

Priddy Parish Council

COUNCIL MINUTES

A Meeting of the Parish Council held on **Wednesday 4th November 2020**
at **7:30pm** by Zoom Virtual Platform

Present: Cllrs Alan Adams, Lucy-Rose Andrews, Alan Butcher (Chair), Chris Dyke, Mark Leach, Rachel Thompson MBE

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

PPC20/127 **Apologies for absence:** Cllr Glass

PPC20/128 **Declarations of Interest:** None

PPC20/129 **Public Forum**

Two members of the public wished to speak about development at Dale Farm and its effects on neighbours and the wider village.

PPC20/130 **Council Reports**

a) **Somerset County Council**

There was no report from Cllr Pullin. The Clerk had received an email from Cllr Pullin stating that the situation at Deer Leap Car Park had been referred to the County Council's enforcement team.

b) **Mendip District Council**

There was no report. Cllr Killen had apologised that he had to attend another Zoom meeting but would try join the Priddy meeting when possible.

PPC20/131 **Police Report**

Apart from notification of cancelled beat surgeries there had been no report from the Avon and Somerset Police.

Cllr Leach felt that there should be a report every month and attendance by a representative of the force every three months. The Clerk was asked to contact the Wells Rural Beat Team

WNN

PPC20/132 **Parish Paths Liaison Officer.**

There was no report and the clerk had had no contact from the PPLO.

PPC20/133 **Acceptance of the Minutes of previous meetings:**

Cllr Thompson had requested an alteration to the minutes as circulated and **it was resolved that the phrase 'and the slurry store' should be added to the end of the second sentence of the second paragraph of minute PPC20/121a.** The amended minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 7th October 2020 were agreed as a true and correct record. It was confirmed that the Chairman would sign the minutes when available.

PPC20/134 **Planning**

2020/2038/VRC Application to remove condition 2 (ancillary occupation restriction) of planning approval 2017/2255/HSE (Erection of single storey residential annex) to a separate dwelling house. Top Floor Flat Minery House Smithams Hill Priddy Cheddar. The Chairman noted the long history of planning applications in relation to the property and Cllr Leach noted that the previous planning decisions had seen the annex as an integral part of a single dwelling.

It was resolved that determination of the case should be left with the Planning Department without comment by Priddy Parish Council.

Planning Cases Decided

The following decisions were noted

a) **2020/1162/FUL** Erection of agricultural building on land at Pelting Drove

As had been reported at the Finance Committee meeting, this application had been withdrawn from the Mendip Planning Board. It was not known if a Habitat Risk Assessment was required and no date for its consideration by the Planning Board had been received.

b) **Dale Farm**

The Council had received emails concerning the lighting at Dale Farm which was very visible from many points in the parish. Members of the Public, during the public forum at the beginning of the meeting had, in addition to lighting, raised the subject of noise from Dale Farm.

Cllr Thompson had spoken with the owners of Dale Farm, who had expressed a

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willingness to discuss matters of concern.

It was confirmed that dairy cows included in the Red Tractor farm standards scheme did require additional lighting in their barns. The lighting should have been turning off at 10:00pm and back on again at 5:00am but there had been a problem with the time clock controlling the lighting. This problem was due to be rectified within days.

The suggestion of tree planting screening of the slurry pit had received a positive response.

The milk tanker collecting from Dale Farm could not use Coxton Lane as it was too narrow. Due to cars parked at the Dale Lane, Nine Barrows Lane junction, the tanker was having to manoeuvre round the triangle to gain access and this had resulted in damage to the Nine Barrow Triangle. The construction works at Dale Farm would soon be completed and this would lessen the heavy traffic.

Nest boxes for Little Owls, which had been known to roost and breed at the farm, were being installed after expert advice.

Cllr Thompson said that she had been to visit the Farm and thought it was well set up. The Council understood the issues in relation to the operation of the farm. In respect of the lighting, it was noted that there was a Dark Skies policy in respect of the AONB and it was unfortunate that lighting had not been included in the planning process or consultee comments. The Council reminded all present that that the Parish Council was only a consultee in respect of planning and had no further powers in respect of granting permission or enforcing conditions. Individuals with concerns should contact Mendip District Council. The Parish Council would continue to work with all parties to try and reach a solution.

PPC20/135

Clerk's Report

a) **Mendip Farmers' Hunt Meets**

The Clerk reported that Mendip Farmer's Hunt had confirmed that no meets would be held on the Village Green in 2020 due to Covid-19 restrictions. It was thought that this be confirmed with the Hunt including the fact that the Parish Council was not granting permission for any gatherings on the Village Green until Covid-19 restrictions were lifted.

The Clerk was requested to write to Mendip Farmers Hunt and to prepare a notice for the Village Green

The possibility of people arriving at the Village Green, at the times when meets would have happened was discussed, and it was agreed that a watching brief would be kept, with appropriate action being taken if necessary.

b) **Road signage: Nine Barrows Lane**

Somerset County Council had agreed to install the unsuitable for HGV signs at its own cost.

Road signage: Western Lane

Somerset County Council had also agreed to install the unsuitable for HGV sign at its end of Western Lane, provided that Bath and North East Somerset Council did the same at their end. The Clerk had been in contact with Bath and North East Somerset but the request had been misplaced twice. The Chairman offered to supply the contact details for the Bath and North East Somerset councillor in whose was the end of Western Lane was and the Clerk undertook to contact the councillor.

c) **Community Fibre Partnership**

Nothing further had been heard from BT Openreach

d) **Somerset Wildlife Trust bid to Somerset County Council Climate Emergency Fund 2020 / 2021**

The Clerk confirmed that he had contacted the Trust to confirm the support of Priddy Parish Council.

e) **Planning for the Future**

The submission drafted by the Chairman had been agreed by the Finance Committee, as agreed at the previous Council meeting.

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Finance Committee

a) **The minutes of the meeting held on 22nd October noted.**

The following recommendations from the Committee were considered

b) **It was resolved that tenders be invited for mowing the village green using the specification and list of tenderers proposed by the Finance Committee**

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- c) **It was resolved that tenders be invited for strimming the village green and other areas using the specification and list of tenderers proposed by the Finance Committee.**
- d) **It was resolved that of £100 be allocated for the purchase of the boards required to re-roof the bus shelter.**
The Chairman noted that the actual cost of material was £86.44
- e) **It was resolved that £50 be allocated for the purchase of preservative for the bus shelter.**
It was noted that the application of the preservative would take place in the spring of 2021
- f) **It was resolved that that the budget for the refurbishment of the Bristol Plain finger post be increased to £1,750.**
It was noted that this was to allow for the addition of a third finger.
- g) **It was resolved to adopt the Risk Assessment of 2020 / 2021**
- h) **It was resolved that the budget, as discussed and agreed by the Finance Committee (revenue expenditure £7,425 and capital expenditure of £3,574) be set for 2021 / 2022. It was further resolved to accept the outline budgets for 2022 / 2023 and 2023 / 2024 be adopted.**
- i) **It was resolved that the cost of living increase in the Clerk's remuneration be back dated to 1st April 2020.**
- j) **It was resolved that the Precept for 2021 / 2022 be set at £11,000.**

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Parish Council Matters

a) **Children's Road Safety Competition**

Cllr Leach reported that the entries had been judged and that the poster boards were being finalised. He wished to thank Mrs Gill Flurry for her work in organizing the competition and preparing the artwork for the board. He also wished to thank the Clerk for the administration of the competition. Cllr Adams asked if an article could be prepared for the PEW [Parish] magazine and Cllr Leach said that he would submit an article with pictures.

ML

b) **Traffic Calming Advisory Group**

Cllr Adams reported that the first meeting of the Group had been held, socially distance, at the Village Hall on 2nd November. He wished to thank Mr Alan Hutfield for making the Hall available and Covid-19 secure.

The Group had considered locations throughout the Parish but had decided to concentrate on the Village Green and its approach roads at first. Other roads in the parish were either 'strategic' and therefore subject to regulation by the Highways Authority or remote and sparsely inhabited.

The Speed Indicator Devices (SIDs) which had been put up by the Police had provided some data and the most common speed approaching the Green was 40mph. This supported the view that the perception of danger came from inconsiderate driving rather than raw speed. The Parish Council could purchase its own SID which it would then be able to place when and where it felt appropriate.

AA

It was felt that the Village Stones at Pelting Drove had a more pronounced effect as they had associated walling and ensured a narrowing of the roadway. It was felt that the stones near the Hunters Lodge Inn junction were so far from the Village Green / centre that they had little effect. The Group had considered some further form of signage nearer the Village Green at Lower Pitts.

Other traffic calming measures had been considered and it was noted that proposals to paint white lines at the edge of roads had been considered, by some, as too much urbanisation. Other villages had dummy road humps painted on the road to encourage a reduction in speed or more considerate driving.

The Group had noted that a number of road signs needed cleaning and that road markings were very worn.

The approach of the Group was being guided by the three 'Es' of Education, Enforcement and Engineering.

The School run appeared to be a problem in terms of traffic behaviour and speed. It was suggested that the best way to address this was to ask the Police to make a road safety presentation at the School which would then disseminate to parents and others. The group would meet again in November.

Cllr Thompson noted that there was an issue with traffic speeds and behaviour at

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Townsend. Townsend was used by horse riders, walkers and patrons of the Camp site. Cllr Andrews noted that there had been a blind bend on the road at Townsend. Cllr Dyke said that there had been an intention to install walling with all the gateway stones. Cllr Adams noted that sat navs were responsible for the use of many inappropriate routes.

The Chairman thanked Cllr Adams and the Group for their work.

c) **Litter Bin**

It was resolved that a green Topsy Jubilees litter bin, to be sited on the lower section of the Village Green adjacent to Manor Farm, should be purchased at a cost of £353.72

WNN

It was noted that the old litter bin by the finger post on the top section of the Village Green needed removing.

d) **Newsletter**

It was agreed that a paper Newsletter should be distributed to each address in the Parish before Christmas. Councillors were asked for contributions and Cllr Adams agreed to supply copy relating to the Traffic Calming Advisory Group.

A budget of £150 was set for the production and distribution of the Newsletter.

e) **Quiet Lanes**

Cllr Leach said that he had been involved in the designation of Quiet Lanes in Derbyshire. This status was appropriate for lanes with a high propensity of horse riders and dog walkers. Several lanes had been identified as suitable for this status; included Nine Barrows Lane, Coxtan End Lane, Dale Lane and The Batch.

Cllr Thompson said that she hoped that consideration would extend to other roads and lanes in the Parish and cited the road from Charterhouse to Shipham which was currently a quarry route and Paywell Lane which was also used by large vehicles.

Cllr Dyke asked for clarification of what a Quiet Lane meant. Cllr Leach explained that normal priorities were reversed and that pedestrians, cyclists and horse riders had priority over motor vehicles. There was also a 20mph speed limit on Quiet Lanes.

Cllr Andrews said that she would support investigation and designation of Quiet Lanes.

Cllr Adams re-stated that while the Traffic Calming Advisory Group, who decided to focus initially on the Village Green, could broaden its perspective.

f) **One Somerset Consultation**

The Chairman noted that it had been agreed that councillors would make individual responses to the One Somerset and Stronger Somerset proposals. He further noted that the white paper relating to local government re-organisation had been shelved until 2021.

The meeting then briefly considered the local council alliance being proposed by St Cuthbert's [Out Parish] Parish Council. It was felt that the majority of St Cuthbert's Out Parish was more urban than Priddy. It was felt that Priddy would have more in common with other rural parishes. There was also a concern of the dilution of the 'Priddy voice' in a larger group.

The Chairman restated the Council's approach which was to ensure that all should be done to ensure that Priddy and its community were best represented.

g) **Village Green Signage**

The subject was briefly discussed but it was felt that the issue was not pressing and would not become so until the spring and summer.

It was agreed to defer further consideration until the February meeting of the Council.

WNN

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Financial

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

The accounts and bank reconciliation were noted.

To authorise the following payments

b) T Glover Electrical Limited for the installation of Defibrillator at the Village Hall (£351.60). The invoice for these works had been incorrectly issued in the name of the Village Hall and the contractor had been asked to re-issue the invoice, as originally requested, in the name of Priddy Parish Council. The Clerk would process the payment upon receipt of the new invoice.

c) HMRC [PAYE] (£165.20) and WD Newton Newey (£660.82) in respect of Clerk's Remuneration for July, August, September and October and arrears for April, May and June.

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

PPC20/139 **Matters of Report**

Phone Box Defibrillator Battery

The Clerk reported that a replacement battery for the Phone Box defibrillator was required and would be purchased from the sinking fund established for defibrillator consumables. Unfortunately, the supplier had advised that it was not accepting cheques due to Covid-19 and so it would not be possible to reclaim the VAT. The Clerk would have to make the payment electronically and seek reimbursement.

a) **Dark Lane**

Cllr Thompson asked that thanks be expressed to the parishioner who had cleared the fallen tree from dark lane.

d) **Deer Leap Car Park**

It was noted that there were a number of travellers with caravans occupying the Deer Leap Car Park. Somerset County Council Enforcement Team were to review the matter on 5th November but it was thought unlikely any action would be taken as it had been decided not to take action whilst Covid-19 restrictions were in place.

Cllr Leach asked it would be possible to have some sort of structure to restrict access as was the case with the Ebor Gorge car park further down Deer Leap.

PPC20/140 **Date of Next Meeting: Wednesday 2nd December 2020**

This meeting would also be held virtually on the Zoom platform

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The meeting closed at 8:47pm.

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(Chairman)

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(Date)

William Newton Newey, Parish Clerk
11th November 2020