

# Priddy Parish Council

## COUNCIL MINUTES

A Meeting of the Parish Council held on **Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> October 2020**  
at **7:30pm** by Zoom Virtual Platform

**Present:** Cllrs Alan Butcher (Chair), Juanita Glass, Mark Leach, Rachel Thompson  
MBE

**In attendance:** William Newton Newey, Parish Clerk, two members of the public

PPC20/114 **Apologies for absence:** Cllrs Adams, Andrews, Dyke

PPC20/115 **Declarations of Interest:** None

PPC20/116 **Public Forum**

No members of the public wished to speak.

PPC20/117 **Council Reports**

a) **Somerset County Council**

There was no report from Cllr Pullin. The Chairman had had a telephone conversation with Cllr Pullin who had offered to act a liaison between the County Council / Highways Authority and the Traffic Calming Working Group. The Chairman reported that Cllr Pullin had stated that it was felt that the County Council had neglected smaller rural communities when it came to speed limits and other traffic calming measures.

b) **Mendip District Council**

Cllr Killen had apologised for not being present. He had asked for the planning application in respect of the agricultural building on Pelting Drove (2020/1162/FUL) to be referred to the Planning Board. This had been accepted onto the Planning Board Agenda for the meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> October.

Cllr Killen also noted that the time taken to process planning applications and wished the Council to know that he was doing all that he could to progress outstanding applications.

**It was agreed that the Chairman would attend the Planning Board and speak as the Parish Council had made an objection to the Pelting Drove application.** The Chairman would circulate a draft of his submission to the board to councillors in advance.

PPC20/118 **Police Report**

The report from PCSO Samuel White had been circulated. It was noted that there was only one incident in Priddy; the bizarre painting of barn girders fluorescent yellow. It was also noted that there would be a Beat Surgery at Priddy Farm Shop on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> October.

PPC20/119 **Parish Paths Liaison Officer.**

No report had been received despite repeated requests from the Clerk.

The Clerk apologised that he had not written to the PPLO, to ask if he wished to continue in the role for Priddy, as he had been dealing with Traffic Calming matters.

PPC20/120 **Acceptance of the Minutes of previous meetings:**

It was noted that Cllr Glass had not agreed to join the Traffic Calming Working Group and the corrected minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2020 were agreed as a true and correct record. It was confirmed that the Chairman would sign the minutes when available.

PPC20/121 **Planning**

a) **2020/1777/FUL** Proposed extension to existing agricultural building to roof over yard Dale Farm Dale Lane Priddy Cheddar Wells

The return of dairy herd to Priddy was welcomed. Concerns were expressed about vehicular movements on narrow lanes and while the current extension was relatively minor, there was concern that it and the existing building were visible from Dale Lane. Cllr Thompson offered to speak to the farmers to enquire about vehicle movement and possible planting to screen the buildings and the slurry store.

**It was resolved to support the application.**

**Planning Cases Decided**

The following decisions were noted

b) **2020/0737/FUL** Proposed slurry store. Butts Quarry Farm Nordrach Lane Priddy Cheddar Somerset was noted as approved.

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- c) **2020/1559/HDG** Application for Hedgerow Removal: Removal and replanting in order to lay a new main. - Land At 352528 155882 Nordrach Lane Priddy Cheddar Somerset was noted as approved. The Clerk reported that works were due to start on 19<sup>th</sup> October 2020

### PPC20/122 Clerk's Report

- a) **Community Fibre Partnership (BT Openreach)**

The Clerk said that a registration had been made, though no acknowledgement had been received from BT Openreach.

- b) **Changes to current planning system**

The Clerk confirmed that the submission prepared by the Chairman and circulated to councillors had been sent to the National Association of Local Councils (NALC) and the St Cuthbert's [Out Parish] Parish Council.

In respect of the white paper on Changes to Future Planning Regulation, it was agreed that councillors would receive a draft submission from the Chairman in advance of a Finance Committee meeting, which in turn would be arranged before the 29<sup>th</sup> October deadline. The Chairman and Cllr Leach also said that they would attend the Mendip District Council Forum briefing on the topic on 13<sup>th</sup> October.

### PPC20/123 Parish Council Matters

- a) **Mendip Farmers' Hunt Meets**

The Chairman was concerned that if a Mendip Farmer's Hunt meet attracted the same number of people as it had in the past, this would leave the Parish Council open to sanction as the landowner. As a large gathering would constitute an illegal gathering under the Covid-19, as they stood, it might be that the Event would become an unlawful activity which was specifically prohibited under the Commons Act of 1876.

Cllr Thompson believed that the Hunt did not need permission but had a right to meet but not hold any form of gathering associated with a meet. She felt it would be sufficient to tell the Hunt that it must meet Covid-19 regulations or else cancel the Meet on the Village Green.

Cllr Glass felt that it was important the Parish Council made its position clear. Cllr Leach was of the opinion that if the Council had been seen in anyway to have granted consent for an illegal gathering, it would be liable to be fined.

The Chairman said that guidance had been sought from Avon and Somerset Police but this had advised that the Hunt should attend a meeting to consider public gatherings.

**It was resolved that the Clerk should draft a letter to the Hunt expressing the Council's concerns and position that gatherings were not currently possible on the Village Green under Covid-19 regulations.**

WNN

**It was further resolved that further consideration would be given to the Boxing Day meet before December 2020**

- b) **Children's Road Safety Poster Competition**

Cllr Leach reported that the competition entries were with the nominated judges and results would be known shortly after 12<sup>th</sup> October.

The winning entries would be made into estate agent type boards for distribution around the Parish.

WNN  
ML

- c) **Traffic Calming Measures**

The terms of Reference for the Traffic Calming Advisory Group had been circulated widely and seven expressions of interest in joining the group had been received.

**It was resolved to adopt the Group Terms of Reference.**

The membership of the Group was to be Cllr Adams, already appointed chairman, a further councillor and four parishioners.

**It was resolved that the members of the Group should be Cllr Alan Adams, Cllr Mark Leach, Mr Adam Burgess, Mr Dean Collier, Mr Jes Dickin and Mr Mike Dodd.**

The first meeting would be convened by Cllr Adams.

AA

- d) **Somerset County Council Community Climate Emergency Fund 2020/2021**

The Council had been approached by Somerset Wildlife Trust (SWT) asking its support for a bid to the Climate Emergency Fund. Enquiries had been made, including the Mendip Hill AONB Management Committee, and there was general support for the SWT bid. It was felt that the Council was not in a position to make a bid in its own

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right.

**It was resolved to support the Somerset Wildlife Trust bid for funds from the Somerset County Council Climate Emergency Fund.**

WNN

e) **One Somerset Consultation**

It was noted that the One Somerset team were making presentation on the proposal for a single unitary authority for Somerset on 8<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> October in advance of the survey closing on 16<sup>th</sup> October.

There was a feeling that the process was being driven by central government, in pursuance of a policy which sought to create mayoral areas and twenty-five unitary authorities covering England. There was a feeling that the time was not right for such a change and there were greater and more pressing concerns in the time of pandemic. It was agreed that the Parish Council should remain vigilant and encourage individuals to complete the One Somerset Survey.

**It was resolved that the Clerk should write a letter to the Member of Parliament (James Heapey).**

WNN

f) **Mendip [Multi-user] Paths**

Cllr Thompson had attended on the virtual meetings that Mendip District Council were holding with parish and town councils. Areas being explored were bike borrowing schemes in town and it was wondered if village would want a similar arrangement. A review of the availability of cycle racks was also being undertaken. The District Council had proposed producing cycling and walking maps but it was noted that these were already produced by Ordnance Survey. Greenways (a body like Sustrans) had been retained to explore the opening up of the Cheddar to Wells stretch of the Strawberry Line as a multi-user path. It was noted that attempts to do this had been ongoing for some twenty years.

Cllr Thompson had suggested that activity should start with what was already in existence and noted that there were many unclassified roads in the Mendips. These were already publicly maintained and steps could be taken to make them safer.

Cllr Leach asked if it would be possible to have a Quiet Lane, where pedestrians and horse-riders and cyclists had priority over motor vehicles, in Priddy and suggested Nine Barrows Lane. Dale Lane and The Batch were also mentioned in connection with Quiet Lane status.

**It was resolved to include the subject of Quiet Lanes on a future agenda of the Council.**

WNN

g) **Meeting of the Parish Council Finance Committee**

**It was resolved that a virtual meeting of the Finance Committee should be held on 22<sup>nd</sup> October at 7:30pm**

All

h) **Village Green Signage**

The signage relating to motor vehicles on the Village Green was discussed. The continued problem of vehicles parking on the centre section of the Green was considered but it was noted that this was less of a problem in the winter.

**It was resolved that the signage on the New Inn / New House side of the Green relating to parking should be removed and the wording on the parish map be reviewed.** The suggestion of the use of green traffic cones at peak times was made and it was agreed that this and other measures would be discussed in advance of summer 2021

AB

i) **Works to Verges**

It was noted that the trees at Townsend had already been trimmed back using a mechanical flail. It was thought that this had been undertaken by the Highways Authority.

PPC20/124 **Financial**

a) **To receive accounts and a bank reconciliation.**

The accounts and bank reconciliation were noted.

**To authorise the following payments**

b) Major Maintenance for Strimming of the Village Green and other Areas £230.00

The payments having been approved, the Clerk would send the cheques and paperwork to the Chairman and Vice Chairman for signature.

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## PPC20/125 Matters of Report

### a) Dark Lane

Cllr Thompson reported that a tree had fallen, blocking Dark Lane in the vicinity of Priddy Pool. It was noted that Somerset County Council would clear this eventually but it was thought that somebody in the local community might cut up and remove the tree if they were allowed to keep the timber. It was also suggested that the Council could obtain a quote for its removal.

All

### b) Nine Barrow Lane

It was noted that bales of straw had been shed from a load in Nine Barrows Lane. It was thought that this was due to the load being too wide for the lane.

### c) Eastwater Lane

There had been complaints of black plastic (akin to that used to wrap silage) in Eastwater Lane.

### d) Deer Leap Car Park

It was noted that there had been a number of camper vans, larger vehicles and tents in this area, staying over a period of days. The car park had been filled by this so that it was not available to walkers and dog walker. Cllr Leach wondered if a barrier might be put in place to limit the size of vehicles. The Chairman noted that it was illegal to park overnight without the landowner's consent.

An approach would be made to the County Council, as landowner, to request action in respect of the misuse of the car park.

It was suggested that the Parish Council might take on responsibility for the car park.

### e) Will Woodlands

The Chairman noted that Yeo Valley Farms had purchased this land and already owned the Burrington Inn. He wondered if anything had been heard as to how Yeo Valley intended developing the land which was in the Parish. Any development was likely to bring more people into the Parish. It was believed that Yeo Valley would be clearing the woodland, which was in poor state, and that plans might include creation of parking away from the village centre.

## PPC20/126 Date of Next Meeting: Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> November 2020

This meeting would also be held virtually on the Zoom platform

The meeting closed at 8:57pm.

.....  
(Chairman)

.....  
(Date)

William Newton Newey, Parish Clerk  
10<sup>th</sup> October 2020