



Priddy Parish Council

MINUTES

for the Priddy Parish Council meeting

held on 10th December 2025 at 7 PM in Priddy Village Hall

Present: Cllrs R Thompson MBE (RT), V Barberet (VB), J Clements (JC), D Collier (DC), M Dodd (MD), SC Cllr Edric Hobbs (EH), Parish Clerk S Baynes (SB), 1 Member of the public

- | | | |
|-----|--|------------------|
| 099 | Appointment of Chairman: vote on proposals <u>a) that Cllrs Storrie and Thompson co-chair Priddy Parish Council (preferred) or b) that Cllr Storrie be proposed as Chairman and Cllr Thompson as Vice Chairman. Either a) or b) to be until May 2026 PPC annual meeting. Proposal A was accepted and resolved by Council.</u> | ALL |
| 100 | Appointment of Vice Chairman: RT and BS to co-chair as resolved in 099 | ALL |
| 101 | Apologies for absence: BS & CD, approved | ALL |
| 102 | Declarations of interest: None | ALL |
| 103 | Exclusion of public and press <i>from any agenda item under Standing Order 3d), due to the confidential consideration of asset purchase in ref to 113/g/h</i> | Chair |
| 104 | Adjournment of meeting for public forum: EH thanked the council for funding the defibrillator case at Hunters Lodge Inn and will fundraise in 2026 for its upkeep while campaigning for improved road junction safety at that crossroads. | ALL |
| 105 | Minutes of previous meeting(s): RT signed | ALL |
| 106 | P1 Governance (GOV) report | |
| | a) Portfolio groups update: In hand | All |
| | b) Parish clerk update: The council was updated on recent VAT training undertaken and on hours worked during the past five months. | SB |
| | c) Policy review: village greens policy: In hand | RT |
| | d) Parish archives to Somerset Heritage Centre: In hand | RT |
| | e) LCN matters including funding for Youth Provision: RT to attend LCN meeting in the new year | RT/VB |
| | f) Councillor training: Carried over | All |
| | g) Serious crime concerns of local parishioner's/farmers: SB reported a letter sent to the Avon & Somerset Police Commissioner regarding council concerns, with a copy to the local MP for onward transmission to the Chief of Police. Council to await a reply before responding. DC raised parishioner concerns over suspected illegal lamping and abandoned vehicles in the area. | RT/All/SB |
| 107 | P2 Built Environment Group applications & group (BEG) report | |
| | a) Planning Applications <i>Object / support / comment / material considerations: Consideration of planning applications including any arising before the meeting NB Levelling-Up and Regeneration Act 2023: duty to seek to 'further' the statutory purposes of Mendip Hills NL Protected Landscape. Special qualities list circulated.</i> | ALL |
| | i) Proposal: Construction of a trackway and access route.
Location: Land At 352774 And 155166 Whitestown Lane Priddy Cheddar Somerset
Applicant: Mr J Rich
Application Type: Full Application
Application Number: 2025/2015/FUL
Parish Council response - SUPPORT.
Priddy Parish Council noted with approval that the proposed visibility splay, entrance widening, and setback will improve safety on Whitestown Lane. The existing hedgerow will be retained, with new planting provided in line with biodiversity requirements. The applicant has confirmed that locally sourced limestone aggregate will be used to upgrade the track. | |

Proposal: Formation of a farm track
 Location: Dale Farm Dale Lane Priddy Wells Somerset
 Applicant: Mr and Mrs Andrew Powell
 Application Type: Full Application
 Application Number: 2025/2135/FUL
 Parish Council response – OBJECT

While Priddy Parish Council supports the local rural economy, including farming, this must be balanced against the new duty under the Levelling-Up and Regeneration Act 2023, requiring both Parish and Somerset Councils to ensure that all new development conserves and enhances the Mendip Hills National Landscape. Priddy Parish Council supports the need for a track to facilitate cattle movements but strongly objects to the proposed use of concrete railway sleepers due to the visual impact on the landscape which is contrary to the new duty for enhancing & conserving.

b) Parish plan: Awaiting village survey analyse & response from Thrive

RT/CD/MD/BS

c) Topics:

i) Village Hall energy efficiency survey: In hand

JC

ii) Community Council for Somerset affordable housing needs (Thrive): MD reported 51 parishioner responses and will pursue Thrive for final numbers and outcome.

MD

iv) Barn re-build on Pelting Drove: Held over ~~for CD report~~

CD

v) Concern over construction in field on the Wells Road — when does this fall under SC enforcement:— PPC to raise concerns with Somerset Council Planning Enforcement and await reply.

DC/All
SB

108 **P3 Assets and maintenance group (AMG) report:**

a) Annual inspection for asset register: All Councillors were reminded of their duty requested by the insurance company to record an annual inspection of the village greens, date to be scheduled. Assets to be checked for annual audit.

DC/MD / ALL

b) Topics:

i) Fountain: Currently no water supply – On hold

DC

ii) Hobb's bench: No news, SB to chase.

SB

iii) Greens maintenance: None

MD/DC

iv) Dog signs: MD stated that ordered signs is expected to turn up before Christmas.

MD

v) Vegetation growth damaging the Causeway: To be inspected at same time as 108/a)

MD/DC/JC

vi) Request for new memorial bench – development of policy resolution: Carried over

BS

vii) Update on offered defibrillator: Cabinet delivered to Hunters ready for installation. Once active the location will be added to "thecircuit.uk" information hub along with other defibrillators in the parish. DC/MD to look at toning down Defib station green light at Village hall location.

DC/MD

Cllr Edric Hobbs and member of public left the meeting.

109 **P4 Large infrastructure Playground project group (LIG_PG) report):**

Topics:

i) grants (awards for all): Carried over

VB

ii) community engagement: Carried over

VB

iii) landowner approaches: Carried over

VB

110 **P5 Parish IT & Communications group (COM) report**

Topics:

i) website / social media / Pew /ZOHO mail: SB to move last council email address over to .gov platform this month.

BS/VB/SB

ii) Frequency of events / festivals/ Concerns: Carried over

BS/DC

111 **P6 Environment (green) working group (EWG):**

a) Topics:

i) Eastwater Drove: JC, RT, the Landowner, and Dave Gibbons agreed upon a plan of action, with works scheduled to commence in January.

JC/EWG

ii) Mineries: JC held a meeting with Natural England and it was confirmed that Natural England will initiate a tender process for the collection of site data. Following this, a meeting will be convened with all stakeholders present. Natural England is also planning to

JC/EWG

undertake a survey that will provide a detailed breakdown of habitats and species within the area.

iii) Septic tanks scheme: Burrows are seeking more clients to sign up for the scheme. **JC/EWG**

iv) Village Green Tree matters: Suppliers have been approached regarding the procurement of tall trees. A tree-planting weekend is being scheduled for either 18 January or 8 February. Prior to any excavation, the "Dial Before You Dig" service will be contacted. In addition, residents living around the village green will be informed in advance. **JC/EWG**

v) Village Green wall boundary: An email is to be sent to the adjacent owners requesting that all wall stones which have fallen onto the village green side be removed. This action is required to facilitate the planting of the new trees. **SB/JC/EWG**

vi) Priddy Pool excavation: The project is currently on hold due to rising water levels and adverse weather conditions. **JC/EWG**

vii) Crescent wall proposal: DC and JC have inspected the Top Green and recommended that the curved wall be positioned at the corner of School Lane and The Vicar's Path. SB will inform the contractor accordingly. **SB/JC/DC**

viii) Proposal from Folk Festival committee to add permanent water and mains power supply to the lower green/including notice from Bristol Water: A review by Bristol Water is scheduled for 15 December. RT is examining historical minutes relating to the original installation. RT will then provide any details discovered to the council. **RT**

P7 Highways Action Group (HAG) report:

a) Local Community Network (LCN) highways/active travel: DC had attended the recent LCN Highways meeting and reported the absence of Somerset Council highway engineers, therefore no helpful discussion was possible. It was resolved that PPC will write to Somerset Council expressing disappointment and to request that officers be present in future. **DC /RT**

b) SC local transport plan: No report. **DC**

c) Topics:

112 i) Speed Indicator Devices: No matters arising to report **MD/DC**

ii) Village gateways plan: No matters arising to report **MD/DC**

iii) Nine Barrows Lane triangle: Council resolved to write to Highways expressing appreciation for the work carried out. **MD/DC**

iv) Quiet lane initiative: No matters arising to report **MD/DC**

vi) Proposal to install hedgehog road signs on approaches to village: No matters arising to report **DC/RT/ALL**

vii) Parishioner's comments about the work at Deer Leap carpark by MHNL: The Council expressed satisfaction with the reply received from Mendip Hills Natural Landscape (and for the work undertaken), and a copy has been forwarded to the original complainants. The Council considers this matter to be resolved. **SB/All**

viii) Hunters Crossroads current accident rate – The matter was raised at the local LCN meeting (see above). **DC/All**

113 **Finance: RFO report, budget & payments:**

a) Approval of new payments: Microsoft software £104.99 in Jan26 – Proposed and resolved. **RFO/SB/All**

b) Expected payments made: £500 Defibwarehouse Cabinet - Approved **RFO/SB/ALL**

d) Internal auditor report: In hand **RFO**

e) Rugby & Hinckley Savings account access: Deferred item. **RFO/MD/ALL**

f) Secure Post-box Village Hall: MD to cost for a robust model. **MD**

(note public exclusion) for g and h

g) Purchase of assets: No matters arising to report **ALL**

h) 2025 / 2026 budget proposal: The Council proposed and resolved to increase the precept for 2026/27 in line with the current Consumer Price Index (CPI) of 3.6%. This represents an increase of £464.51, bringing the total precept to £13,367.51.

The revised 26 /27 budget is to be circulated and finalised in the January meeting.

114 **Matters of report:**

No matters arising to report

Meeting ended 8.59pm

