

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of Priston Parish Council held on Monday 12th May 2014 in the Village Hall, Priston.

1. Attendance and Apologies –

Councillor Pattison presided, Councillors Cross, Davies, Girdlestone, Lippiatt, Whybrow and the Parish Clerk were present. Councillor Pattison welcomed Councillors and village residents Mrs Anderson and Mr Wilkinson and District Councillor David Veale. Apologies received from Councillor Hopwood.

2. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Monday 13th May 2013, having been distributed electronically to Councillors, published on the Priston Website and on the Parish Council Noticeboard, were accepted and agreed as a true record of proceedings and signed by the Chairman. There were no matters arising.

3. Chairman's Report for the year ending 31st March 2014

Councillor Pattison commenced his report by advising that there had been four major challenges in the year:

1. exercising our rights under the new Community Right to Bid and, after discussions at a public meeting and speaking with property owners, the Parish Council had agreed to take no further action..
2. supporting BANES' Core Strategy
3. understanding the options for bringing fast Broadband to the Parish
4. the weather, with long term flooding particularly in the Farmborough Lane

Governance – a new version of the Financial Regulations had been agreed and was published on the Priston website.

Finance – After discussion it had been agreed to increase the Clerk's salary which was very close to the National Minimum Wage and an increase in the precept had been agreed to cover this.

Planning – Responses had been sent to Planning Services on applications in respect of seven properties within the parish.

A **Draft Placemaking Plan** for the parish had been compiled by the Council with support from a number of parishioners, including from Wilmington. The Plan was submitted to the District Council and has received only a minor request for amplification.

Highways and Footpaths - The High Street had been resurfaced by the Highways Department towards the end of 2013 although problems have been experienced at the lower end of the village caused by floodwater. The severe problems with flooding on the Farmborough Lane have been improved by the impressive efforts of the Lippiatt and Bendall families. We await assistance from the Highways Department in this respect.

Defibrillator and Priston Website – The Chairman thanked Mr Wilkinson and Mr Bottle respectively and also Mr Bottle for his support in discussions with regard to bringing high-speed broadband to the parish.

Councillor Pattison's full report has been placed on file and would be published on the Priston Website.

4. Financial Report– The Clerk presented and reported on the Parish Council's finances for the year ended 31st March 2014 advising the year had commenced with an opening balance of £2,103.30 including a balance of £826.92 in the PRIDE/Defibrillator account. A precept of £4,800 had been received, plus £40 Council Tax Support Grant and VAT of £94.27 reclaimed. There was a balance at the bank at 31st March 2014 of £3,411.15 including a £40 unrepresented cheque. Typed copies of the accounts were distributed to councillors and attending residents and would be published on the Priston Website.

5. Election of Chairman – In the absence of the Vice-Chairman, the Chair was taken by Councillor Davies who requested nominations for the Office of Chairman for the coming year. Councillor Pattison was formally proposed by Councillor Cross, seconded Councillor Girdlestone and agreed. As there were no other nominations Councillor Pattison was duly elected to this office.

6. **Declaration of Acceptance of Office – Chairman** – The official Declaration of Acceptance of Office was signed by Councillor Pattison and witnessed by the Clerk.
7. **Election of Vice Chairman** – Councillor Hopwood had expressed a willingness to be serve for the coming year in this capacity and was formally proposed by Councillor Cross, seconded Councillor Whybrow and agreed.
8. **Appointment of Clerk** – Councillor Pattison proposed, seconded Councillor Davies that Mrs Hunt be reappointed as Clerk. Mrs Hunt whilst thanking the Parish Council for her re-appointment reminded the Council of her comments at the previous Annual General Meeting with regard to not standing for re-election but advised that a Councillor had remarked to her that it would be impractical for her to stand down in 2015 with forthcoming local and national elections and the possibility of several new Parish Councillors. The Parish Council suggested she reconsider this decision in 2015 and either continue as clerk or give six months' notice. A vote of thanks was extended to Mrs Hunt which was followed by a round of applause.
9. **Appointment of Footpath Representative** – Proposed Councillor Pattison, seconded Councillor Lippiatt and agreed that Councillor Whybrow be appointed for the coming year.
10. **Appointment of Village Hall Representative** – Proposed Councillor Davies, seconded Councillor Whybrow and agreed that Councillor Cross be appointed for the coming year.
11. **Appointment of Roads and Highways Representative** – Proposed Councillor Pattison, seconded Councillor Cross and agreed that Councillor Girdlestone be appointed for the coming year.
12. **Appointment of Representative to Priston AED Project** – Proposed Councillor Cross, seconded Councillor Lippiatt and agreed that John Wilkinson, who indicated his willingness to continue in this capacity, be appointed for the coming year.
13. **Signing of Cheques** – Agreed the Chairman and Vice-Chairman together with Councillor Cross continue to be the three signatories for cheques and noted two of the three signatures were needed on all cheques.

There being no further business for discussion at the Annual General Meeting, the Chairman declared the meeting closed and proceeded with the first meeting of the new term.