

Priddy Parish Council

Finance Committee

Minutes of a meeting of the Finance Committee held on **21st March, 2018**
at **7:30pm** at the **Hunters Lodge Inn**

Present: Cllrs Greet (Chair), Butcher, Dyke, Maine, Oren and Wilkinson

PPF18/011 **Apologies for absence:** None

PPF18/012 **Resolutions relating to the Conduct of the Meeting**

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. This was duly resolved unanimously.

PPF18/013 **Declarations of Interest:** None.

PPF18/014 **Acceptance of the Minutes of previous meetings:**

Minutes of the Finance Committee held on 24th January, 2017 were agreed.

PPF18/015 **Matters Arising:** None

PPF18/016 **Quarterly Budget Review / Provisional Accounts**

The Clerk spoke to the budget statement and accounts which had been circulated with the meeting papers.

The year-end position would be an under spend against budget. This was mainly due to a lower than anticipated expenditure in terms of Clerk's Remuneration, though there had been greater than budgeted expenditure on Village Green Maintenance, which had reduced the size of the under spend. There had also been the payment in respect of damage to a vehicle at the Rural Crafts Fair.

The only change to the provisional annual accounts and the final version that the Clerk anticipated was the bank interest for March. The NatWest Bank had refunded the misprocessed payment made from the current account in November, 2017.

PPF18/017 **Verge Protection**

a) **Manor Farm**

The Clerk had not received a revised quote from the contractor for the installation of the different type of kerbing. Somerset Highways has suggested that planning permission might be required as it was the works were on the edge of the Village Green. Highways had also suggested that the Clerk should contact Natural England as the Parish was in an AONB; which he had done.

b) **Other Areas**

There was a brief discussion of other areas including Nine Barrows Lane and Church Farm. It was noted that Neil Corp of Somerset Highways had visited the Parish and given advice on several areas. At Cllr Dykes suggestion, further discussion was deferred until after the works at Manor Farm had been completed.

Pelting Road was also discussed and it was agreed to defer any action in respect of white lining until after April, 2018.

PPC18/018 **Top Green Protection and Car Parking**

The Chairman quoted from further advice received from the Open Spaces Society, which made reference to 'lawful sports and pastimes' in the twenty year Village Green registration period. Cllr Butcher was concerned at anything action which might change the nature of the Green; parked cars would not allow the space to be used for 'sports and pastimes'. The Chairman noted that lawful uses could be mutually exclusive, e.g. picnics and ball games on the same area. Cllr Dyke confirmed that the area had been used for sports before the School had its own field. Cllr Maine felt that the ruts produced by cars made the Green less usable and would make it hard to mow. Cllr Butcher was concerned that the use of some form of surface reinforcement might be construed as the construction of a car park; this might be considered a waste of money by some parishioners and could result in the Council having to defend a legal case. Cllr Maine said that the plastic reinforcement could be removed if challenged and Cllr Butcher wondered if there were a temporary solution which could be out in place in the winter only. It was noted that the area in front of the New Inn had been accepted as a

WNN

Priddy Parish Council

temporary car park and Cllr Oren felt that this established a precedent. Cllr Oren agreed to introduce the item at the Annual Parish Meeting.

GO

It was agreed that the subject be put the parish meeting and views canvassed by the use of post-it notes and emails to the Clerk.

WNN

PPF18/019 Use of Funds form Additional Easement

It had been agreed that this topic would also be included on the agenda for the Parish Meeting. The Chairman said that she would introduced the topic and re-state the facts relating to the 'legal windfall'. Views would be sought as to how the money could be used, e.g. rural exception site for affordable housing, outdoor sports equipment at Pincross.

KG

PPF18/020 Parish Website

The Clerk shared the results of his research into the costs of a new website.

It was agreed that the Clerk would produce an output based specification to include the functionality required, editing capabilities and hosting arrangements.

WNN

The specification would be emailed to councillors for comment before being sent to suppliers in advance of the next Finance Committee meeting. If councillors knew of suitable local developers, they were asked to forward details to the Clerk.

PPF18/021 Asset Register

- a) Cllr Wilkinson had visited Warren Farm and had been told that the hurdles and fencing stored there were in poor condition. It was believed that they could only be sold as scrap. It was suggested that the road signs could be collected, cleaned and offered on loan to Priddy Folk Festival, on the condition that the Folk Festival stored them when not in use.
- b) The Clerk was to obtain a quote for a new noticeboard to be erected at the Fountain on the Green. It was hoped that the top rail, marked Priddy, could be re-used
- c) Restoration of the Fountain itself was briefly discussed.
- d) Amendments were made to the narrative on the Asset Register.

It was resolved to recommend the revised Asset Register to Council for adoption.

PPF18/022 Recommendations to the Parish Council

- a) That the revised Asset Register be adopted.

PPF18/023 Matters of Report

- a) Cllr Wilkinson had noticed a caravan in a field. It was confirmed that it had been there for some time and was not used as a residence.
- b) Cllr Butcher queried the snow clearance which had taken place in and around the Village. It was thought that Highways had not cleared all the areas previously agreed.
- c) The Chairman said that she had been approached by Winsley white Ltd of Chilcompton, a firm which specialised in affordable housing developments. It was agreed that Mr Sam Winsley of Winsley White be invited to make a brief presentation at the April meeting of the Council.
- d) The Chairman informed the meeting that she and Mr Brown had decided to move from the Village and were putting their house up for sale. She would resign from the Council after the Annual Meeting in May

PPF18/024 Date and Time of Next Meeting

The date and time of the July meeting to be confirmed as part of the schedule of meetings for 2018 / 2019

The meeting closed at 8.40pm
William Newton Newey, Parish Clerk
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