

**The Annual General Meeting of Priston Parish Council was held at 7.00pm on Monday 12 May 2003 in the Village Hall, Priston**

Mr Hughes presided, Mrs Bowyer, Miss C Nokes, Mrs B Seymour and the Parish Clerk were present. Mr Hughes welcomed Mr and Mrs Broomfield, Mrs Cross, Miss M Nokes and Mr Whybrow.

- 1. Apologies** received from Mr Hopwood and District Councillor Mrs Todd.
- 2. Minutes** The minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 13 May 2002 were read, confirmed as an accurate record of the proceedings and signed by the Chairman.
- 3. Matters Arising:** Noted that the drain at Church Farm worked under normal conditions but no repairs had been carried out.

- 4. Chairman's Report:** Mr Hughes reported on discussions and decisions made during the year as follows:

**Queen's Golden Jubilee** - The weekend had been funded by the Parish Council, Parochial Church Council and Village Hall Committee. The Cricket Club had organised a Fancy Dress Party on the Saturday Evening and a special service had been held in Church on the Sunday. There had been a picnic in the Manor Field on the Monday at which Jubilee medals had been awarded to winners of the organised games. The MorrisMen had also performed and also a Ladies Team. A beacon had been lit on Pensdown in the evening. Thanks were expressed to all who had organised and helped to make this a very enjoyable weekend.

**Internal Auditor** - Mr A Harris had been approached and had agreed to act as Priston Parish Council's Internal Auditor, at a very modest fee of £50.00.

**District Councillor Todd** - Councillor Mrs Todd had advised of her new role in the cabinet which had been adopted by B&NES. Councillors had signed up to the new 'Code of Conduct'. There had been some hesitation regarding the Register of Interests.

**Village Green** - Concern had been expressed several times during the year about children playing with, and leaving, skateboards and ramps around the village green. These were likely to be a danger to themselves and the general public.

**Land at Hill Farm** - Meetings had been held outside of this Council with 'interested neighbours' with regard to the proposed development of a house on land which is, as far as the Parish Council is concerned, a green field site. Objections to the proposal were various which included the Parish Council's objection to the boundary change. Councillors and interested parties had been to two Council Meetings at the Town Hall and had spoken, including Councillor Todd. This matter has now gone to appeal.

**Priston Colliery** - The Parish Council asked if this could be designated a protected area. This has been looked at by B&NES and a decision is awaited. The question of purchase by the Parish Council had been discussed, unfortunately the owner would not wait for a survey or independent valuation and therefore the Council have reluctantly dropped any further negotiations at this time.

**Apple Store** - Concern was expressed on the condition of the Apple Store which is a listed building. This building continues to become more delapidated as time goes by.

**Tree** - The owners of the tree which obscures the church clock from view have continued to ignore letters sent to them from us and the Church Council.

**Annual Bid for Prioritised Requests** - We again asked for the same requests as 2001 and 2002. Still nothing was done which seems an utter waste of time.

**Stable Block, Blind Lane** - This Parish Council and B&NES objected to the proposal, plus a petition of the residents of Blind Lane who also strongly objected. Stables have nevertheless been erected. An appeal has been lodged by the owner of one of the fields and a decision is awaited.

**Footpath to Rockhill** - Has at last been repaired. The work done is very poor and not satisfactory.

**Priston Website** - The Website is now in use. Mr R Bottle and a small committee, including Councillor C Bowyer, are looking after it and thanks were extended to them.

**Footbridge at Priston Mill** - There is a likelihood that a new bridge will be built to replace one washed away some time ago.

Concluding his report Mr Hughes thanked all Councillors for their help and support during the year. He especially thanked retiring Councillors Owain Jones and 'Perry' Perriton who had been footpath representative. He had worked quietly away outside of the Council with the relevant departments of B&NES in particular with the Rockhill problem and issues pertaining to other footpaths.

Special thanks were extended to District Councillor Rosemary Todd who had managed to attend most of our meetings. She had been very helpful with regard to various problems in the Parish and in particular the Hill Farm issue, attending a meeting on a Sunday and supporting us in the Town Hall. She was always ready to help if she could and Mr Hughes thanked her for all she manages to do in her busy schedule in the Cabinet.

Mr Hughes gave his own and the Council's thanks to Mrs Hunt for her contribution to the Parish Council. He felt that she had taken on the role wonderfully and, with the new audit system giving her more work to do, she worked tirelessly in the background and this Council is very lucky to have her.

Finally Mr Hughes extended his thanks to his Vice Chairman, Mr James Hopwood who had served in this capacity for several years. Our thoughts are with him and his family at this time.

Mr Hughes advised that he had visited Mr Hopwood several times in recent days and have passed on to him messages from Councillors. He is a true gentleman farmer and his wise council on farming matters etc will be sorely missed.

5. **Financial Report** - The Clerk presented accounts for the year ended 31 March 2003 copies of which were distributed to all present. Noted an end of year balance at the bank of £75.10 with cash balance of £1.20p. The formal adoption of this report was proposed by Miss Nokes, seconded Mrs Bowyer and agreed. Mrs Hunt was thanked for the efficient manner in which the accounts were presented.
6. **Declaration of Acceptance of Office** - Declaration of Acceptance of Office forms were signed by Councillors Mrs Christine Bowyer, Mr Timothy Hughes, Miss Christine Nokes and Mrs Briony Seymour. Noted that no election expenses had been incurred. The Clerk to inform B&NES' Solicitor accordingly.
7. **Election of Chairman** - At this point in the meeting the Chair was taken by the Clerk who requested nominations for the Office of Chairman. One nomination was forthcoming and Mr Hughes was formally proposed as Chairman by Mrs Bowyer, seconded Miss Nokes and agreed.
8. **Election of Vice Chairman** - Mr Hughes proposed Mrs Bowyer, seconded Miss Nokes and agreed. Mrs Bowyer accepted this Office with thanks.
9. **Appointment of Clerk** - Mrs Seymour proposed that Mrs Hunt be reappointed. Seconded Mr Hughes and agreed.

- 10. Co-option of Councillors** - Mrs Clare Cross and Mr John Whybrow, having agreed to be co-opted as Parish Councillors, were welcomed in this capacity by the Chairman. Declaration of Acceptance of Office forms, which had been provided by the Clerk, were signed. Mrs Hunt would notify B&NES' solicitor of these appointments.
- 11. Signing of Cheques** - Councillors were in unanimous agreement that Mr Hughes and Mrs Hunt should continue as signatories on behalf of the Parish Council.
- 12. Any Other Business-**
  - (a) Gifts to retiring Councillors** - After brief discussion it was unanimously agreed that book tokens be purchased for presentation to Mr Perriton and Mr Jones. The Clerk to make the necessary arrangements.
  - (b)** Mr Hughes was requested to convey the best wishes of the Councillors to Mr Hopwood and his family when next he visits.

There being no further business for discussion at the Annual General Meeting, Mr Hughes again thanked Councillors for their support in the preceding year and declared the meeting closed at 7.47pm.