Priddy Parish Council

DRAFT MINUTES

for the Priddy Parish Council meeting

held on January 14th at 7 PM in Priddy Village Hall

Present: Cllrs B Storrie (BS) (Co-Chair), R Thompson MBE (RT) (Co-Chair), V Barberet (VB), J Clements (JC), D Collier (DC), M Dodd (MD) Parish Clerk S Baynes (SB/RFO) - 3 Members of the public

115	**Apologies for absence:** Cllr C Dyke (CD) - Approved	**ALL**
116	**Declarations of interest:** MD declared personal interest in 126 a) iv)	**ALL**
117	**Exclusion of public and press** *from any agenda item under Standing Order 3d), due to the confidential consideration of asset purchase and 26/27 budget approval - ref to 128/g/h/i*	**Chair**
118	**Adjournment of meeting for public forum:** A parishioner requested electronic advance notice of meetings. It was suggested that Facebook and the Priddy WhatsApp group could be used for this purpose. A village house owner outlined their request to install cabling across the Lower Green along an existing route. They referred to National Grid requirements for clearance around the installation (for Health and safety Reasons) and noted the implications for the planned re-planting of trees around the Lower Green.	**ALL**
119	**Chairs Announcement:** Co Chair RT had concerns after receiving notice that Somerset Council Planning were going to refuse again application 2025/1487/FUL (Whitestown Farm track) even though PPC had given full support for the application. Proposal by RT to contact SC to show support agreed by Council.	**Chair**
120	**Minutes of previous meeting(s)**: Signed by RT, previous co-chair for the meeting on the 10th December 2025	**ALL**
121	**P1 Governance (GOV) report**	
	a) Portfolio groups update: Carried forward to next meeting	**All**
	b) Parish clerk update: Provided an update to the Council regarding the lack of response to emails sent by the Clerk's office to the Police Commissioner, the Chief Constable, and the local MP on the Council's behalf. Reminded the Council that the Parish Clerk is due for his six-monthly review.	**SB**
	c) Policy review: village greens policy: In Progress	**RT**
	d) Parish archives to Somerset Heritage Centre: In Progress.	**RT**
	e) LCN matters including funding for Youth Provision: RT will attend the next LCN meeting at the end of March. As no funding is planned for Youth Provision, this item will be removed from the next agenda.	**RT**
	f) Councillor training: MD to contact the Clerk to arrange training. The Co-Chairs (BS and RT) to review and consider chairman training.	**All**
	g) Serious crime concerns of local parishioner's/farmers: The Clerk was asked to re-send the emails and request both acknowledgment of receipt and a response (see 121/b above). RT to invite Local Farm Representatives to the next Council meeting for discussion. RT to contact Somerset Council to request a Traffic Restriction Order (TRO) for Durston Drove, due to concerns regarding hare coursing and night-time 4x4 activity. A copy of the request is to be sent to the local MP.	**RT/All/SB**
122	**P2 Built Environment Group applications & group (BEG) report** a) Planning Applications *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*.	**ALL**

Proposal: Prior notification of agricultural development: Infilling of a depression within the field using inert material (stone, sub soil and top soil).
Location: Land Centred Coordinates 351938 155467 Burrington Road Charterhouse Cheddar Somerset
Applicant: Mr Thomas Gay
Application Type: Agricultural Notification Excavation
Application Number: 2026/0002/AGE
The Council has received the above application and the documents are available on the website:
https://publicaccess.mendip.gov.uk/online-applications/.
This is a notification only and in line with the Council's Constitution and the adopted scheme of delegation and terms of reference, the decision for this application is delegated to officers. This notification is therefore being provided as a matter of courtesy for your information.

RT contacted Mendip Hills National Landscape (MHNL) regarding concerns about the infilling. MHNL confirmed that the works fall within legal limits and that no action can be taken.

b) Parish plan: Carried forward to next meeting **RT/CD/MD/BS**

c) Topics:

i) Village Hall energy efficiency survey: A basic assessment has been received, but it is not comprehensive. JC has requested further details. **JC**

ii) Community Council for Somerset affordable housing needs (Thrive): MD to receive report from Thrive by the 20th January and it will then circulate it to council. **MD**

iv) Barn re-build on Pelting Drove: RT proposed removing this item from the agenda as it is not within the Council's remit. Carried. **CD**

v) Issues on construction in field on the Wells Road: Awaiting further action from Somerset Council Planning department. **DC/All/SB**

vi) Issues raised regarding Hastoe Housing/Reeves Paddock: PPC to seek an urgent meeting with Hastoe Housing to raise its concerns. RT to write to Councillor E. Hobbs to request further support from Somerset Council. MD to issue the letter to Hastoe. **All**

Note: Due to this action referencing individual residents of Reeves Paddock it was discussed later in the meeting when members of the public were asked to leave under Standing Order 3d

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

a) Annual inspection for asset register and of village greens: DC and MD have completed the updates and will email their findings to the Council, together with suggested actions. **DC/MD / ALL**

b) Topics:

i) Fountain: Carried forward to next meeting **DC**

ii) Hobb's bench: Carried forward to next meeting **SB**

iii) Greens maintenance: RFO to investigate council financial regulations and limits regarding rolling contracts and report back to council. **SB/DC**

iv) Dog signs: MD reported all signs have been Installed on the top Green. **MD/DC**

v) Vegetation growth damaging the Causeway: Proposal to ask Martin Edwards to provide a maintenance quote. MD to make contact. **MD/DC/JC**

vi) Requests for new memorial bench – Draft policy circulated to councillors by councillor BS. To be carried forward to give councillors time to review **BS**

vii) Update on Hunters Lodge defibrillator: Cllr E. Hobbs informed the Clerk that the installation should be completed within the next few weeks. MD raised questions regarding who the registered guardian will be. **DC/MD**

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

Topics:

i) grants (awards for all): *Carried forward to next meeting* **VB**

ii) community engagement: *Carried forward to next meeting* **VB**

iii) landowner approaches: *Carried forward to next meeting* **VB**

125 **P5 Parish IT & Communications group COM) report**

Topics:

i) website / social media / Pew /ZOHO mail: VB to add meeting dates FB page. **BS/VB/SB**

ii) Frequency of events / festivals/ Concerns: Carried forward to next meeting **BS/DC**

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

a) Topics:

i) Eastwater Drove: No start date has yet been provided by the contractor, but it is hoped the work will begin between the end of January and early February to avoid the start of the bird-nesting season. **JC/EWG**

ii) Mineries: Natural England is currently consulting on the development of a management plan for the site. **JC/EWG**

iii) Septic tanks scheme: Carried forward to next meeting. **JC/EWG**

iv) Request by New House owners to excavate an electric cable under the lower Green: **ALL**
RT favoured routing the cable under the drive, noting that National Grid (NG) can undertake this but noted that the existing wayleave and chestnut roots are concerns.
Member of the public (earlier in public forum) reported NG had raised health and safety issues.
VB felt the cable should not have been installed in its current location in the first place.
RT referred to wider village sentiment and suggested further discussions with NG and interested parties to understand costs, including the option of routing the cable house-to-house.
Action: PPC to request alternative cabling route options from NG. Additional clarification required from NG on the definition of a Small/Medium vs Large tree and the clearances required. JC and DC to progress.

v) Village Green Tree matters: Tree planting was planned with volunteers the coming weekend. PPC agreed this should be postponed until cable issue is resolved. **JC/EWG**

vi) Village Green wall boundary: Parishioner requested that rebuilding of the stone wall adjoining the green is delayed until the electrical cable issue is resolved. PPC considered and agreed this was acceptable. **JC/EWG**

vii) Priddy Pool excavation: On hold pending confirmed dates from the contractor. **JC/EWG**

viii) Crescent wall proposal: SB advised that details of the proposed wall location had been passed to the original proposer. The Council will await further information on the build date and stone costs. **SB/JC/EWG**

Proposal from Folk Festival committee to add permanent water and mains power supply to the lower green/including notice from Bristol Water: Archived records are still being reviewed, as Bristol Water (BW) appear to hold no records of their own. RT will continue the archival research. DC remains in discussion with BW. Plan for electricity is ongoing **RT/DC**

127 **P7 Highways Action Group (HAG) report:**

a) Local Community Network (LCN) highways/active travel: Awaiting the outcome of the next LCN meeting in March. Somerset Highways have also confirmed their attendance. **DC /RT**

b) SC local transport plan: RT proposed that the item be removed from the agenda. Carried. **DC**

c) Topics:

i) Speed Indicator Devices: Carried forward to next meeting **MD/DC**

ii) Village gateways plan: Carried forward to next meeting **MD/DC**

iii) Nine Barrows Lane triangle: DC proposed to remove item from agenda as now completed - Carried **MD/DC**

iv) Quiet lane initiative: PPC proposal to close the road. DC to raise the matter with Somerset Council Highways and discuss further. **MD/DC**

vi) Proposal to install hedgehog road signs on approaches to village: DC to raise the matter with the LCN. PPC have indicated they are willing to cover the purchase costs of signs. **DC/RT/ALL**

vii) Hunters Crossroads current accident rate: DC to continue monitoring. The PPC noted a likely increase in traffic arising from major local road closures. LCN have confirmed to SB that the Hunter's Lodge Crossroads will be on the agenda **DC/All**

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

a) Approval of new payments: *None as off 5/1/2026* – Noted by Council **RFO/SB/All**

b) Expected payments made: Reimbursed cost of Hard Drive for PPC Archival to RT £88.98 - Council approved **ALL/RFO**

d) Internal auditor report: RFO to prepare a report on the actions taken and circulate it to the Council. **RFO**

e) Rugby & Hinckley Savings account access: MD to circulate the access links to the designated councillors. Further actions will be considered at the next meeting. **RFO/MD**

f) Secure Post-box Village Hall: MD reported the prices to the Council, and it was resolved that the project would not proceed. MD to look at making existing post box more secure **RFO/MD**

(note public exclusion) for g, h and i

g) Purchase of assets: VB to email agent for update on progress. **ALL**

h) Quarterly Reconciliation to sign off: The RFO presented the report, which was signed off by BS. **RFO/BS**

i) 2026/2027 budget finalisation by council: Council discussed and agreed that interest from the H&R savings account should not be allocated to the Playground project. Instead this should be allocated to EWG. Final Budget approved by Council **ALL**

129 **Matters of report:** RT reported that CD has offered her resignation from the Council for personal reasons. **All**

EOM 21:10