

# PRIDDY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Finance Committee Meeting  
held at the Hunters Lodge Inn at 7:30pm on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> July, 2017

**Present:** Cllrs Kate Greet (Chairman), Alan Butcher, Chris Dyke,  
Barry Wilkinson

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

PPF17/034 **Apologies for absence**  
Cllr Robin Maine

PPF17/035 **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.

PPF17/036 **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

PPF17/037 **Acceptance of the Minutes of previous Meetings**  
The minutes of the meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> March, 2017 were signed as a true and correct record of proceedings.

PPF17/038 **Letter from the Internal Auditor**  
The Clerk reported that no letter had been received the Internal Auditor. It was noted that the Internal Auditor had been on holiday and might have been waiting for a contact from the Clerk on her return.

PPF17/039 **Quarterly Budget Review**  
The Clerk spoke to the budget statement, accounts and supporting papers which had been tabled. The budget statement had not changed form that tabled at the July meeting of the Council. Expenditure was as expected with a potential underspend on the Clerk's Remuneration, though the Clerk did state that it was his intention to claim expenses. The subscription line was likely to show a variance until the end of the year as most subscriptions had been paid at the end of the previous year. Income was as expected, with a small amount of interest being received on the reserve account. The Clerk noted that a further significant income could be expected on the completion of the easement for the new dwelling at the New Inn.  
The Clerk asked Council to note the balance held in reserves and likely to be carried forward at the end of the financial year.

**It was agreed that it was prudent to hold the equivalent of one year's revenue / running expenses, £6,300, in an ongoing reserve. It was further agreed that other reserves should be applied to projects.**

PPF17/040 **Approved Contractors**  
The Clerk reported that in addition to Lukins and Taylor Plant who had quoted in the past, he had received expressions of interest in tendering from RK Bell Group and Wilsons Groundworks Ltd. There might be further responses from other contractors that he had contacted but that had not yet replied. This meant that the Council now had a list of contractors large enough to obtain three quote or tenders for works at the edge of the Highway.

PPF17/041 **White Lining in Pelting Drove**  
The Clerk reported that he had submitted a bid for the Small Improvement Scheme (SIS) to the County Engineers Department via the divisional County Councillor. Cllr Pullin had informed the Clerk that there was no date set for the consideration of bids to the SIS but believed it would be late autumn. He had supplied the Clerk with a link to the County Council website which gave the most up to date information.  
Cllr Butcher had suggested that the Parish Council should pay for the white lining from its own funds rather than wait to see if funding were available from the SIS.

**The Clerk was requested to obtain quotes for white lining.**

PPF17/042

**Verge Protection**

a) **Manor Farm**

The erosion of the verge at Manor Farm was considered. Cllr Butcher said that he would draw up a plan and specification for kerbing to delineate the edge of the road. **It was agreed that quotations should be obtained for this area using standard kerbs.**

b) **Nine Barrows Triangle**

**It was agreed to ask the Clerk to obtain new quotes for kerbing all three sides of the triangle.**

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c) **Church Farm**

This area had been better since Highways had undertaken some work. It was agreed to defer any further discussion though the situation would continue to be monitored.

d) **Village Green**

The possibility of cleaning back the overgrowth on the kerbing around the Village Green. It was thought that this would be a couple of days work.

PPF17/043

**Nordrach Finger Post**

Cllr Butcher had spoken with Mr Ben Selway, who had quoted £750 to refurbish and paint the finger post in situ. With the cost of the new fingers the total would be £1,800. **It was agreed to recommend to Council that the repairs be undertaken, subject to confirmation that the post itself was the right height.**

The Chairman confirmed that the post which had been knocked over at Bristol Plain on the junction of New Road (Mendip Gliding Club) and Plummers Lane was in the Parish. **It was agreed that the Clerk would write to Highways to enquire about reinstatement of the finger post, stating that if it were to be scrapped, by the County Council, the Parish Council would take it for re-use.**

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PPF17/044

**Other Project Funding**

a) **Priddy Pool**

Cllrs Maine and Butcher had inspected the Pool and felt that there was little that could be done. In summer months, with no supply water, evaporation would see the Pool level fall or it dry up entirely. There was some concern that the puddling of the pool might have been damaged by a four wheeled vehicle trying to access Dark Lane.

It was noted that funds were still held for planting at the Pool.

**It was agreed that the Chairman should approach Mrs Glenda Collier and Priddy School to see if the planting could be a project for the School in the new academic year.**

KG

b) **Coxton End Lane**

It was felt that the clearance at Coxton End Lane had not been successful. The area which might be used by walkers or horse riders was still over grown and impassable. It was agreed to consider works in this area as a project at the next Finance Committee meeting.

c) **Housing Needs Survey**

The Clerk was requested to contact Mr Matt Day of Community Council Somerset to ask when the results of the survey would be available.

PPF17/045

**Review of Banking Arrangements**

The Clerk said that he had reviewed offerings from a number of banks, including the TSB, with whom the Council would have to pay bank charges on the current account. NatWest offered a 95 day notice liquidity account which paid 0.01% as opposed to 0.001% on the reserve account which the Council had already. There was also the possibility of a Treasury Deposit linked to the money markets. This would be a fixed term deposit of anything from a month to a year with a minimum deposit of £25,000.

The Clerk said that with another organisation, he had experience of the CCLA (Churches, Charities and Local Authority) Investment Managers. This funds offered by CCLA were stock market based but had historically performed well and offered a

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competitive rate of return when compared with offering from banks, bank accounts and reserve or deposit schemes.

**The Clerk was asked to obtain more information on CCLA investments for the November meeting of the Finance committee**

The Clerk said that he had started to receive communications from the HMRC suggesting that they would wish to receive payment by electronic means. The Clerk believed that the NatWest offered a form of electronic banking where two signatories were required to sign off electronic payments.

**The Committee noted the future possibility of moving to electronic banking.**

PPF17/46

**Recommendations to the Parish Council**

a) **White Lining in Pelting Drove** (PPF17/041)

That the Council approve funding the cost of white lining rather than waiting for funding from the County Council's Small Improvement Scheme.

b) **Nordrach Finger Post** (PPF17/043)

That the Council approve funding of £1,800 for the refurbishment, painting of the Nordrach finger post and for the casting and fixing of new fingers.

PPF17/047

**Matters of Report**

a) **Implement Sale / Craft Fair**

It was believed that Cllr Maine had found an auctioneer prepared to run the Implement Sale on the withdrawal of Killens. In Cllr Maine's absence, it was agreed to defer further discussion until the August Council meeting.

b) **Hedge at Pincross (view of junction Pelting Drove and Wells Road)**

Cllr Dyke was concerned that the hedge at the house known as Clearview had grown to such an extent that it was now obscuring a view of the junction. There had been agreement when the fence was put in place and hedge planted that it was to be kept at such a height so as not to obstruct the view.

The Clerk was asked to write to Mr Casseloux stating that the hedge was now obstructing a view of the junction.

c) **Static Caravan (Wells Road)**

Cllr Butcher had made contact with Mendip District Council Planning Department who had not been helpful. He was aware that in another location the siting of such a caravan had required permission.

The Clerk was asked to write to the Enforcement Team in the Planning Department with a copy to the responsible Mendip Councillor, Nigel Taylor.

PPF16/033

**Date of next Meeting**

Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> November, 2017

The meeting closed at 9:01pm

Signed .....  
(Chairman)

2<sup>nd</sup> August, 2017

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

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