **To resolve on Precept of £9,900 for 2019 2020**

The increase from £9,800 in 2018 / 19 to £9,900 for 2019 / 20 had been recommended by the Finance Committee.

**It was resolved to set the Precept for 2019 / 20 at £9,800.**

WNN

d) **To consider response to Parish Paths Consultation [Somerset County Council]**

This matter had already been dealt with under the Parish Paths Liaison Officers Report.

PPC19/012 **Financial**

a) **Bank Reconciliation**

A bank reconciliation to 24<sup>th</sup> December had been circulated to councillors.

**The bank reconciliation was noted.**

The following payments were authorised and cheques signed

b) **SALC [Responding to Planning Applications Training] (£60.00)**

d) **Gratuity to Internal Auditor (£50.00)**

PPC19/013 **Matters of Report**

a) **Climate Emergency and Fuel Poverty Workshop (15<sup>th</sup> February)**

The Clerk had circulated details of this workshop, being run by Frome Town Council, to councillors.

CD

b) **Somerset Wood**

The Clerk proposed to include the Somerset County Council project, to create a wood to be a lasting memorial to those from Somerset who fought and fell in the First World War, on the agenda for the next Council meeting.

c) **Buckingham Palace Garden Party**

It was noted that nominations for those to be invited could be made through the Somerset Association of Local Councils.

d) **AONB and Parish Projects**

Cllr Wilkinson reported that Mr Jim Hardcastle of the Mendip Hills AONB, who had been involved with the works at Townsend Pool, had indicated that the AONB would be willing to get involved with other projects in Priddy Parish. Given the earlier conversation about Rights of Way, Cllr Maine suggested that this might be an area where the AONB could be involved. The Clerk was asked to contact Mr Hardcastle.

PPC18/014 **Date and Time of Next Meeting**

The next scheduled meeting: Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> January at 7:30pm

The meeting closed at 20:25

Signed .....  
(Chairman)

6<sup>th</sup> February, 2019