

Priddy Parish Council

Finance Committee

Minutes of a meeting of the Finance Committee held on **18th July, 2018**
at **8:30pm** at the **Hunters Lodge Inn**

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

PPF18/025 **Apologies for absence:** Cllr Dyke

PPF18/026 **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 resolved unanimously.

PPF18/027 **Declarations of Interest:** None.

PPF18/028 **Acceptance of the Minutes of previous meetings:**

Minutes of the Finance Committee held on 21st March, 2018 were agreed.

PPF18/029 **Matters Arising:** None

PPF18/030 **Quarterly Budget Review / Provisional Accounts**

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

Income and expenditure were as expected, with underspends against, Clerk's Remuneration and Expenses, and General Expenses. The only expenditure on capital was the fees for a Section 171 Licence and Traffic Lights associated with the kerbing of the Village Green.

PPF18/031 **Letter from Internal Auditor**

No audit letter had been received from the Internal Auditor.

PPF18/032 **Review of Banking Arrangements**

The Clerk presented a range of offerings from Natwest, the current bankers, Lloyds and Unity Trust Banks. It was noted that Natwest did not offer multiple authorizations with online banking.

Cllr Oren reported a favourable experience of Lloyds with another organisation and Cllr Maine said that he had always had a good experience with Lloyds.

Interest bearing accounts and fixed term deposit interest rates were also discussed and comparisons made.

The Clerk was asked to obtain the relevant mandate forms to open a Treasurer's (current) and instant access accounts, and make fixed term deposits with Lloyds Bank.

WNN

PPF18/033 **Verge Protection**

a) **Manor Farm**

Taylor Plant Limited had agreed a start date of 13th August and application for the Section 171 Licence (for works on or near the highways) had been made. The Clerk was still wrestling with the intricacies of the application for Temporary Traffic lights which had included him having to buy two plans not available under the PSMA (Public Sector Mapping Agreement).

WNN

b) **Other Areas**

Discussion of areas was deferred until the works on the Green at Manor Farm were complete.

PPC18/034 **Top Green Protection**

Cllr Butcher proposed a trial area of netting designed to reinforce the surface of the grass. The proposal received support and it was agreed that Cllr Butcher would obtain cost for the next meeting of the Council.

AB

It was noted that there was opposition to any works on the Green but it was equally noted the Parish Council had a duty to protect the Green.

PPF18/035 **Parish Website**

The tender document which had been circulated by the Clerk was agreed. It was further agreed that the tender should be sent to no less than three and no more than five prospective tenderers. Tenders to be opened before the September Council meeting.

WNN

PPF18/036 **Townsend Pool**

Cllr Wilkinson reported that his enquiry as to ownership of the land had produced a fairly guarded response from Somerset Highways, He noted that the proposal was to leave the boundary with the B3135 much as it was with works being on the village side. The

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AONB remained supportive and had suggested that there would be a team who could provide ongoing maintenance to a cleared and re-planted Pool.

A sketch of proposals would be prepared and Cllr Wilkinson would invite Mr Neil Corp of Somerset Highways to make a site visit. BW

The Chairman thanked Cllr Wilkinson for his work and securing the support of many people. She asked that councillors be kept informed about any site visit in case they could attend.

PPF18/037 **Recommendations to the Parish Council**

- a) That a new current and interest bearing account be opened with Lloyds Bank and a fixed term deposit be researched.
- b) That a test strip of reinforcement matting be laid alongside the kerbing at the edge of the roadway on Top Green.
- c) That tenders be invited for the parish website from no less than three and no more than five tenderers on the basis of the tender document agreed under PPF18/035
- d) That Cllr Wilkinson continue with plans for the clearing and re-planting of Townsend Pool.

PPF18/038 **Matters of Report**

a) **Tractors and Slurry**

Cllr Wilkinson said there had been complaints about large tractors towing tenders containing slurry through the village and along Pelting Drove during the night. After a brief discussion there was thought to be little that the Parish Council could do but the Clerk was asked to contact Environmental Health at Mendip District Council WNN

b) **Priddy Pool**

Cllr Maine asked if there was anything to report in respect of Priddy School and Priddy Pool. There was not and, with the School about to start its summer holiday, the Chairman advised that contact should be made in the autumn, WNN

c) **Strimming of the Village Green and Other Areas**

It was agreed to follow the suggestion of the contractor that strimming be deferred as grass and weed growth was minimal in the hot, dry weather. The position would be reviewed at the next Council meeting. WNN

d) **Parish Forum**

It was noted that no councillors or the Clerk would be able to attend the Mendip Parishes Forum on Thursday 19th July.

e) **Tour of Britain – 4th September, 2018**

As had already been noted, a stage of the Tour of Britain was to pass through the Parish. Cllr Butcher thought that this would be an ideal publicity opportunity for the Rural Crafts Fair and Implement Sale later in the month and should include advertising which might be caught on camera. CD

f) **Cricket on the Green**

A request to hold the annual match on 8th September had been received. The match would be between the Village Cricket Team and a team from the Queen Victoria Inn. The charity to be supported had not been decided.

g) **Parish Path :Liaison Officer**

An email from the County Council was noted. It was also noted that the Priddy PPLO had resigned some months previously.

h) **Newsletter**

The Chairman noted that no summer newsletter had been prepared or distributed. Cllr Butcher suggested more regular briefings using the email distribution list. The Clerk confirmed that he had included items with the announcement of the Council meeting. The number of people on the email distribution list had fallen dramatically after the need to obtain consent under the Data Protection Act 2018.

It was suggested that there should be a stall at the Rural Crafts fair to encourage people join the email distribution list.

It was also suggested that a “sign-up” sheet could be included with the PEW Magazine.

i) **Finger Posts**

An email from the County Council about community involvement with the cleaning and refurbishment of finger posts was noted and the the Council had already undertaken a significant refurbishment, including replacement of fingers, of the Nordrach finger post.

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It was agreed that councillors would try to identify local craftsmen who might be approached to repaint other finger posts in the Parish. Those which had been refurbished by the AONB a number of years ago were in need of attention.

j) **Nordrach Noticeboard**

The Clerk reported that, from the growth of vegetation around the Nordrach Noticeboard, it was not being consulted between his visits to post agenda, minutes and other notices. It was proposed that the Parish Council could pay for cutting the verge but this not thought to be appropriate.

The Clerk proposed a semi static display rather than changing it for every meeting. This approach was agreeable and it would be seen if any comments were forthcoming. WNN

PPF18/039 **Date and Time of Next Meeting**

21st November, 2018

The meeting closed at 9:44pm

William Newton Newey, Parish Clerk

parish.clerk@priddyparish.org.

20th July, 2018