

Priddy Parish Council

COUNCIL MINUTES

A Meeting of the Parish Council held on **Wednesday 7th April 2021**
at **7:30pm** by Zoom Virtual Platform

Present: Cllrs Chris Dyke, Rachel Thompson MBE (Chairman), Lucy-Rose Wilkes

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

PPC21/049 **Apologies for absence:** None

PPC21/050 **Declarations of Interest**

None

PPC21/051 **Public Forum**

- a) A member of the public wished to enquire about the resignation of four councillors and the Clerk and why this had happened. The Chairman said that the individuals concerned were free to speak if they wished but she wanted to concentrate on the future. The resignations were not part of the agenda for the meeting.
- b) A member of the public spoke about planning application 2021/0464/FUL (Nine Barrows Lane). The proposed scheme had been reduced and was felt to be more in keeping with the locality. It was hoped that it addressed the concerns raised by the Council previously and would satisfy councillors that these had been addressed. A muck heap had been included on the south west side of the building and a schedule for removal of muck by a local farmer agreed. There would be a hedge screening the south west side. There would be occasional use of lighting and no light pollution.
- c) Another member of the public wished to raise the issue of councillors and the Clerk resigning. He said that he felt it was on the agenda for the meeting in that minutes relating to the extra-ordinary meeting resulting from the resignations had been included on the agenda for agreement. He wondered if the 'closed' session of the extra-ordinary meeting had considered the resignation by ex-councillors. Cllr Wilkes said that she had not been made aware of the reasons for the resignations and had only become aware of the resignations when she had seen the notice of vacancy posted on the village noticeboards. Cllr Dyke said that she too was only aware of the resignations from the public notices. The Chairman noted that as three councillors remained, the Council was able to keep going. It was not her ambition to be Chairman of the Parish Council but hoped that with new councillors and a new Clerk there would be the opportunity to tackle new initiatives.

PPC21/052 **Council Reports**

a) **Somerset County Council**

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

b) **Mendip District Council**

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

PPC21/053 **Police Report**

The Clerk read an email from PCSO Leann Chinnock:

Please accept my apologies for not attending the Parish Meeting tonight.

The crime report from 1st March – 31st March 2021

Road Related Incident x3

Suspicious x1

Covid Breach x1

Also, please can you inform the residents that we have had over the Easter Weekend a number of Burglaries in the village of Henton. Please be vigilant and always report any suspicious activity either on 101 or if you see a burglary taking place please call 999.

The chairman noted the theft of plumbing from the New Inn which had taken place in the previous fortnight.

PPC21/054 **Parish Paths Liaison Officer**

There had been no contact from the Parish Paths Liaison Officer (PPLO). As this had been the case for some considerable time, it was agreed that the appointment of a new PPLO be included on the agenda for the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council.

PPC21/055 **Acceptance of the Minutes of previous meetings:**

The minutes of the meeting held on 3rd March and the extra-ordinary meeting held on 31st March were agreed as a true and correct record.

PPC20/056 **Planning**

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- a) **2021/0464/FUL** Erection of two stables, tack room and storage building. Land At 352745 151675 Nine Barrows Lane Priddy Cheddar Somerset
The Chairman reminded the meeting that this was a re-submission and that the Council had not supported the previous application due to concerns over the size of the proposed buildings, the effect on bio-diversity and the run off from the site.
Cllr Dyke said that the new application was better suited to the location than what was proposed in the original application. She was re-assured that the concerns of the Council over the original application had been taken into account. Cllr Wilkes and the Chairman agreed with the comments made by Cllr Dyke
It was resolved to support the application.

WNN

- b) **2021/0567/FUL** Erection of an agricultural building. Land At 352905 150143 Pelting Drove Priddy Cheddar Somerset
The Chairman reminded the meeting that this application was also a re-submission and that the Council had not supported the previous application due to the location of the building in a gateway location to the village. The Chairman noted that the location of the building had been moved in the new application.
Cllr Dyke said that, as the location of the building had been moved, she was happy to support the application. Cllr Wilkes agreed with the comments made by Cllr Dyke. The Chairman said that she had checked on the subject of lighting and that there was to be no lighting in the building.
It was resolved to support the application.

WNN

PPC21/057 Clerk's Report

- a) **Arrangements for Mowing and Strimming of the Village Green and other Areas**
The Clerk informed the meeting that the contractor (Major Maintenance) who had undertaken the strimming in 2020 was willing to continue for 2021 at the same price per strimming session.
It was resolved to confirm this arrangement.
The Clerk had asked the contractor (RP & S Main) responsible for mowing the Village Green in 2020 if they were willing to continue. Unfortunately, no response had been received despite the enquiry having been made on more than one occasion. The Clerk was asked to contact the contractor again. It was agreed to include the matter on the agenda for the next meeting of the Council.

WNN

WNN

PPC21/058 Parish Council Matters

- a) **Traffic Calming Advisory Group**
The Chairman said that she would make contact with the members of the public who had been members of the Group to see if they wished to continue to serve on the Group. It was felt appropriate that with only three Councillors it was appropriate to defer further consideration of the Group's report until there was a full Council after the May election.
It was resolved to defer further consideration of the Group's report to the June meeting of the Council.

JC

- b) **Dursdon Drove**
The resolution "That St Cuthbert (Out) Parish Council seeks 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." had been made by St Cuthbert's [Out Parish] Parish Council at its meeting on 22nd March.
The Chairman invited Cllr Paul Cannon of St Cuthbert's [Out Parish] Council to speak and he confirmed the passing of the resolution and that his Council was applying for the TRO.
The Chairman reported that incidents continued to occur.

- c) **Bridleways and Restricted Byways**
The Chairman reported that agreement had been reached with the landowners adjoining Eastwater Drove and that she would pursue the installation of barrier with Somerset County Council.

RT

Residents of Lower Pitts Farm and adjoining Dark Lane had asked for signage indicating that motor vehicles were not permitted to use bridleways and restricted byways. There was a concern about erecting too many signs in a rural environment. Cllr Dyke suggested leaving the decision on requesting further signage until new councillors were elected. Cllr Wilkes suggested that the matter could be discussed at the June meeting of the Council. The Chairman said that the signage could be

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ordered, if there was to be a long lead time, and cancelled if not considered necessary or appropriate.

RT

It was resolved that the Chairman would approach Somerset County Council about signage at Lower Pitts Farm and Dark Lane.

d) **Local Government Re-organisation**

The proposals by the County Council for a single unitary authority (one Somerset) and the four District Councils (Stronger Somerset) were noted. It was thought that there might be a referendum as part of the public consultation.

It was agreed that the Council had no stance on the matter and that it was a matter for personal decisions. Public opinion would be identified by any referendum.

e) **Gatherings and Events on the Village Green**

The Council's policy remained unchanged, that there should be no organised gatherings on the Village Green while Covid-19 restrictions remained in place.

It was noted that the ice cream van had been trading on the Green and was thought to have been a boost to local morale.

The subject of a Village Picnic, which had been suggested as a celebration when restrictions were lifted, was raised. It was agreed that discussion of the matter should be deferred until after the further lifting of restrictions on 17th May. Councillors Dyke and Wilkes felt that it would be best discussed at the June meeting of the Council, when new councillors had been elected to the Council.

JC

f) **Parish Council Website**

An offer had been received from Amy Keith to build a new website for the Council and community.

Cllr Dyke said that the wait for a new website had been a long one. There would be a need to ascertain which groups would welcome space on the website. Cllr Dyke suggested that this should also be discussed by the new councillors, when elected. Cllr Wilkes said she was grateful for the offer and that she would welcome a site that was easier to navigate. She mentioned that she had viewed the Westbury-sub-Mendip Site.

It was resolved that the offer to build a new website should be accepted in principle.

It was agreed that further consideration of the topic, including the forming of a working group to consider contents and costs, would be deferred to the June meeting of the Council.

JC

PPC21/059 **Financial**

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

The Clerk spoke to the accounts reminding Council that there were still interim as the bank statement showing the closing balance as at 31st March 2021 had not been received. He noted that the budget statement showed an underspend both in terms of revenue or recurring items and project expenditure. He also noted that the bank reconciliation included a larger than normal number of uncleared cheques; one of these he thought would not be presented, three were to an organisation that seemed not to have undertaken their banking for some time and one was his remuneration (up to 31st March) which had been presented but not cleared through his bank account.

The accounts and bank reconciliation were noted.

To authorise the following payment

b) Mowing the Village Green in 2020 [RP7S Main] (£672.00)

c) **Bank Mandate**

The Clerk explained that a resolution of Council was required to remove ex councillors as signatories and to add a further signatory, in addition to Cllr Dyke, as two signatories were required to authorise payments and transfers. He reminded the Council that while the Clerk was included in the mandate, this was to operate the account only and not as an authorising signatory.

It was resolved to remove Alan Adams, Alan Butcher and Mark Leach as signatories on the mandate (as they were no longer councillors), add Cllr Lucy-Rose Wilkes as a signatory and to remove William Newton Newey (Clerk) and substitute Judith Coles (Temporary Clerk) as a signatory able to operate the account.

WNN

PPC21/060 **Matters of Report**

There were no matters of report

PPC21/061 **Date of Next Meeting:**

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Annual Parish Meeting – 27th April at 7:30pm

Annual Meeting of the Parish Council – 5th May at 7:30pm

These meetings would also be held virtually on the Zoom platform

The meeting closed at 8:09pm.

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(Chairman)

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(Date)

William Newton Newey, Parish Clerk
12th April 2021