

# Priddy Parish Council

## COUNCIL MINUTES

A Meeting of the Parish Council held on **Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2021**  
at **7:30pm** by Zoom Virtual Platform

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

**In attendance:** William Newton Newey, Parish Clerk, Cllr Tom Killen (MDC) from item PPC21/023 and thirteen members of the public

PPC21/029 **Apologies for absence:** None

PPC21/030 **Declarations of Interest**

Cllrs Glass declared an interest in item PPC21/38c Dursdon Drove and had applied for a dispensation to remain and vote which had been granted by the Clerk. Cllr Thompson declared an interest in PPC21/38c (as above) and PPC21/38d Bridleways and Restricted Byways and had applied for a dispensation to remain and vote which had been granted by the Clerk.

Cllr Dyke had an interest in item PPC21/036b a retrospective planning application at Ebborways farm.

PPC21/031 **Public Forum**

Two parishioners wished to raise the subject of Dale farm and said that they believed there was more concern in the Village than perceived. Comments were made about lights remaining on after 10:00pm and the lights of milk tankers shining outwards from the farm and vehicle movement waking children at night. There was also concern about damage to a wall. The chairman noted that the topic would be dealt with under a later agenda item.

Another parishioner wanted raise the number of pot holes in Nine Barrows Lane and to whom these should be reported.

PPC21/032 **Council Reports**

a) **Somerset County Council**

There was no report as Cllr Pullin was not present at the meeting.

PPC21/033 **Police Report**

A report from a local PCSO had been received and it was noted. Cllr Thompson believed that the threat reported related to that made by a 4 x 4 driver who had had their picture taken in Eastwater Drove. There had been a threat to damage property and this had been reported to the police.

PPC21/034 **Parish Paths Liaison Officer.**

There was no report from the Parish Paths Liaison Officer. The Clerk was asked to write to the PPLO asking if he wished to continue in the role.

PPC21/035 **Acceptance of the Minutes of previous meetings:**

The minutes of the meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> February were agreed as a true and correct record.

*Cllr Glass joined the meeting*

PPC20/036 **Planning**

a) **2021/0227/FUL** Temporary replacement of dilapidated shed and stable block with 3mx5m metal shed (retrospective). Land West of Blackbird Cottage Little Batch Priddy Cheddar Somerset

The Chairman asked the applicant to speak to the meeting. He explained that the previous structure had partially blown down in strong winds and the rest had been removed as it was considered dangerous. The shed, which was bolted down, was to house a mower and other items used in the upkeep of the land on which it stood. The long-term intention was to create a more rural aspect with an orchard or as use for grazing animals. There had not been sufficient funds to put anything other than the shed in place and it was intended to screen the shed with a fence or planting.

Cllr Adams noted that the application had not contained any details as to the use of the shed. Cllr Thompson was concerned that the shed was outside the domestic curtilage of the owner property. She was keen that the landscape, especially in the AONB, should be protected and felt that the shed was quite prominent. There should be an attention to bio-diversity and enhancing the landscape rather than detracting from it.

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**It was resolved neither to support or object to the application but leave the matter to the planners at Mendip District Council.**

*Cllr Dyke left the meeting*

- b) **2020/2651/FUL Retrospective planning application for the erection of an agricultural building. Eborways Farm Pelting Drove Priddy Cheddar Wells**

Cllr Leach said that he was disappointed by the style and design of the building, and was concerned that it detracted from the landscape. Cllr Thompson noted that it was a temporary building on an existing hard standing. She noted that hedging had been planted on two sides of the structure. Cllr Glass was concerned that the building would not be temporary and noted that refusal for a barn on the opposite side of Pelting Drove had been denied because of the visual aspect at the entrance to the Village.

**It was resolved neither to support or object to the application but leave the matter to the planners at Mendip District Council.**

PPC21/037 **Clerk's Report**

- a) **Bus Shelter – Parish Council Noticeboard**

As a noticeboard could not be sourced locally, the Clerk asked that the Council agree the expenditure on a noticeboard as outlined at the previous meeting.

**It was resolved to order a noticeboard at a cost of £1,341.24 excluding VAT.**

WNN

- b) **Arrangements for Mowing and Strimming of the Village Green and other Areas**

The Clerk informed the meeting that he was attempting to obtain quotes for mowing and strimming. There was general agreement that if this proved difficult to arrange in the pandemic, the previous contractors be asked to continue for a further year.

WNN

- c) **Asset Register**

The Clerk had circulated a revised Asset Register, with total assets, at cost prices, of £21,001.

**It was resolved to adopt the Asset Register as circulated.**

*Cllr Dyke re-joined the meeting*

PPC21/038 **Parish Council Matters**

- a) **Traffic Calming Advisory Group**

Cllr Adams spoke to the report which had been circulated with the agenda papers and as displayed on the screen. He focused on the recommendations of the Traffic Calming Advisory Group. The recommendations were for extra signage, the removal of some white lines and the painting of others, especially where associated with the gateway stone, the creation of fences or other infilling by gateways stones and the replacement of some missing hazard indicators. Kerbing at Church Farm (Nine Barrows Lane junction) was proposed to prevent damage to the verges and slow the speed of traffic.

Cllr Adams said that Cllr Pullin had indicated that if the Council was happy with the proposals, the Clerk could write to Cllr Pullin to see if any of the suggestions could be funded from the Somerset County Council Small Improvements Scheme.

Cllr Andrews thanked Cllr Adams for the work of the group and its thoughtful suggestions.

Cllr Thompson questioned the feasibility of some of the proposals and said that she would like to inspect the sites and proposals and to rate and rank them before making any decision. In particular she felt it would be difficult to get a mini-roundabout (as had been one of the proposals for the Hunters Inn junction) in the country side. She also questioned kerbing at Church farm as the verge was required as a passing place. Cllr Leach said that he believed the idea of kerbing was to slow traffic and to prevent two vehicles passing at the same time. Cllr Adams said that given the nature of the road and the proximity of the school the intention was to slow traffic, even if vehicles had to wait to use a single-track stretch of road. Other councillors referred to the use of the verge by agricultural vehicles and the need for space to load and unload.

Cllr Dyke said that she would like to study the report and look at the areas concerned before deciding. This view was echoed by Cllr Glass who thought there should be time to consider and visits the sites in the report.

**It was resolved that the report and its recommendations would appear on the agenda for the next Council meeting.**

Cllr Adams said that he would continue the conversation about measures with Cllr Pullin

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## b) Dale Farm

The Chairman said that this item related to lighting at the Farm which was felt by some to be too bright and intrusive and traffic movements

The Chairman then reported that he and Cllr Killen had visited the farm the previous evening to meet with the owner. He noted that there was one set of lights in the barn, which was in an elevated position, but noted the presence of floodlights on other farms in the Village. The farm had to be operated to farm standards and was now larger than it had been previously.

The Chairman and Cllr Killen had received an email from the owner of Dale Farm in which it was stated that consideration was being given to more screening at the front and rear of the barn and landscaping associated with the slurry and silage pits. The email also queried if adjoining landowners could introduce screening on their property. The email continued to say that vehicle movements on the farm related to the movement of food stuff and should be for about one hour in the morning and evening. The Chairman noted that the farm had only resumed its operation as a dairy farm in October and that during the summer months the cows would not be housed in the barn.

The Chairman then noted that milk tankers could only access the Farm from the Nine Barrows end of Dale Lane. The noise created by the tankers was increased by the need to reverse to negotiate the junction because of cars parked at the junction. This was not a matter which could be policed by the Parish Council and it was suggested that this matter be referred to the Police.

Cllr Killen noted the references to landscaping and the time control on the lighting at Dale Farm. Developments at the farm were not in breach of planning and he did not believe constituted a statutory nuisance. Cllr Killen advocated continued dialogue including the need for landscaping to be sensitive to the locality.

Councillors had no further comments to make. The Chairman suggested that it would be appropriate for the Parish Council to step back from the issue and allow for compromises to be found by those involved.

PPC21/032

## **Council Reports**

### b) Mendip District Council

Cllr Killen reported that Mendip District Council had completed its budget setting process and was predicting an overspend of £1.5M in 2021 rising to a projected overspend of £2.5M in 2022. As with many other activities the Council's policy of investing in commercial property had been adversely affected by the Covid-19 Pandemic. Mendip did, however, have a good level of reserves.

The re-organisation of local government and the creation of a unitary authority or authorities was now the subject of a consultation by central government. The consultation period would end in April 2021 with a decision being expected in June or July. There would be no county council elections in Somerset in 2021 but there would be the election of the Police and Crime Commissioner.

Mendip District Council continued to administer business support grants during the pandemic.

The Cabinet at Mendip District Council continued to review the feasibility of 77km of cycle paths. These would not directly involve Priddy as they were mainly between potential commuter routes between towns.

Mendip Markets were being held twice a week for essential items. Full re-opening would be linked with the lifting of pandemic restrictions.

Litter picking and clearance of fly-tipping had been undertaken after consultations with the AONB.

Cllr Killen concluded by saying that he had noted that the current connection plans for fibre broadband stood at 92%. He was working to ensure that the 8% (remote locations of which there would be a number in Priddy) were not forgotten or subject to large bills for installation.

PPC21/038

## **Parish Council Matters**

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## c) Dursdon Drove

The minutes of a meeting between councillors from Priddy and St Cuthbert's [Out Parish] Parish Councils had been circulated to councillors with the agenda papers. Following the meeting, a motion had been prepared requesting a traffic regulation order to prevent motorised-vehicular traffic using the drove as a through road. It was proposed that an experimental order, which would last eighteen months, could be requested as this would be quicker and could be made permanent.

It was anticipated that the motion requesting the Traffic Regulation Order would be resolved upon by St Cuthbert's [Out Parish] Parish Council at its meeting on 22<sup>nd</sup> March.

After some debate, it was agreed that the wording of the motion be revised and include a specific reference to motorised vehicles.

**It was resolved that Priddy Parish Council jointly with St Cuthbert Out Parish Council seek a Traffic Regulation Order to prevent through motorised vehicular traffic using Dursdon Drove whilst retaining access for landowners and all other non-motorised classes of user.**

## d) Bridleways and Restricted Byways

It was noted that boulders had already been placed at the locations discussed by the Council and so no further action was required. Thanks were expressed to those who had put the boulders in place.

It was noted that the application for a barrier on East Water Lane would need to be submitted.

Cllr Thompson requested that the byway by Upper Pitts bridleway be added to the list of traffic restriction signage requested from the County Council

## e) Annual Parish Meeting

The Chairman told the meeting that the legislation that allowed meetings to be held virtually expired on 6<sup>th</sup> May. The Annual Parish Meeting had to be held between 1<sup>st</sup> March and 1<sup>st</sup> June but it was not anticipated that there would be a full relaxation of lockdown regulations to late June, which would make holding an APM impossible.

**It was resolved that the 2021 Annual Parish Meeting be held virtually (using the Zoom platform) before the end of April.**

WNN

The event would be advertised on noticeboards, the website and by email.

## f) Annual Parish Meeting of the Parish Council

The Annual Meeting had to be held in May and the same issues existed as with the Annual Parish Meeting.

**It was resolved that the 2021 Annual Meeting of the Parish Council be held virtually (using the Zoom platform) before the end of April.**

WNN

## g) Local Government Re-organisation

It was agreed that the Council's response would be considered at its meeting in April.

WNN

## h) Village Green Signage

There was a concern about signage on the Green and how it appeared to be a sign of urbanisation. Equally the green cones were felt to be ugly but useful. Various options for discouraging parking on the centre of the Green were discussed. Some Councillors felt that there was a danger of using a sledge hammer to crack a nut when it came to parking on the Green the Chairman noted that there had been fifteen to twenty incidents in 2020.

**It was resolved that all signage be removed.**

The matter would be reconsidered if there was an issue in the summer of 2021.

## i) Mendip Local Plan Part II - Sites and Policies - Consultation on Additional Main Modifications

It was agreed that there were no matters directly affecting Priddy and that no response was required.

## h) Gatherings and Events on the Village Green

A request had been received to hold a Village picnic with musical entertainment on the Green on 26<sup>th</sup> June, with a marquee as a back-up in case of inclement weather.

It was felt that this date was too close to the proposed lifting of lock down restrictions' and that the date was too early for such an event. Reference was made to the cancellation of Priddy Folk Festival in the summer of 2021.

**It was resolved not to grant permission for the event.**

It was noted that the Chairman had suggested a celebration in the Council's Christmas

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Newsletter. It was suggested that the topic be included on the agenda for the Annual Parish Meeting.

The Clerk reminded the Council that it had an Events Committee.

The Council's position that no permission had been or would be granted for gatherings until further notice was confirmed. The matter was to remain on the agenda for Council meetings.

## PPC21/0239 **Financial**

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

The accounts and bank reconciliation were noted.

### **To authorise the following payments**

### b) Training [Somerset Association of Local Councils] (£25.00)

### c) Subscription to Open Spaces Society for 2021 / 2022 (£45.00)

### d) Clerk's Remuneration [HMRC] (£202.80), [WD Newton Newey] (£811.50)

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

## PPC21/025 **Matters of Report**

### a) **Nine Barrows Lane Flooding**

A report of flooding had been received from a parishioner but the water had drained away. The works by Somerset Highways seemed to be successful.

### b) **Code of Conduct**

The Chairman said that he planned to submit a paper / policy note on the use of email to the next meeting of the Council.

### c) **New House Sign**

The owner of New House had asked if the Council had any objections to the sign being re-erected on the drive of the House. There would be a similar sign for the new built dwelling (Paddock Hill House). No objections were expressed but it was asked that the branches lopped from the New House trees recently could be removed from the Village Green.

### b) **Decline in Insect Numbers**

The Clerk apologised that due to an oversight on his part the consideration of the report by Somerset Wildlife Trust recording a decline in insect numbers had not been included on the agenda. It would be included on the agenda for the April meeting.

## PPC21/041 **Date of Next Meeting: Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> April**

This meeting would also be held virtually on the Zoom platform

The meeting closed at 9:17pm.

.....  
(Chairman)

.....  
(Date)

William Newton Newey, Parish Clerk  
10<sup>th</sup> March 2021