

**The following are the DRAFT Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of Priston Parish Council which was held on Monday 12 May 2008 in the Village Hall Priston, commencing at 7.00pm. These have not yet been approved as an accurate record of proceedings.**

Councillor Hughes presided, Councillors Cross, Hopwood, Lippiatt, Whybrow, Wilkinson and the Parish Clerk were present. The Chairman welcomed village residents Mr Bottle, Mrs Foley and Mr Perriton.

- 1. The minutes of the Annual General Meeting** held on 14 May 2007 were read, confirmed as an accurate record of proceedings and signed by the Chairman. There were no matters arising.
- 2. The Declaration of Acceptance of Office - new Parish Councillor** was signed by Douglas Pattison and witnessed by the Clerk.

**3. Chairman's Report –**

Councillor Hughes reported on the activities of the Parish Council in the preceding year, commencing with the information that local elections had been held in May 2007 which resulted in a new council being formed including one new councillor, John Wilkinson, who replaced Mrs C Bowyer who had not stood for re-election after serving for 16 years on the Parish Council. The Chairman regretted that no mention had been made in The Link of Mrs Bowyer's service to the parish or the presentation which had been made to her.

A resolution had been passed to accept the revised Code of Conduct and all Councillors had completed their Registers of Interest as was required.

Referring to Highway related issues, the Chairman advised that (i) the footbridge at Priston Mill is to be rebuilt; (ii) Priston Hill had been resurfaced and as the work was of a poor standard the Parish Council had complained and some patching had been done; (iii) Wood Lane had suffered some flooding which seemed to be worse than normal; and (iv) BT have installed underground cables in Priston Lane which appear to have damaged the underground drainage pipes.

Commenting briefly on the proposed development south of Bath, the Chairman advised that a sub-committee had been set up to respond to B&NES' Core Strategy Launch. A further sub-committee had also been set up to address the Regional Spatial Strategy on Priston in relation to the possible effect on the parish. Thanks were extended to Councillor Clare Cross who, together with other Councillors and interested villagers, was compiling a report to be sent to the District Council and also, possibly, the Government. It was noted that new housing in the parish is unlikely, but the Parish Council was more concerned about the proposed new Southern bypass for Bath and its route. The Parish Council was very sorry to receive the resignation of Councillor Christine Nokes owing to ill health. Miss Nokes had been the longest standing Councillor, having served for 34 years. The Chairman again extended the thanks of the Parish Council and the parish for her loyal service.

The Chairman continued by reporting on planning applications which had been approved during the year: Land at Hill Farm, approval for a new house; Hill Farm House, new wall; Arum House, alterations to window and door; No.3 Summerlea, conservatory; No.1 Summerlea, double garage; 1 Hill View, extension and Priestbarrow House, extension. The Chairman also advised that, during the year he had been asked to visit several residents in the village to give his advice on plans for alterations prior to their submission to Planning Services.

The Chairman informed the meeting that he had recently been advised that BT propose to remove the telephone box from the village and the Parish Council had until 25<sup>th</sup> June to object to this proposal. Concluding his report the Chairman thanked Councillors for their help and support in the last year, especially those who have been involved in the various sub-committees set up. Their help has been much appreciated as has the support of the villagers who have been involved. Special thanks were

extended to Councillor Clare Cross, the Vice-Chairman of the Parish Council, who had done much of the groundwork involved. In conclusion thanks were conveyed to District Councillor Victor Clarke for his help and guidance and, finally, to the Clerk, Christine Hunt, who has worked hard on behalf of the Parish Council.

The chairman's full report would be placed on file for future reference.

4. **Election of Chairman** – At this point Councillor Hughes vacated the Chair which was taken by the Vice-Chairman, Councillor Cross, who requested nominations to this Office. Councillor Hughes was formally proposed by Councillor Cross, seconded Councillor Pattison, and agreed unanimously. Councillor Hughes retook the Chair, thanking the Parish Council for its support but also stating that the Council must consider another Councillor taking this Office in the future.
5. **Declaration of Acceptance of Office: Chairman** – Councillor Hughes signed the formal declaration which was witnessed by the Clerk.
6. **Election of Vice-Chairman** – Councillor Cross was proposed to this office by Councillor Wilkinson, seconded Councillor Hopwood and agreed unanimously. In accepting the Office, Councillor Cross advised it was her intention to stand for just the one year.
7. **Appointment of Clerk** – Councillor Cross proposed that Mrs Hunt be re-appointed, seconded Councillor Wilkinson and agreed unanimously.
8. **Financial Report** - The Clerk presented accounts for the year ended 31 March 2008 copies of which were distributed to Councillors and village residents present. A precept of £2,900 had been received plus a donation from the Parochial Church Council towards the cost of remedial work to an ash tree and a refund of VAT for the year 2006-2007. A total expenditure of £2,963.89 had been recorded leaving an end of year balance at the bank of £413.49 with no cash in hand. The Clerk advised that she would reclaim VAT in the sum of £66.60 for the year ended 31 March 2008. The formal adoption of this report was proposed by Councillor Hopwood, seconded Councillor Wilkinson and agreed. Mrs Hunt was again thanked for the efficient and comprehensive manner in which the accounts were presented.
9. **Appointment of Footpath Representative** - Councillor Hughes proposed and Councillor Pattison seconded that Councillor Whybrow be reappointed for the coming year.
10. **Appointment of Village Hall Representative** - Councillor Cross was asked if she would be prepared to again undertake this duty for the coming year and on her affirmation was formally proposed by Councillor Hopwood and seconded Councillor Whybrow.
11. **Signing of Cheques** - Councillors were in unanimous agreement that the Chairman and Vice-Chairman should continue as signatories on behalf of the Parish Council. Formally proposed and seconded by Councillors Pattison and Lippiatt. It was again not felt necessary for there to be a third signatory as had been recommended by the Internal Auditor.

There being no further business for discussion at the Annual General Meeting, Councillor Hughes declared the meeting closed at 7.35pm and proceeded with the first meeting of the new financial year.