

Priddy Parish Council

Minutes

Minutes of the Meeting of Priddy Parish Council held on **Wednesday 23 June 2021**
at **7:30pm** in Priddy Village Hall

Present: Cllrs R Thompson, L-R Wilkes, C Dyke, D Collier, G Butterell, M Phippen, A Keith
Clerk to the council (temporary) J Coles
Six members of the public

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Leann Chinnock of Avon and Somerset Police.

2. Declarations of Interest

Members are required to act in accordance with the Priddy Parish Council Code of Conduct Adopted 6 July 2016 (clauses 10 – 14) where a matter arises at the meeting in which he/she has a disclosable pecuniary interest or other interest as detailed in the Code. Unless a dispensation has been granted the member shall not participate in the discussion or vote on the matter or shall withdraw from the meeting as required by the Code.

There were no declarations of interest.

3. Procedural Matters

- (a) Confirmation of appointments and confirmation that Declarations of Interest and Acceptance of Office have been signed.

The Chair asked if all the new Parish Councillors had completed their Declarations of Interest and returned to Mendip District Council and to confirm they had signed their Acceptance of Office forms.

It was also confirmed that the Chair and Vice Chair had signed their Acceptance of Office forms after the last meeting and returned them to the Clerk.

- (b) To approve the Parish's Publication Scheme (FOI)
(c) To review and re-adopt Standing Orders
(d) To review and re-adopt Financial Regulations
(e) To review and re-adopt other policies and procedure

In respect of items (b) – (e) inclusive the Chair advised all should familiarise themselves with the above documents that should be on the website. After discussion it was agreed that these were not easy to find so the Chair agreed to send them to everyone separate, by email. Cllr Keith agreed to make sure they are put on the website. The Chair also advised that a new set of Standing Orders is due to be published by SALC and proposed that the existing ones are reviewed and amended at this time with a view to cover the deficiencies found in the old Standing Orders.

4. Acceptance of Minutes of the Previous Meetings:

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 5 May 2021 were signed as a correct record.

5. Public Forum

It was noted that there were six members of the public attending via Zoom link although there was concern that the sound quality was inadequate.

The Chairman adjourned the meeting for a maximum of 15 minutes to allow public participation at 1940 hours.

Nick Furze raised item Traffic Calming Advisory Group 7(c) and reiterated his request that proper time was allowed to discuss the report at this meeting and not referred to a future meeting. Again, Nick asked when will the outlined actions be taken.

Nick also advised that Somerset County Council Highways will restore the damaged verges along Pelting Drove.

Nick asked, in respect of item 11(e) Memorial Trees if European Plane Trees could be considered in a location on the land behind the Church.

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In respect of Item 12(e) Precept and Balance – Nick asked if it was necessary to ask for Precept to be raised this year, given the balance in the bank.

Nick finished by congratulating all the new Parish Council Members for their appointment.

Barry Wilkinson mentioned Item 11(f) Land at Nine Barrows Lane – can the Parish Council be sure, prior to any decision, that it is put to Parishioners for consideration.?

Dawn Payne asked for clarification of the location of the above piece of land and it was confirmed it was that going for auction, on the left going towards the pond.

The public participation section closed and the Parish Council meeting resumed.

6. Reports

- (a) Somerset County Council – not present.
- (b) Mendip District Council – not present.
- (c) Police Matters

A report was read from Leann Chinnock detailing monthly statistics. Cllr Dyke asked for clarification of opposite Hill View on Plummers Lane after complaints from residents at Rowberrow Farm in respect of a recent incident.

- (d) PPLO – vacant

7. Appointments:

- (a) Finance Committee

The Chair outlined that this Committee traditionally consisted of all the Parish Councillors and met around 4 times a year at the Hunters Lodge in a private session. The Chair asked if all were happy to participate and all agreed. Concerns were raised about training and the Chair advised that all training can be provided by SALC for those wishing to take this up. It was suggested that everybody go to one session and decide what to do – perhaps covering all subjects offered with one session for each Councillor. The Chair confirmed the Parish Council covers the cost of the course. Course details can be found on the SALC website. Councillors to bring preferences to the next meeting.

- (b) Events Committee

After discussion it was agreed that this Committee should perhaps not exist and instead, be a heading under which things can be discussed.

Cllr Butterell advised that she had a friend who has offered an **open air cinema** event at a very good price - £700. This idea was met with enthusiasm and agreed that it could be done towards the end of the Summer.

Cllr Dyke advised auctioneer has proposed 28th August for the **Implement Sale** covered under Item 11(c). The Church would like to do fund raising by way of catering and hold the Annual Service in the marque on the Sunday.

Cllr Keith advised that Tamsin's idea of a **Family Picnic** could be held over this Bank Holiday Weekend and a general discussion took place about making a weekend of it.

Cllr Collier cautioned that we don't yet know how COVID restrictions will be working at this time and that perhaps Risk Assessments, etc. may be required. R Also PC restrictions re allowing events on the Green to go ahead as per position on COVID regs.

It was also suggested that Liz Turley would like to sell plants at this event and Cllr Keith advised that it would be a good event to launch a History/Tree Trail.

Cllr Collier offered to provide the number of the archaeologist who organised the walk for Folk Fair. Cllr Dyke also advised she had a contact who can advise on plants/flowers.

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Cllr Phippen suggested a **Tractor Run** around the time of the Implement Sale and that the School could be asked to do refreshments.

Cllr Collier advised of a livestream event organised for the weekend of the Folk Fair on 10 July 2021 and also advised that it is hoped Village Hall concerts can take place. Cllr Collier reminded Members that the Folk Fair have a marquee and resources that the Committee would be happy to lend to village events.

The Chair asked if at the next meeting, a timetable of dates could be proposed and perhaps, for these ideas it would be better to meet informally to allow discussion – although cautioned that no decisions can be formally made.

(c) Traffic Calming Advisory Group

Cllr Collier was the only Parish Councillor who was a member of the previous Committee. It was proposed that this Group should continue and that Cllr Collier should Chair the Group. All agreed. Cllrs Phippen and Butterell to join the group. Cllr Collier to send proposal to Clerk who will circulate to everyone for the August meeting.

(d) PPLO – deferred until the vacancy is filled.

(e) Defibrillator Guardians – it was noted that a Guardian is still needed for the Village Hall.

(f) Clerk

The Chair, Vice Chair and Cllr Keith to form the recruitment panel and agreed to interview applicants prior to the closing date of 30 June 2021.

8. Planning

(a) 2021/1270/FUL Change of Use of Redundant Agricultural Barn & Land to a Flexible B2/B8 Use (including Operational Development) at Home Farm, Nordrach Lane, Priddy – General discussion took place and it was voted unanimously to recommend refusal based on Light Pollution effect on wildlife, increased traffic on road used by cyclists, walkers and horse riders, if stated plan of relocation of existing premises then there was insufficient information relating to traffic management and existing parking. The application is contrary to policies DP4, 5 and 9 and CP4(4.83 – 4.84). The Parish Council felt there was insufficient information relating to hours of use – 24hours/day/7 days/week was stated on the form and would be unacceptable and there were concerns about another, large industrial site in the AONB and proximity to protected species which were noted on the application form as present but no mitigation offered.

(b) 2021/1215/FUL Erection of Rear Extension, 1 Pelting Drove, Priddy – the Parish Council were unanimous in their (its) support of this application.

(c) 2021/1005/FUL Erection of Extension to Agricultural Building, Dale Farm, Priddy – after general discussion it was voted to support the application but request the observations of the AONB officer were taken into consideration regarding landscaping.

9. Highways and Rights of Way Matters

(a) Dursdon Drove – traffic issues being dealt with by St Cuthbert Out Parish Council and PC Darren Pearson deals with Criminal Use of Bridleways and Restricted Byways and misuse of Durston Drove. It was agreed to encourage all Parishioners to record/photograph keep pattern of incidents diary try and collect vehicle registrations numbers and forward to Darren) Cllr Keith to post on website.

(b) Parish Paths- land owners of Eastwater Lane want barriers and the Parish Council to agree – The Chair suggested this is deferred to the July meeting.

10. Clerk's Report

(a) Meeting Schedule 2021 – the Clerk distributed the meeting schedule and it was agreed to stick with the 1st Wednesday of the month for at least the rest of this year with a Finance Meeting held in between. All agreed.

(b) Tenders and Sub Contracture Agreements – Arrangements for mowing and trimming of the village green and other areas

Cllr Collier advised that Cole Major had been in touch and would give his number to the Chair. Cllr Collier also asked if the strimming and green cutting contract could be regularised to both allow for leaving aside areas for wild flowers. The Chair advised that Robin Maine has asked for an approval of increasing the cost

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of the cut from £80 - £100. The cost of strimming is £230 per strim. The Chair advised that these figures would still remain below the figure allowed in the budget.

Cllr Collier felt the topper was too large for the area and the Council should consider a gang mower. Cllr Dyke advised parishioners have complained about the Village Green.

It was agreed to consider the Tenders around Autumn and to place on the Agenda for October to finalise.

The Chair asked for those in favour of paying Robin the requested £100 and all agreed. Cllr Keith will coordinate the brief to Robin and Col Major re: wildflowers.

(c) Offer of Parish OS Maps and Rights of Way - It was unanimously agreed yes please to the Maine family for this kind offer.

11. Parish Council Initiatives

(a) Parish Plan – Cllr Keith asked if this could be revisited. The Clerk to look out any past records and Cllrs Collier and Keith to come back to the Parish Council with proposals.

(b) Website Update – Cllr Keith advised the version of the new website (different domain name) was available for viewing and asked for feedback prior to launch under the old domain name prior to the next meeting. Cllr Keith also requested around 100 word information from each Councillor. Cllr Phippen advised she can arrange for professional images to be created to use as logos.

(c) Implement Sale – as discussed above.

(d) Sky/Light Pollution – Mendip Hills AONB Officer has offered planning sessions on this subject and on 'planning in protected landscapes' and it was agreed to make arrangements to allow this – the Chair to organise.

(e) Memorial Trees – general discussion took place and it was thought that the proposed area behind the Church would be too difficult to organise due to difficulties of identifying landowner, however, all agreed it would be a shame to affect the view of the Church from the Top Green by trees. It was suggested that perhaps they could be planted on either side of the drive entrance to the top green with perhaps a mix of two Holly and two European Plane. Concern was raised about not using native trees. Cllr Wilkes advised that the European Plane tree thrives in our area and was extremely good for the climate. Further discussion to take place at next meeting.

(f) Proposal to Purchase Land at Nine Barrows Lane – general discussion took place and was met with general favour. Concerns were raised by Cllr Collier and the Chair proposed a vote on the principal of purchasing land as an investment/community facility. 6 voted in favour of this principle and 1 abstained.

Cllr Wilkes asked if the village could be consulted ahead of this particular land auction and it was agreed to consult with the village.

Amendment agreed 21/07/21- *The Council did not consider going to auction due to not meeting financial regulations and that any consideration for buying land would follow a consultation with the community.*

12. Financial Matters

(a) Parish Online Payment

(b) Defibrillator Accessories

(c) Discussion on Precept and Bank Balance

The above matters were deferred due to the time allowed.

13. Resolution to exclude the Press and Public

That, in accordance with Standing Order 24, the press and public be excluded from the remainder of the meeting due to the confidential nature of business to be discussed.

(a) Discussion after outcome of Item 11(f) above – deferred until next meeting.

(b) Parish Clerk Salary Arrangements – the Clerk advised this should be more than advertised in accordance with SALC guidelines. The Chair to send round the scale for all to consider and Cllr Collier suggested that it should be agreed that the position will be paid according to the relevant scale. Cllr Keith to

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advertise on the Council's website for the last few days. The Chair asked for agreement to £11 per hour as per SALC advice and all agreed.

(c) Accounts and Audit Year ending 2021 – the Chair reported that the Audit has been signed off by the Auditor and has been sent round. The Chair asked if everyone was happy with the Accounts and it was agreed they could be signed by the RFO – the Chair and the Vice Chair. The Accounts would now be published for 30 days. As the Chair is acting as RFO the Vice Chair countersigned the AGAR and the appropriate parts of the AGAR form including the certificate of exemption, the annual governance statement and the annual account statement (part 2) were signed.

14. Matters of Report

Cllr Wilkes asked if the bin at the entrance to the Top Green could be removed and Cllr Phippen offered assistance with this.

Cllr Dyke asked for another signatory for the online banking and it was agreed that Cllrs Wilkes, Dyke, Butterell and Collier should be signatories.

Cllr Keith asked if everything has to go through the Clerk and the Chair confirmed that this should remain the case.

15. Date of Next Meeting

7 July 2021 at 7.30 pm

There being no further business the meeting closed at 10 pm.

Judith Coles
Temporary Parish Clerk
Tuesday 15 June 2021
parish.clerk@priddyparish.org