



Priddy Parish Council

Minutes of Priddy Parish Council

Held on 13 September 2023

At 7:00pm at Priddy Village Hall

Present: Cllrs C Dyke; M Dodd; R Thompson; D Collier; V Barberet.
In attendance: G Pettitt (Parish Clerk), Somerset Council (SC) Cllr Edric Hobbs
Public Forum No members of the public were present.

73. Apologies for Absence and to consider the reasons given

Resolved: To accept apologies and reasons for absence, (family emergency), from Cllr Storrie. Approved.
 Apologies also received from SC Cllr Tony Robbins
 Cllr Phippen was absent.

74. Declarations of Interest

Cllr Collier declared an interest in item 82 - Priddy Folk Festival

75. Exclusion of the Press and Public - No items required exclusion of press and public.

76. Chair's Announcements - Noted that Cllr Phippen had been absent from Council meetings for 6 months. Clerk will contact her. Clerk

77. Minutes of previous meeting -

Resolved: To confirm and sign as a correct record the minutes of Priddy Parish Full Council meeting held on Wednesday 9 August 2023. Approved.

78. Reports - To receive reports in person or in writing from:

- a. Somerset Council - Cllr Edric Hobbs expressed the need for a Mendip wide meeting about traffic issues. Red surface dressing and/or cat's eyes at junctions outlining the painted triangles at the junction. Cllr Hobbs will request a site meeting and inform Priddy Parish Council. (Traffic Calming Advisory Group has sent plan of action to Chief Engineer; priority - Hunters crossroads and Nine Barrows triangle.) Police and Crime Commissioner forum date to be confirmed.
- b. Avon & Somerset Police - No report. Noted that a serious accident had occurred at Hunters crossroads. As reports are not supplied, this agenda item will be removed. Clerk

79. Planning - No applications were received for consultation.

- a. **Somerset Council Consultation** - To consider the Somerset Council [Planning Consultation](#). Cllr Dodd will circulate his responses. Cllr responses to be sent to the Clerk who will collate for discussion at the next meeting. Cllr Dodd
All Cllrs

80. Finance

- a. To consider and approve, (or not), proposals for authority for Councillors to incur expenses on behalf of Priddy Parish Council. Proposals were not voted upon. Authorisation is outlined in Council policies and legislation and must be within budget and made in liaison with the RFO.
- b. To consider the Q1 budget review and approve any 23/24 budget adjustments.
Resolved: To include a budget line of £15,000 towards projects, which will include the village pump repair, wildflower planting costs, traffic calming, triangle kerbing and Priddy pool dredging. 24/25 budget will include play area and football posts, and fingerpost refurbishment. Approved.
- c. **Resolved:** To approve Clerk CiLCA training. Approved.
- d. Switch to Unity - Cllrs Collier and Dyke will source bank statements from NatWest. Cllrs Collier and Dyke
- e. **Resolved:** To note and approve the payments listed below. Approved.

PAYE Mth 4	352.91
Hall hire Jan - July 2023	105.00
Remainder Village Green Fountain repairs	3,042.63
PAYE Mth 5	353.11
Green mowing/strimming Late August	310.00

81. Asset Management Working Group

- a. **Resolved:** to approve the Terms of Reference for the Asset Management Working Group. Approved.

- 82. Priddy Folk Festival**
 [Meeting was adjourned for Cllr Collier to provide information on funding from the Priddy Folk Festival. Objectives are to support initiatives for music, arts or improvement to Priddy environs.]
Resolved: To apply for support towards improving the Nine Barrows triangle with an initial figure of £2,000 mooted which will be supported by match funding from the Parish Council. Quotes will be sought and brought to the next meeting. Approved Clerk
- 83. To consider any action arising from parishioner's complaint regarding poor water supply in the parish.** Clerk will draft a letter of support. Clerk
- 84. Working Groups - To receive reports from:**
- a. **Traffic Calming Advisory Group** - Chief Engineer has not responded to the Priddy plan of action. Noted that children's signs will need to be included in 24/25 budget - the process will start at this year-end.
 - b. **Environment Working Group** - To consider actions to eradicate Himalayan Balsam - noted that it is too late for this year; it will be brought to June 2024 agenda.
 - c. **Rights of Way** - no report.
- 85. Asset Management**
- a. Dredging of Priddy Pool - Clerk to obtain quote. Noted the dam may need work. Clerk
 - b. Moving Nordrach noticeboard posts and board repairs ongoing.
 - c. Update on Fountain repairs- now completed however the solar panel is not providing enough power to charge the batteries. Another panel is needed, with a timer to exclude night time.
 The reservoir is being topped up too much causing water wastage. Approximately another £200 will be required.
 A non-drinking water sign is needed. Cllr Barberet will design. Cllr Barberet
 More stone work is needed.
 - d. Update on Nine Barrows Triangle damage - This has been moved to the Somerset Council Structural Maintenance budget with a view to being included in the 24/25 schedule. The team will meet to discuss design options nearer the time. However, Priddy Parish Council may move this forward and have include an item in the budget, see item 80b. above.
 - e. Update on safety cover to hole near Fountain - now completed.
 - f. Fingerpost repair schedule - will be scheduled for 24/25.
- 86. Report on recent downtime of website** - The website and email system was down for a period over the previous month. This is now rectified. Discussion on email issues deferred.
- 87. Report on complaints regarding Mendip Hunt**- Over 200 complaints were received from members of Action Against Foxhunting and Protect the Wild. The council responded, referring the organisations to relevant authorities and met with the Mendip Hunt Secretary to discuss the use of Priddy Green for the Boxing Day Hunt Meet. The Hunt Secretary is looking at the Risk Assessment, will consider directing visitors to parking on the top green. Noted that drinks are free. There is no collection for the hunt, only for charities supported by the hunt. All manure and dog waste is cleared. The hounds are well behaved.
- 88. Report on the new biodiversity conservation duty for Parish Councils**
- a. **To decide to take up offer of Planning, Development and Nature Recovery in the Mendip Hills from AONB Mendip - 4 or 19 October** - 19 October was agreed, Clerk
 [however that date is no longer available - new date to be decided].
- 89. To note LCN 4 meeting of 14 September at Gurney Slade and Binegar Memorial Hall, 7pm** - Cllr Thompson and the Clerk will attend.
- 90. Relish Running Event** - 16 September 8:30am to 2pm, (Priddy section expected to reopen by 12:30pm). Noted
- 91. Matters of Report**
- Litter picking** - to be arranged for March/April - to be confirmed at the next meeting.
 - Play area** - Cllr Barberet is contacting companies for feasibility of site options. Cllr Barberet
 - Implement sale** - To be held on Saturday
 - Causeway** - capping is breaking up causing a trip hazard. To be repaired from the General Maintenance budget.
 - Grant funding** - noted request to contribute to the upkeep of the graveyard.

Date of Next Meeting: 11 October 2023, 7pm, Priddy Village Hall