



Priddy Parish Council

Minutes of Priddy Parish Council meeting

Held on April 9th 2025 at 7pm at Priddy Village Hall

Present: Cllrs M Dodd (MD) (Chairman), R Thompson MBE (RT) (Vice Chairman), J Clements (JC), D Collier (DC), B Storrie (BS). In attendance: Ian Bowen (Mendip Hills NL), plus 2 members of the public.

Meeting opened at: 7.00 PM

Public Forum: Chairman Cllr Dodd adjourned the meeting for a maximum of 15 minutes for members of the public to bring their concerns. No concern was raised.

- 179 **Apologies for absence:** Virginie Barberet (vacation), Chris Dyke (personal).
- 180 **Declarations of interest:** none. **ALL**
- 181 **Minutes of previous meeting(s)** March 12th meeting minutes: approval proposed and agreed with a correction to the Annual Parish meeting date from April 1st to April 30th. RT to re circulate minutes. It was proposed and agreed that the signed minutes for 24-25 be sent to the Somerset Heritage Centre and further that historic minutes be boxed up and sent. **ALL**
RT
RT / JC
- 182 **External reports:** a) Somerset Council: noted Independent Report re SC Financial Emergency report received Mar 22. b) Avon & Somerset Police: none received (email bounced)
- 183 **Mendip Hills NL** Levelling-Up and Regeneration Act 2023: Ian Bowen discussed his role as MHNL planning officer with reference to the LURA Act 2023, which amended and strengthened the statutory duty on relevant authorities (including parish councils). They must now **'seek to further'** the statutory purposes of Protected Landscapes. This replaces the previous duty to merely **'have regard to'** their statutory purposes. The statutory purposes of National Landscapes (areas of outstanding natural beauty) **are to conserve and enhance** the natural beauty of the area of outstanding natural beauty (see briefing note sent by MHNL). IB's working days are Monday, Tuesday and Friday AM, and he is happy to help PPC with this new duty. He suggested that the Parish Council have regard to the MHNL special qualities listed in the management plan (such as dark skies, habitat and biodiversity etc) when considering planning applications. He thought that case law emerging from appeals would be helpful in developing planning policy. **IB**
- 184 **Third party events village greens:** discussion and policy review: item moved to the public exclusion section due to discussions about councillor interests /code of conduct matters.
- 185 **P1 Governance (GOV) report**
a) Portfolio groups working, action list plus tracking agreed actions, MD had to hand.
b) Parish clerk vacancy: to be advertised as soon as possible. **RT**
c) Annual parish meeting: (April 30th) discussion. It was proposed and agreed to hold an informal meeting to discuss arrangements in the Queen Victoria Inn on Thursday April 17, 7PM. **ALL**
- 186 **P2 Built Environment Group applications & group (BEG) report** **ALL**
a) Application Number: 2025/0427/FUL: Creation of a new access to Silverdale Court from Wells Road. Location: Silverdale Court Wells Road Priddy Wells Somerset: proposed and (all) agreed to object to this application. Material considerations being closer proximity to the nearby dangerous bend (marked with chevrons) on a 60 mph designated road (with a history of excess speeding), and conflict with a well-used footpath / bridleway crossing and farm drive / traffic emerging on to the highway. Village gateway location is also planned in this area. **RT**
b) Topics: Village Hall energy efficiency: JC has identified an energy consultant to provide quotes for the three buildings individually and as a group, Community Council for Somerset affordable housing (BEG meeting still to be arranged (MD), proposed felling of ash trees Lower Green (dialogue with PPC awaited on replanting), Fernhill Farm site visit report (awaiting planning application). **JC**
MD
- 187 **P3 Assets and maintenance group (AMG) report:** topics: fountain - action to get pump working - DC reported on a Priddy Folk Festival committee initiative to provide services onto the Lower **MD / DC**

	Green to improve support for events, this could also support the pump, benches (Hobbs bench confirmed, with JC for siting, Weeks bench with PCC), Greens maintenance MD reported on agreement with contractor to monitor grass growth and agree cuts accordingly), dog signs (fines) still be actioned, flagpole works to be actioned.	JC
188	P4 Large infrastructure Playground project group (LIPPG) report Topics: Update on grants (awards for all grant), community engagement, landowner approaches: discussion deferred until next meeting.	VB
189	P5 Parish IT & Communications group COM) report topics: Website / social media / Pew /ZOHO mail: comms portfolio to be finalised. Proposed and agreed to add events calendar (on website) and parish consultations to the portfolio.	BS / VB
190	P6 Environment (green) working group (EWG) topics: JC reported Eastwater Drove (surveyed, quote obtained, funding streams and material / services donations being investigated), Mineries (contacting the principal landowner), septic tanks scheme (advertised), Toad patrols (now over), planting /weeding (planned): full report to follow.	JC
191	P7 Traffic calming advisory group (TCAG) report: topics: DC reported SID and Village gateways work in progress, Nine Barrows Lane triangle Somerset Council (SC) to programme works avoiding Priddy Folk Festival, area by pool (no action), eroded verges SC will repair with rubble (not ideal), road marking at Pincross junction has been completed, SC has provided speed data.	DC
192	Finance: RFO report, budget & payments a) Approve public exclusion from item 184 under Standing Order 3d), due to the confidential consideration of personal interests. b) Hinckley & Rugby Building Society Local Council 45-day notice account investment of capital now open and capital being transferred. c) Payments: McAfee renewal £109.99 proposed and agreed to seek an alternative - discuss with Microbitz in Wells, asset list for the audit (MD / DC) to complete the cashbook asset valuation sheet 2425 column ASAP and send to the clerk, VH overpayment - noted funds returned in future proposed / agreed that clerk circulate invoices received to all councillors and co-signatories reminded to check payments against invoices, National Grid Wayleave not received clerk is pursuing, replacement cheque expected. BC has approved the bank reconciliations and would send an email to this effect. d) Insurance renewal confirmation: bonfire to be included, query if this should include Village Hall insurance and ponds: clerk to action e) Purchase of assets: no current news.	MD MD RT MD / DC ALL RT BC
184	Third party events village greens: discussion and policy review. a) Third party request regarding PPC liability for third party events on the Village Greens had prompted a discussion with Gallaghers Insurance community team leader – email circulated refers. It was proposed and agreed that MD, as chair, be authorised to respond by forwarding the advice received. Noted that the advice received be used to re-draft PPC policy regarding third party use of the Greens for events. Draft to be circulated to councillors and Gallaghers for approval at the next PPC meeting. b) Third party complaint about fairness, bias and personal interest / code of conduct had prompted discussions with SALC and the deputy monitoring officer (two emails circulated refer). It was proposed and agreed that following advice from the DMO that the PPC complaints procedure and the Somerset Council link to the monitoring officer be sent to the complainant. It was proposed and agreed that MD as chair be authorised to respond to the complainant. MD was asked and agreed to circulate his draft responses (a and b above). It was noted that the PPC complaints procedure requires review and suggested that SALC could assist with any legislative input required. c) Third party events to note PFS Club Day 26 th May (COMs calendar). PFS / PPC bonfire discussion it was proposed and agreed that as per the discussion PPC will take over the annual bonfire arrangements / publicity (with PFF help and PFF arranging the fireworks). Noted bonfire arrangement discussed with Gallaghers and advice sheet refers.	MD MD RT BS
193	Matters of report a) Noted Somerset Life Article planned for July. b) Village Hall key handed to DC for use in MD's absence.	ALL DC

- c) MD will arrange phone box defib monitoring during his absence.
- d) Current chair and vice chair confirmed neither are standing for their current roles at the forthcoming annual parish council meeting.

MD