

# PRIDDY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Finance Committee Meeting  
held at the Hunters Lodge Inn at 7:30pm on Wednesday 15 March, 2017

**Present:** Cllrs Kate Greet (Chairman), Alan Butcher, Chris Dyke,  
Robin Maine (from item PPF17/26), Barry Wilkinson

**In attendance:** William Newton Newey (Clerk)

PPF17/021 **Apologies for absence**

There were no apologies for absence.

PPF17/022 **Resolutions relating to the Conduct of the Meeting**

It was resolved that, in accordance with Standing Order 24, the press and public be excluded from the meeting due to the confidential nature of business to be discussed.

PPF17/023 **Declarations of Interest**

*Members are required to act in accordance with the Priddy Parish Council Code of Conduct dated 1<sup>st</sup> August 2012 (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.*

Nil

PPF17/024 **Acceptance of the Minutes of previous Meetings**

The minutes of the meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> January, 2016 were signed as a true and correct record of proceedings.

**Matters Arising and Continuing Business**

PPC17/025 a) **Housing Needs survey – 25% deposit (£733.75)**

A grant offer had been accepted from Awards for All to fund the survey. A constructive meeting had taken place with Mr Matt Day of Community Council Somerset the previous Monday. The questionnaire format had been agreed and formal quotation and contract received. A quotation of £127.00 for distribution of the surveys had been received. It had also been suggested that an incentive for the return of the questionnaire be offered. The suggestions were draw prizes of a meal for two at the Queen Victoria public house and a voucher form the Priddy Farm Shop. Cllr Wilkinson would approach the landlord of the Queen Victoria to see if the meal would be donated and the Chairman would approach Priddy Farm shop for a donation. It was thought that a sum of £50 to cover the cost of the prizes should be identified if donations were not forthcoming.

**It was resolved to recommend to Council that the cost of distribution of the surveys of £127 plus be VAT be accepted. It was further resolved to recommend to Council that a payment of £733.75, being a 25% deposit of the total cost of the survey be paid to CCS.**

b) **Additional Easement on the Village Green**

The Clerk had circulated an electronic copy of the paperwork. This had now had the reference to “agricultural uses” removed and was ready to be signed at the next Council meeting.

PPF17/026 **Quarterly Budget Review / Provisional Accounts**

The Clerk spoke to the accounts and budget statement circulated in advance of the meeting. There had been no unexpected changes and spending against budget was in line with previous reports and projections. The detail had been used to populate the spreadsheet used as the basis for completing the Annual Return. The Clerk explained that the External Auditors had stated that while there were some minor changes to the format of the Annual Return, the Governance Statement and Accounting Sections remained unchanged. The revision of the form had meant that the printing and distribution of the paperwork had been delayed but was due to arrive by the end of March.

The only item outstanding of note was the grant from Priddy Folk Festival. The Clerk had queried why this had not been received and had been told by the Treasurer of the Priddy Charitable Trust that a cheque had been drawn and was awaiting a second

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signature. The Clerk hoped to have the cheque banked and cleared by the end of the financial year.

**The Committee noted the papers circulated and the Clerk's comments.**

PPF17/027

**Verge Protection**

It was noted that quotes for kerbing Nine Barrows Triangle had been rejected as too costly. Cllr Maine reported the Council still had 30m of kerb left from previous works. It was thought than an additional pallet would cost £800 plus VAT.

A number of verges including that opposite the Fountain and Church Farm were identified as being in a poor condition. Cllr Maine noted that where verges were higher, and water was not pooling, the damage seemed to be less.

**The Clerk was requested to invite Mr Neil Corp of the Highways Department to visit the Parish with a view to giving an opinion on ways that verges could be protected.**

WNN

PPF17/028

**Nordrach Finger Post**

Cllr Butcher had spoken with Mr Ben Selway who could not only refurbish the finger post but had contacts with somebody who could cast new fingers from existing templates and lettering. Cllr Butcher had given Mr Selway a picture of the finger post which he had amended to show what was required on the missing or broken fingers (a copy was to be sent to the Clerk). A quote was awaited.

AB

PPF17/029

**Other Project Funding**

a) **Dark Lane**

Mr Tom Owen had indicated that he would undertake the work in accordance with the quote submitted via Cllr Butcher. The Clerk would write to Mr Owen to confirm that Council's wish that the works be undertaken as soon as practicable.

WNN

b) **Nordrach Noticeboard**

The Chairman confirmed that she had agreed the location for the noticeboard at Nordrach with Mr Neil Callaghan, the owner of Nordrach House, following a site visit with Cllr Maine. The old parish Council noticeboard from the Lower Village Green would be erected at the Nordrach location when it had been refurbished by Mr Charley Robarts-Arnold. The Clerk stated that although the noticeboard had been taken from the Village Green he had not been given a date for its re-erection from Mr Robarts-Arnold.

Cllrs Maine and Wilkinson said that they would remove the old, redundant and well-rotted general noticeboard.

RM/  
BW

c) **Fountain Noticeboard**

The frequency with which this noticeboard was used was queried. It was agreed to keep the condition of this noticeboard under review.

d) **Priddy Pool**

It was agreed that any repairs to the pool would be undertaken in the summer when water levels were lower. A query was raised about the outflow from the Pool which currently ran across the metalled road. In winter, frost cracking would damage the surface of the road.

WNN

It was agreed to ask Mr Corp to review drainage in respect of road.

PPF17/030

**Review of Banking Arrangements**

The Clerk tabled a paper showing the bank accounts currently held by the Parish Council:

- Parish Council of Priddy – Current Account – 52348172
- Parish Council of Priddy – Business Reserve – General Reserve – 75125331
- Parish Council of Priddy – Business Reserve – Youth Provision – 75149036
- Sheep Fair Account – Current Account – 75142619

The Youth Provision account was due to be closed with the balance transferred to the Current Account. The Sheep Fair account had not yet been closed as the Clerk was having difficulty opening a new 'Priddy Parish Preservation' reserve account into which the balance would be transferred.

WNN

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The paper circulated by the Clerk also showed interest rates for business savings accounts with several banks including the NatWest and the Nationwide Building Society. It was noted that the TSB was offering an interest bearing current account for businesses.

The option of placing money, not required as revenue funding or working capital, in a notice or fixed term account was discussed.

**It was agreed to defer further discussion of banking arrangements to the June meeting of the Finance Committee.**

**Recommendations to the Parish Council**

PPF17/031 **To formally note recommendations to the Parish Council**

The Clerk stated that the recommendations in agenda items 17/025a would be put to the Council meeting on 5<sup>th</sup> April, 2017.

PPF17/032 **Matters of Report**

a) **Dog Fouling at Charterhouse**

The Chairman said that she had noticed comments on Facebook about dog fouling at Charterhouse. She had visited the Keep Britain Tidy website but had found that they no longer produced dog fouling notices. The Chairman wondered if the Council might invest in dog waste bins. Cllr Butcher believed that these cost around £105 and that notices were available from commercial sources. It was believed that, if installed, by the Parish Council waste bins would be emptied by Mendip District Council.

It was agreed that this topic would be raised at the Annual Parish Meeting.

PPF16/033 **Date of next Meeting**

Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> June, 2017

The meeting closed at 8:33pm

Signed .....  
(Chairman)

19<sup>th</sup> July, 2017

William Newton Newey  
18<sup>th</sup> March, 2017  
parish.clerk@priddyparish.org

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