

Minutes of the meeting of Priddy Parish Council held on 1st June 2011 at Priddy Village Hall

**Present:** Cllrs Alan Hutfield (chair), Rachel Thompson, Sharon Sparkes, Liz Turley, Kate Greet, Rick Tobiassen, Richard White; also in attendance Harvey Siggs, Tom Killen, PCSO Linda Vincent and Alan Butcher(Clerk)

**26 (1) Apologies for absence:** none, all present.

**27 (2) Declarations of Interest:** there were no declarations.

**28 (3) Minutes of the extraordinary Meeting held on 26th May 2011:**

the words "were inserted" were added to the last line of the amendments to the minutes after ".....an interest."

The minutes as amended were agreed and signed by the Chair as a true record.

**29 (4) Public Forum:** the chair adjourned the meeting to allow public participation and questions:

- a** Some 14 members of the public were present.
- b** Nick Furze (in attendance) read out a letter expressing concern about amendments to previous minutes and issues connected with the recent Parish Poll.
- c** Christine Duckett (in attendance) advised that she had recently followed a vehicle which failed to stop at the Miners Arms crossroad and had narrowly avoided a collision. She felt that action needs to be taken to resolve this continuing problem.
- d** Lesley Houlton (in attendance) asked for clarification about declarations of interest (see matters arising) and Richard Houlton (in attendance) asked if information given by MDC in this regard and by SCC in respect of the accuracy of information circulated before the Parish Poll could be made public (see matters arising)
- e** Richard Houlton asked what the Parish Council intended to do about traffic speed and safety in the village.

**30 (5) Matters arising from the Annual PC Meeting held on 11th May 2011:**

- a** *Declarations of interest:* Rachel had spoken to MDC solicitor on whether councillors involved with campaigning for the recent Parish Poll were required to declare a personal interest. He had advised that councillors had the same rights as members of the public in this regard and that no interest needed to be declared.

- b** *Information circulated for the recent Parish Poll:* Kate advised that she had spoken to Tom Hayward at SCC Highways regarding signs and other issues associated with a 30mph speed limit and that he had confirmed that information contained in leaflets, posters and a website were in line with what he had discussed with the previous Parish Council. When asked about possible traffic calming he had advised that village gateways and signage stating "Please Drive Slowly through our Village" would be a possibility.
- c** In response to the question asked in the public forum, the chair advised that the question of traffic calming would be referred back to the VG&H committee.

**31 (6) Matters arising from the extraordinary Meeting held on 26th May 2011:**

- a** *Allegation made against Parish Clerk:* it was agreed that in any future situation where the clerk is acting as an agent for any planning application, they shall stand down into the public gallery for that item and the minutes will be taken by a councillor.
- b** *Moore Stephens:* the clerk had circulated details of the MS fee for information. Rick had drafted a letter to MS and it was agreed to write to MS with a cheque for the amount of the PC's summation of the fee as previously discussed. Clerk

**32 (7) Financial:**

- a** A cheque for £325.44 in respect of the clerks salary and expenses for April and May 2011 was agreed and raised.

**33 (8) Agenda Items:**

- a** *Group Buying of Fuel:* a committee comprising Alan H, Liz and Rachel to take this matter forward .
- b** *Reclaim of VAT:* Rick had sought external advice and confirmed that a claim for all VAT paid be the PC for years 2008/9, 2009/10 and 2010/11 could be made, the claim had to be in by 31st July 2011. Clerk to prepare details for the claim and liaise with Rick by the next meeting. Rick/Clerk
- c** *Peacock Damage:* a letter from Mrs Lefevre of Pelting Drove was read out regarding damage to vehicles by the peacocks which roamed freely in the area. Other residents had also suffered damage and disturbance from these birds. It was noted that this matter had been discussed before without result. Richard advised that the birds owner should deal with the problem. Rachel to contact the owner to discuss the matter. Rachel

**d** *Matters of Report and Emergency Items:*

Sharon commented on the point raised during the public forum about the Miners Arms crossroad. Traffic often goes straight across without stopping and there have been fatalities in the past. She had spoken to the police and highways about the matter. Works had been carried out to improve the visibility but more was required including signs and rumble strips. Harvey Siggs to discuss the matter with highways and raise the question of rumble strips and the possibility of staggering the junction although he thought that everything possible had been done to improve the junction.

Harvey Siggs.

**e** *Greens and Highways Report* : the clerk reported that the application for funding for works to the sheep wash had been refused, partly on the grounds that other funding was available in Priddy. He also noted that it was unfortunate that no official notification of the refusal or the reasons for same had been received, he had discovered the information on the AONB website.

**f** *Somerset County Council update:* Harvey Siggs advised that Nigel Taylor and Ron Forrest were representatives to the AONB if the PC was concerned about the sheepwash application. The clerk advised he had already spoken to Nigel Taylor.

Harvey also advised possible changes to the mobile library service and that all but 5 or 6 secondary schools across the county had applied for academy status which would mean that the schools would be funded directly but still leaving the council to pay for some services.

Road surfacing had been carried out around the county but the problem of utility companies digging up newly surfaced roads was still ongoing. A review of road gritting was in hand and he hoped that there could be an extension of gritting to School Hill and beyond in Priddy. There would be a chance for the PC the visit the depot to view equipment, etc.

Finally he was pleased to advise that the council had secured funding with others for superfast broadband to rural areas although a date for this was not known as yet.

**g** *Mendip District Council update:* Tom Killen advised that the new council was bedding in with 27 new councillors taking their seats. The Localism Bill would be coming to the fore in coming months. There had been changes to the planning department with more customer focus and a change where officers visited the site at an early stage which meant that registration now took slightly longer. MDC were organising a half day session about small event organisation including health and safety, road closures, T.E.N's, etc; this was in Midsomer Norton on 15th June, details from MDC.

**h** *Police Community Support Officer:* the chair welcomed Linda Vincent. She advised that there was an increase in scrap metal and diesel thefts and gave details of the Farmwatch scheme. Regarding speeding and traffic problems detailed above she felt that more driver education was required.

**34 (9) Correspondence:**

- a** Parish Information Bulletin
- b** AONB press releases and updates
- c** received after agenda production:
- d** SCC letter re broadband.
- e** SCC Rights of Way report and information
- f** Tessa Munt; details of Energy Bill
- g** MDC Structural changes details
- h** Thatch newsletter
- i** Civil Contingencies details - for discussion at the next meeting.
- j** Tom Killen email re: Parish Poll
- k** Nick and Veronica Furze letter 1/06/11 regarding amendments to minutes.

Agenda

The meeting closed at 9.10pm

Alan Butcher ~ Parish Clerk

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