

PRIDDY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at the Village Hall at 7:30pm on Wednesday 6th March, 2019

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

In attendance: William Newton Newey (Clerk)
Cllr Tom Killen (Mendip District Council) [from PPC19/
Twelve members of the public

PPC19/035 **Apologies for absence**

None

PPC19/036 **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 Maine declared a personal but non-pecuniary interest in item PPC19/042a

PPC19/037 **Public Forum**

There were no matters on which members of the public wished to speak except Dursdon Drove and Planning. The Chairman said that he would adjourn the meeting to allow the public to speak in advance of each agenda item.

PPC19/038 **Council Reports**

b) **Somerset County Council**

There was no report as Cllr Pullin was not present.

PPC19/039 **Police Matters**

There was no report.

PPC19/040 **Parish Paths Liaison Officer**

The Clerk had been in contact with the PPLO who was unable to attend the meeting but intended to be present for the April meeting.

a) **Dursdon Drove**

It was noted that the Drove was designated as a BOAT (By-Way Open to All Traffic) thirty years previously after two public inquiries.

The Chairman adjourned the meeting to allow members of the public to speak.

A parishioner spoke of the poor condition of the eastern end of the drove which had been damaged by 4x4 vehicles using it inappropriately. Walkers were now climbing into adjoining fields as the Drove was impassable on foot. Where vehicles were becoming grounded or unable to gain traction, stones had been robbed from adjoining walls and thrown into the Drove. The Parishioner hoped that the Drove could become a restrict By-Way or a Footpath and Bridleway.

Another Parishioner also shared experience of living on the Drove. She stated that parts were now impassable without a modified vehicle. New ruts were created regularly and some were so deep as to expose BT cables. The Drove had proved to be a particular attraction during the recent period of snow, with 4x4 vehicles congregating and trying to push through the snow. The Drove was now dangerous for use by walkers, horse riders and especially children.

A third parishioner shared her experience of living on the Drove. The condition of the Drove and the risk presented by vehicles using it inappropriately meant that she was taking ponies to the Village Green and other locations for her children to ride rather than allowing them to ride along the Drove. Litter was another major consideration with cider cans, oil cans and other material being left on the Drove, which was regularly collected by local residents. The Parishioner also noted the creation of new tracks, damage to verges and stone walls. The disturbance tended to be during the hours of darkness and could last until 3:00am

A fourth parishioner said that it was not usual for vehicles to be parked up late at night. He too noted the damage to verges which was, in places, undermining stone walls. He echoed comments already made about litter, speeding motorbikes and walkers in fields. He held that the Drove was now only fully accessible by a 4x4 vehicle.

A fifth Parishioner did not want to make any further comment but to support the views expressed by the four other Parishioners.

The Chairman reconvened the formal meeting.

Cllr Maine noted that there had been a few people who had secured the BOAT status for

Dursdon Drove, in spite of opposition within the Village, at the Public Inquiry. Cllr Leach thought that exploration should be made with regard to changing the BOAT status to Bridleway which better represent the needs of the Village.

Cllr Wilkinson noted that this was not the only area being misused by 4x4 vehicles and noted Priddy Pool as an example. He thought an approach should be made to the Police.

Cllr Oren was concerned that the users of the 4x4 vehicles and motorbikes were not treating the Village and the surrounding area with appropriate care.

Cllr Dyke fully supported that idea that BOAT classification should be removed.

The Chairman reported that his research had led him to Section 131a of the Highways Act 1980. This appeared to lay upon the highways authority a responsibility for prosecuting those who caused damage to the surface of this type of by-way. The penalty being set at level 3, up to a £1,000 fine. He suggested that Somerset Highways should be requested to take action.

It was noted that Dursdon Drove was on the boundary with St Cuthbert's Out Parish and it was suggested that the views of that Council be sought as matters were taken forward

Cllr Leach wondered if the matter could be reported to the Police as a matter of public nuisance. Cllr Oren thought it would be helpful to stress the safety issues that the current use of the Drove presented.

It was agreed that the PPLO Could be asked to assist with liaison with Somerset County Council and the Police.

It was resolved that an approach be made to Somerset Highways in respect of duties under Section 131a of the Highways Act 1980.

It was further resolved that an approach should be made to the local Police Inspector.

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PPC19/041 **Acceptance of the Minutes of Previous Meetings**

The minutes of the Council meeting held on 6th March, 2019 were signed as a true and correct record of proceedings.

PPC19/042 **Planning**

- a) 2019/0069/OTA Application for Outline Planning Permission with some matters reserved for erection of an agricultural workers dwelling with details of access / appearance / landscaping / layout / scale. Land At 352192 149169 Deerleap Priddy Cheddar Somerset

The Chairman adjourned the meeting

The applicant told the meeting that his family had been farming on the Mendip for five generations and the acquisition of land in Priddy was to enable the next generation to join the family farming business. The application for a dwelling was to ensure the welfare and security of stock, there were 50 to 60 cattle on the land.

The Chairman reconvened the formal meeting

Cllr Leach said that he was supportive of the application as it would encourage another family into the Village who would also be working in the Parish. His only reservation was that the design of building and landscaping were appropriate.

Cllr Wilkinson also felt it would be good to have another family in the Village. Cllrs Dyke and Oren echoed the views expressed by Cllrs Leach and Wilkinson.

It was resolved unanimously (Cllr Maine not voting as an interest had been declared) to support the application.

PPC19/043 **Clerk's Report and Continuing Business from Previous Meetings**

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

The Clerk continued to arrange a meeting.

- b) **Annual Parish Meeting and Annual Meeting of the Parish Council**

Cllr Dyke volunteered to provide refreshments between the Annual Parish Meeting and the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council.

- c) **Village Green Bye Laws**

Discussion of this topic was deferred.

- d) **Heavy Good Vehicles Signage: Nine Barrows Lane**

The Clerk had circulated the reply form Somerset Highways, which included costs for replacing the signs with pictographic signs. It was noted that Chewton Mendip Parish Council would need to be consulted about one end of the Lane as it was in their Parish. Cllr Dyke asked if the Clerk could ask what the experience had been in Chewton Mendip of the new signs. The Clerk drew the Council's attention to the fact that the Highways Authority had reserved the right to recharge any costs associated with clearance or preparation of the site

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of any new signs.

It was resolved to request two new pictographic 'Unsuitable for HGV' signs for Nine Barrows Lane at a cost of £241.56.

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e) **Wells Way / Wallace Lane junctions with Western Lane**

The Clerk had written to Highways at Bath and North East Somerset Council.

e) **Welcome Pack**

This remained a work in progress.

f) **Townsend Litter Bin**

The Clerk had circulated details and cost of a bin similar to that by the Bus Shelter on the Village Green to Councillors.

It was resolved to purchase a bin at a cost of £216.00 inclusive of VAT.

g) **Salt and Grit Arrangements**

The Clerk had investigated costs and established that Salt Express Limited of Highbridge were a cost effective supplier. He had also obtained costs for grit spreaders but it was felt that the annual unit would be too small and the tow along unit was too expensive. How best to purchase salt for grit bins was briefly discussed but the matter was deferred to the September meeting of the Council.

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PPC19/044

Parish Council Matters

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

The Chairman had obtained the cost for a notice board approximately 3 feet by 4 feet in oak of £743, with a cost of £182 for the supporting posts. He had also been in contact with a firm offering a bespoke map of the Village with descriptive text. The cost of a map for Priddy would be approximately £600.

The location of the board was confirmed as being at an angle of 45 degrees to the boundary wall of New House on the Green leading up to The Batch.

It was resolved that the Chairman should continue work on designs and costs.

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e) **Somerset Wood [War Memorial]**

Cllr Maine felt that it was too late to create such a memorial. Cllr Oren felt that participation would not only be appropriate as it was a County initiative but might raise the profile of Priddy. Cllr Leach noted that the trees had already been sponsored and the request was for funds to maintain the wood. This had led to the suggestion that trees might be planted locally in memory of those from Priddy who had died in the First World War. Cllr Maine thought it might be difficult to find a location to plant five trees. The Chairman noted that Monkey Puzzle trees had been planted in as a memorial in Wookey at the end of the War.

It was resolved that the subject of tree planting be included on the agenda for the Annual Parish Meeting

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f) **Litter Picking Event**

The Chairman reported that there was only one working litter picker remaining. Cllr Killen undertook to try and arrange for the loan of equipment from Mendip District Council. This was to include suitable rubbish bags.

g) **Lay By on Wells Road**

The Chairman said that the ownership of the land by the lay by was still being investigated.

Paper Newsletter

The content and format of the Newsletter were approved with the exception of a few typographical errors and the request that the section relating to the email distribution list being made more prominent.

It was agreed that the Newsletter would be distributed by councillors.

All

PPC19/038

Council Reports

a) **Mendip District Council**

Cllr Killen reported that Mendip District Council had set a balanced budget. The Council had been able to replace the loss of support from central government with its investment income from commercial properties. The transitional arrangements with Fusion in respect of the leisure centres had also come to an end, producing a saving in costs.

A fund had been created for infrastructure projects. Evidence was now being collated to apply for further funds to create a by-pass for Ashcot and Walton and to relieve the pinch point at Chilkwell Street in Glastonbury. There was also an attempt to re-establish a rail connection in Shepton Mallet.

At its recent meeting, the district council had committed itself to achieving zero emissions by 2030.

Somerset County Council was to review gritting arrangements in the summer and Cllr Killen was continuing to argue for the retention of Priddy and the locality on the gritting route. Support for this was also being received from councillors in Cheddar.

The subject of Dursdon Drove was raised with Cllr Killen, who undertook to mention it to Cllr Pullin.

PPC19/045 **Financial**

a) **Bank Reconciliation**

A bank reconciliation to 25th February had been circulated to councillors.

The bank reconciliation was noted and signed by Cllr Maine.

The following payments were authorised and cheques signed

b) **Clerk's Remuneration**

HMRC £118.40 / WD Newton Newey £473.06

PPC19/046 **Matters of Report**

a) **Community Action in the Snow**

Cllr Oren wished to note how impressed he had been with the community spirit which he had seen during the recent period of inclement weather.

Dale Lane

Cllr Wilkinson reported that the edge of the road at the end of Dale Lane opposite Nine Barrows Lane was collapsing and appeared to be related to a damaged drain. The Clerk was asked to raise this with Somerset Highways.

b) **Truespeed**

Cllr Wilkinson said that he had been approached by Truespeed about putting up a banner in the village.

After a brief discussion, it was agreed not to offer a location for a banner.

c) **Burnt Out Car**

Cllr Wilkinson said that the car reported at earlier meetings had been moved by the farmer but was still at Charterhouse. A local arrangement would be made for its removal.

d) **Information Circulated by the Clerk**

The Clerk asked councillors to note: Mendip Parish Bulletin, Inspectorate Review of Mendip Local Plan Part II, Notice of Election and Election Guidance from SALC

e) **Community Council Somerset**

Due to restructuring of the Council and a review of financing, the Community Council for Somerset had informed the Clerk that no membership fee would be payable in 2019.

PPC18/047 **Date and Time of Next Meeting**

The next scheduled meeting: Wednesday 3rd April, 2019 at 7:30pm

The meeting closed at 20:38

Signed
(Chairman)

3rd April, 2019

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