

# Priddy Parish Council

## COUNCIL MINUTES

A Meeting of the Parish Council held on **Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2020**  
at **7:30pm** by Zoom Virtual Platform

**Present:** Cllrs Alan Adams, Alan Butcher (Chair), Chris Dyke, Juanita Glass, Mark Leach,

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

PPC20/149 **Apologies for absence:** Cllrs Andrews, Thompson

PPC20/150 **Declarations of Interest:** Cllr Leach – item PPC20/159b (reimbursement)

PPC20/151 **Public Forum**

A member of the public enquired if there were any updates in respect of development at Dale Farm. It was noted that the lighting did seem to be time controlled, being turned off at about 10:00pm and on again at 6:00am. Noise levels remained a concern, especially what was thought to be the reversing warning on a tractor. Further concern was expressed about the visibility of the new buildings around the village including Coxton End Lane.

The chairman said that the Parish council had not received any updates. Neither Cllrs Thompson or Killen were present to say if there had been any further conversations with the owners / farmers of Dale Farm.

PPC20/152 **Council Reports**

a) **Somerset County Council**

There was no report from Cllr Pullin.

PPC20/153 **Police Report**

It was noted that a stakeholder newsletter prepared by Somerset and Avon Police had been received. There had also been an email from PCSO Chinnock apologising that she could not attend the meeting. In the email, she noted that number plates had been removed from a vehicle in Priddy and that bike thefts continued to rise nationally. Residents were urged to be vigilant in respect of these matters. The email concluded by stating that the Wells Rural Team continued their patrols though the village at different times of the day and night and that these included Deer Leap and Ebbor Gorge.

PPC20/154 **Parish Paths Liaison Officer.**

There was no report and the clerk had had no contact from the PPLO. The chairman felt that action should be taken as no report or contact had been made by the PPLO in several months. It was agreed that the matter would appear on the agenda for the meeting of the Council in January.

WNN

PPC20/155 **Acceptance of the Minutes of previous meetings:**

The minutes of the meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> November and Extra-Ordinary meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> November were agreed as a true and correct record.

PPC20/156 **Planning**

a) **2020/2330/FUL** Extension of roof to cover over existing concrete cattle yard. Harptree Hill Farm Nordrach Lane Priddy Cheddar Somerset  
Councillors had no comments to make on the application and **voted to support the application.**

**Planning Cases Decided**

The following decisions were noted

b) **2020/1953/APP** Application for approval of details reserved by condition 3 (Arboricultural method statement) on planning consent 2017/0482/FUL. Hazel Manor Lodge Nordrach Lane Priddy Cheddar BS40 6LG It was noted that the application had been approved by Mendip District council

c) **2020/1162/FUL** **Erection of agricultural building on land at Pelting Drove** It was noted that permission had been denied at a meeting of the Planning Board of Mendip District Council. The Chairman had attended the meeting and felt that a further application might be submitted with the barn in a different location.

d) **Dale Farm**

It was noted that this had been raised in the public forum and that no update was available.

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## PPC20/157 Clerk's Report

### a) Litter Bin for Lower village Green

It was confirmed that the bin had been delivered to the Chairman. He asked for volunteers for a working party to site the bin on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> December. Several offers of slabs to anchor the bin were received.

AB

### b) Precept for 2020 / 2021

The Clerk had circulated a copy of the completed Precept request form to Councillors. Mendip District Council had acknowledged receipt of the form.

## PPC20/158 Parish Council Matters

### a) Traffic Calming Advisory Group

Cllr Adams said that two meetings of the Group had been held. The second had identified a number of activities and those who would undertake them. Cllr Pullin had also met with the Group. He had given advice and input, and assured the Group and Council of his continued support. Cllr Pullin had also referred to the County Council's small improvements scheme as a possible source of funds; though he was only allowed to nominate two schemes and his division covered thirteen parishes.

Cllr Adams said that a matrix of potential improvements and new measures was being created. It was intended to make a 'site visit' on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> December and the Group would work through the Village from the Hunter's junction to Townsend.

It had been noted that there were concerns about road safety of the school run. Somerset Highways had offered each school in the County a free road safety talk for children. It was noted that St Lawrence's' and Priddy were amongst those who had not yet taken up the offer.

### b) Dear Leap Car Park

Cllr Adams said that there were still tape and cones in the car park and items were still hanging from the bushes. There was concern that the site might still be contaminated by human faeces, which was a public health concern and that further clearance might need to be undertaken by specialist team. Cllr Leach felt that the bushes might need cutting back as it would be impossible to remove all the debris.

The Chairman undertook to contact Mr Jim Hardcastle, the manager at the Mendip Hills AONB centre, about further clearance of the car park. It was suggested that Cllr Pullin also be contacted as the car park was the property of Somerset County Council.

AB

### c) Appointment of an Internal Auditor

The Clerk told the meeting that he had written to the person suggested by the Chairman but had not received a reply. The Clerk would attempt to make contact before the January meeting of the Council.

WNN

### d) Mendip Farmers Hunt Boxing Day Meet

The Council's position, that no permission for gatherings on the Village Green would be granted until further notice, was re-stated. It was understood that the Hunt proposed meeting at the hunt kennels on Boxing Day but that they would be no gathering on the Village Green. Cllr Glass had heard that the Hunt proposed riding round the green before heading to Westbury-sub-Mendip. There would be no food and drink associated with the meet.

Cllr Dyke said that she had been told that the Hunt proposed riding down Pelting Drove on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> December, having met at the kennels.

It was noted that the issue was complicated by the fact that the highway traversed the Village Green.

**It was agreed that a watching brief be held.**

*Cllr Killen joined the meeting*

### e) Newsletter

It had been agreed to circulate a paper Newsletter to each address in the Parish. The Chairman suggested the following content for the Newsletter; Traffic Calming, Bus Shelter repairs, what happened at Parish Council meetings and how to contact the Parish Council. He also suggested seeking the opinion of parishioners as to how the village gateway stones could create more of an impact, possibly by including signage.

Cllr Adams said that he would be happy to write about the Traffic Calming Advisory Group and this would be an opportunity to restate the principle that the group were very willing to accept advice and opinions from anybody.

AA

Cllr Leach confirmed that he would write a piece about Quiet Lanes.

ML

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It was agreed that the copy for the Newsletter should be with the Clerk by Monday 14<sup>th</sup> December, so that the Newsletter could be circulated with a Christmas Greeting.

f) **Quiet Lanes**

Cllr Leach said that he had raised the topic of Quiet Lanes with Cllr Pullin at the Traffic Calming Advisory Group. This was an initiative for the future but Cllr Pullin had indicated that this might be of interest to the County Council as Highways Authority. Nine Barrows Lane had been suggested as the first lane to be proposed for the status of a Quiet Lane in Priddy.

g) **Grit Bin at Rookham**

Cllr Glass reported that she had investigated the site of the bin and could not see evidence of a collision or damage to the bin. It appeared that it had been physically removed intact. It was noted that there had been a long history of grit and bags of grit being stolen from this location.

**It was resolved not to replace the grit bin at the present time.**

h) **Somerset Association of Local Councils Annual General Meeting**

It was agreed that Cllr Adams and the Clerk would attend the AGM on behalf of Priddy Parish Council

AA  
WNN

PPC20/152b

**Mendip District Council**

Cllr Killen apologised for his late arrival as he had been attending another meeting.

As had already been noted, the planning for permission for the Barn on Pelting Drove had been refused and Cllr Killen was thanked for his contribution to the discussion of the application at the Planning Board.

Cllr Killen noted that business and discretionary grants associated with the second national lock down were still available and could be accessed via Mendip District Council's website.

Recycle more had been in place for five or six weeks and seemed to be working reasonably well. No complaints had been received from Priddy though it was noted that other parishes had not received their blue bags on time.

The subject of a unitary authority for Somerset would be discussed at the next meeting of Mendip District council. It was likely that Mendip District Council would support Stronger Somerset (two unitary authorities) as opposed to the County Council's One Somerset (single unitary authority proposal). Cllr Killen felt that there were weaknesses in both proposals. He was concerned about Public Health and Children and Young Peoples Services. He also felt that the financial benefits were marginal.

Cllr Killen referred to the sale by Mendip District Council of car parks in Frome and Street to Aster for affordable housing. He noted that the process had been challenged, not least in connection to consultation with town and parish councils. There was need to complete the process as a central government grant in respect of affordable housing need to be spent by the end of December 2020.

Mendip District council continued to develop a recovery plan to help business post the Covid-19 pandemic.

Free car parking would be available in Mendip District Council Car parks from 17<sup>th</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> December and also on 1<sup>st</sup> January.

Cllr Killen spoke of the delay in planning applications caused by Natural England's position on phosphate contamination and the need for additional remediation works. An area from Charterhouse to Upton Noble westward was affected and he believed that decision could be delayed by six months.

The Chairman then asked Cllr Killen about Dale Farm. Cllr Killen said that he would be meeting with the owner / farmer but had nothing further to report.

*Cllr Killen left the meeting*

PPC20/159 **Financial**

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

The accounts and bank reconciliation were noted.

**To authorise the following payments**

b) Post for Children's Road Safety Posters [M Leach] (£27.00)

c) Litter Bin for Lower Green [Glasdon UK Limited] (£372.48)

d) GDPR Training [Somerset Association of Local Councils] (£50.00)

The payments having been approved, the Clerk would send the cheques and

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paperwork to the Chairman and Vice Chairman for signature.

PPC20/160

## **Matters of Report**

a) **Phone Box Defibrillator**

The Clerk informed the meeting that there had been an issue with the heater in the Phone Box Defib cabinet. With the Clerk's agreement, a new heater had been ordered and the electric booked to install the unit.

b) **Planning application**

A planning application had been received for an agricultural worker's dwelling at Kingdown Farm, Velvet Bottom. This had been received too late to be included on the agenda for the meeting but a reply was required by 20<sup>th</sup> December. As it was felt important that the Council made a response. It was agreed that an Extra-Ordinary Meeting of the Council would be held on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> December at 7:30pm (via Zoom).

WNN

PPC20/161

**Date of Next Meetings:** **Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> December** (extra-ordinary)  
Wednesday **6<sup>th</sup> January** 2021 (scheduled)

These meetings would also be held virtually on the Zoom platform

The meeting closed at 8:56pm.

.....  
(Chairman)

.....  
(Date)

William Newton Newey, Parish Clerk  
5<sup>th</sup> December 2020