



# Priddy Parish Council

## DRAFT MINUTES

### for the Priddy Parish Council meeting

held on 11<sup>th</sup> February 2026 at 7 PM in Priddy Village Hall

**Present:** Cllrs R Thompson MBE (RT) Meeting Chairman. B Storrie (BS), V Barberet (VB), J Clements (JC), D Collier (DC), M Dodd (MD), (SC) Cllr E Hobbs (EH), Parish Clerk S Baynes (SB/RFO) - 4 Members of the public.

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|-----|--|-------------|
| 130 | <b>Apologies for absence:</b> none   | ALL         |
| 131 | <b>Declarations of interest:</b> none  | ALL         |
| 132 | <b>Exclusion of public and press</b> from any agenda item under Standing Order 3d), due to the confidential consideration of asset purchase and 26/27 budget approval - ref to 143/e   | Chair       |
| 133 | <b>Adjournment of meeting for public forum:</b> No matters raised  | ALL         |
| 134 | <b>Chairs Announcement:</b> none   | Chair       |
| 135 | <b>Minutes of previous meeting(s):</b> Agreed by all and signed by BS, co-chair.   | ALL         |
| 136 | <b>P1 Governance (GOV) report</b>  |             |
|     | a) Portfolio groups update: no update  | ALL         |
|     | b) Parish clerk update: The Clerk has completed and passed his six-monthly probation review. Proposed and resolved that the clerk be requested to continue.  | SB          |
|     | c) Policy review: village greens policy: In progress   | RT          |
|     | d) Parish archives to Somerset Heritage Centre: In progress  | RT          |
|     | e) LCN matters: RT apologised for not attending the LCN meeting.   | RT          |
|     | f) Councillor training: Chairs and the Clerk will arrange appropriate ongoing training.  | RT/BS/SB    |
|     | g) Serious crime concerns of local parishioner's/farmers: A closed meeting between stakeholders and the Police is scheduled for the 12 <sup>th</sup> February 2026.  | RT/All      |
|     | h) Resignation of Councillor – PPC casual vacancy/advertisement of & application process: It was proposed and resolved to discuss this under item 143 e  | All         |
| 137 | <b>P2 Built Environment Group applications &amp; group (BEG) report</b>  | ALL         |
|     | 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><br><i>None received</i>       |             |
|     | b) Parish plan: BEG to arrange a meeting and report back to the Council.   | RT/CD/MD/BS |
|     | c) <u>Topics:</u>  |             |
|     | i) Village Hall energy efficiency survey: Awaiting response from assessor.   | JC          |
|     | ii) Community Council for Somerset affordable housing needs (Thrive): The report was received by the Council, with the actions and summary to be considered at the next Parish Plan Meeting.   | MD          |
|     | iii) Issues on construction in field on the Wells Road: Somerset Council has, as yet, made no direct contact with either the PPC or the landowner.<br>Member of Public left the meeting  | BS          |
|     | iv) Issues raised regarding Hastoe Housing/Reeves Paddock: MD received a non-committal reply from Hastoe Housing regarding a meeting. Following discussion, the PPC expressed concern that nothing further can be progressed at present but will continue to monitor the situation.  | RT/MD       |
| 138 | <b>P3 Assets and maintenance group (AMG) report:</b>   | DC/MD/ALL   |
|     | a) Annual inspection for asset register: The Clerk will distribute the draft asset register to all members. DC /MD have inspected the Greens and will write an annual condition report for insurance purposes. It was proposed / resolved that maintenance of potholes, broken benches and any other issues are to be discussed with contractors / other relevant parties, |             |

works planned, and quotes obtained. Formation of a benches working party was proposed / resolved.

b) Topics:

i) Fountain / TAP: It was proposed / resolved to discuss the village green water supply under this agenda item. RT has written to Bristol Water (BW) with information from the Parish Council's archive and asking for information from the BW archive. BW response indicated that PPC should update the installation to satisfy 1999 legislation and PPC could take over the account and that no further information is available. It was proposed / resolved that BW be sent a list of missing documents that had originated from them and asked to supply copies. In addition a local landowner has been asked to search their land deeds for any information regarding a 'deed of release'. **RT/DC**

ii) Hobb's bench: EH will complete the purchase and will liaise with the PPC regarding secure placement at Townsend Pool. **DC/MD**

iii) Greens maintenance: It was proposed and resolved that the 2026 3-year greens maintenance tender be publicised. **All/SB**

iv) Vegetation growth damaging the Causeway: Refer to item 138(a) above. **MD/DC/JC**

v) Requests for new memorial bench – The draft policy has been circulated; feedback is awaited prior to further action. **BS/All**

vi) Update on Hunters Lodge defibrillator: EH has confirmed that the unit is fixed and operational, and that he is the Guardian. MD will liaise with EH regarding maintenance. The Clerk will list all defibrillators in the Parish and publish the list once availability and functionality have been confirmed. **MD/SB**

**P4 Large infrastructure Playground project group (LIG\_PG) report):**

139 Topics:

It was resolved and agreed to discuss these matters under item 143 e).

i) grants (awards for all): **VB**

ii) community engagement: **VB**

iii) landowner approaches: **VB**

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

a) Topics:

i) website / social media / Pew /ZOH mail: the Greens 2026 tender and Thrive housing report to be added to website and advertised on social media **BS/VB/SB**

ii) Frequency of events / festivals/ Concerns: No matters arising to report. **BS/DC**

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

a) Topics:

i) Eastwater Drove: Work is currently in progress. **JC/EWG**

ii) Minerries: Natural England consultation invites have been distributed to interested and key parties. Somerset Wildlife Trust has confirmed it will not manage the site in future. **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**

PPC is still awaiting a response from National Grid regarding the permitted topiary. An email with further details from the homeowner will be circulated and discussed at next month's meeting.

v) Village Green Tree matters: Some trees have already been planted around the Lower Green. Further planting will take place this Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> Feb. Sponsorship has been received for several of the trees. It was proposed / resolved that a reference plan showing planting locations and any issues will be circulated to councillors especially to consider the re-tendering of green maintenance. **JC/EWG**

vi) Village Green wall boundary: Action by the homeowner is pending the final outcome of item 141(a)(iv) above. **ALL/JC/EWG**

vii) Priddy Pool overflow excavation: Overflow to be excavated after Eastwater Drove project. **JC/EWG**

viii) Crescent wall proposal: Proposed / resolved to remove the item from the agenda and reinstated when further information is provided. **SB**

- ix) Proposal from Priddy Folk Festival committee to add permanent water and mains power supply to the lower green/including notice from Bristol Water: Refer to item 138(b)(i) above. The item will be moved to section P3 for future consideration. **RT/DC**
- 142 **P7 Highways Action Group (HAG) report:**
- a) Local Community Network (LCN) highways/active travel: No update is expected until after the next LCN meeting. DC will request hedgehog signs, discuss Nine Barrows Lane and report concerns regarding lorries mounting the Nine Barrows triangle. **DC /RT**
- b) Topics:
- i) Speed Indicator Devices: No Report **MD/DC**
- ii) Village gateways plan: No Report **MD/DC**
- ii) Quiet lane initiative: No Report **MD/DC**
- iv) Proposal to install hedgehog road signs on approaches to village: See above **DC/RT/ALL**
- v) Hunters Crossroads current accident rate: No Report **DC/All**
- 143 **Finance: RFO report, budget & payments:**
- a) Approval of new payments: **ALL/RFO**
- i) Request for £200 grant from Crime Stoppers. It was proposed / resolved to decline the grant application.
- ii) Clerk Office Supplies – printer Ink +/- £40.00: Proposed / resolved to pay clerk’s expenses. **ALL/RFO**
- b) Expected payments made:
- i) To MD, re-imburement of Poster Printing costs for Thrive Survey - £24.00 **All/RFO**
- ii) To Clerk, re-imburement of MS office subscription - £104.99 **ALL/RFO**
- iii) Open Spaces Society Subscription - £45.00. **ALL/RFO**
- iv) Parish Online Annual membership costs - £378.00. **ALL/RFO**
- v) Payment IN from Magpie Auctions - £500.00. Council noted the expected receipt. **ALL/RFO**
- c) Internal auditor report: Proposed /resolved to accept Clerks report. **RFO**
- d) Rugby & Hinckley Savings account access: It was proposed / resolved that RT and DC be removed from the R&H account, and that the Parish Clerk and Councillor BS be added alongside existing signatories MD and JC. **MD/ALL/RFO**
- 3x Members of Public left the meeting
- (note public exclusion) for 143/e **ALL**
- e) Purchase of assets (and other matters relating to individuals) Following discussion it was proposed and resolved that a further discussion regarding asset purchase with individual parties would take place. With regard to the councillor resignation, it was proposed / resolved to discuss with Somerset Council.
- 144 **Matters of report:** **All**
- a) JC and VB reported that village litter-picking will take place on 8 March at 10am. social media will be updated and posters will be put up.
- b) MD and DC will organise a bench working party. MD will draft a poster to seek volunteers.
- c) RT reported parishioners’ ~~complaints~~ concerns regarding flooding and potholing on West Harptree Road from the Castle of Comfort to Gibbets Brow. BS will report the issues to Somerset Highways.
- d) JC reminded everyone that the toad migrations are currently active and asked drivers to take extra care.

**Meeting ended 21:00**