

The following are the DRAFT minutes of an ordinary meeting of Priston Parish Council held on Monday 2 April 2007 in the Village Hall, Priston. These have not yet been approved as an accurate record of proceedings. Date of next meeting Monday 14 May 2007.

Councillor Bowyer presided, Councillors Cross, Hopwood, Hughes, Lippiatt, Nokes, Whybrow and Parish Clerk were present. Councillor Bowyer welcomed District Councillor Mrs Rosemary Todd and village residents who had joined the meeting prior to attending the Annual Parish Meeting which followed. There were no apologies

1. **The Minutes of the meeting** held on 3 February 2007 were read, confirmed as an accurate record of proceedings and signed by the Chairman.
2. **Matters Arising:**
 - Ash Tree, Church Farm** – Councillor Hughes reported the tree had received attention as arranged. He was pleased to report that two anonymous benefactors had very kindly contributed to the costs involved. The first would be paying half of the tree surgeon's account and the other all of the charges levied by the electricity authority. The Parish Council would be paying the balance of the account from the tree surgeon.
 - Priston Lane/Wood Lane** – The Chairman advised she had contacted B&NES regarding the condition of this road. The Clerk had again met the Highways Inspector and inspected the road with him. He undertook to arrange the repair of the "potholes" within 24hours and the "patches" would receive attention in the following week.
 - No.1 Summerlea, Erection of double garage and relocated vehicle access** – The Clerk read from the Planning Inspector's report which concluded that the appeal should be dismissed.
 - Parked vehicles reducing width of road and visibility** – The Clerk read correspondence received from the Area Traffic Engineer which included the suggestion that white lines could be painted in the area if the Parish Council so wished. After discussion it was agreed the Chairman speak with a resident who had personally contacted the Engineer with a view to reconciling the situation.
 - Walnut Trees, Hill Farm** – The Clerk advised that the Senior Arboricultural Officer of B&NES had concluded that the two walnut trees would be worthy of a Tree Preservation Order. The Clerk to contact the owners to inform them of this decision.
 - Garden Store, Hill Farm** – Noted that the enforcement officer had visited as arranged by Councillor Todd but no report had been received from him. Agreed to refrain from contacting him for his comments until after the Planning Committee meeting, scheduled for Wednesday 4 April, at which the application to build a dwelling at Hill Farm was to be considered.
3. **Correspondence** – The Clerk read from a letter received from English Heritage which advised they did not consider the Gilbert Scott telephone kiosk merited national listing. The full report would be circulated to all Councillors in the usual way.

The Clerk continued by reporting she had been advised by the Audit Commission that Mazars of Southampton would continue to act as External Auditors to the Parish Council and the fee would be £50, plus VAT, as in recent years.
4. **Financial Report** - The Clerk reported the balance at the bank was £282.80 with no cash in hand. Advice had been received from ALCA of the subscription due but agreed this be discussed at the next meeting. The Annual Return had been received from the External Auditors which would be completed in the next few weeks, for signature at the next meeting. In conclusion the Clerk advised she had received notification the first half of the precept had been paid into the Parish Council's bank account. A detailed financial report would be given at the Annual General Meeting.
5. **Priston Website** – Noted Mr Bottle was currently out of the country on business and the report received from him was read and would be placed on file. The Chairman wished to minute her thanks to Mr Bottle for his assistance in rectifying problems with the printer used by the Clerk.

6. **Footpaths and Bridleways - Footbridge: Priston Mill** - Councillor Whybrow advised a feasibility study had been carried out by a B&NES Enforcement Officer. The necessary work had been given high priority and would be carried out in the summer months.
7. **Local Elections** – The Clerk advised she had issued nine sets of nomination forms to current and prospective councillors.
8. **Planning Applications:**
 - Hill Farm – Reserved matters application for single dwelling (Resubmission) Amended** – Councillor Bowyer advised it was her intention to speak on behalf of the Parish Council at the Planning Committee at which this application would be considered. Councillor Hughes informed Councillors that he had been saddened the Parish Council was not unanimous in the comments written to Planning Services, referring to the resubmitted plans, in view of all the time and effort which had gone into the consideration of this application.
 - The Old Skittle Alley – Erection of Garage to side** – Application returned to Planning Services. Notification of decision awaited.
 - Two new applications had been received from **New Farm, Marksbury (Erection of silage clamp)** and the new owners of **Hill Farm House (Remove and rebuild boundary wall)**. These were currently being circulated to councillors for their observations and comments.
9. **Date of Annual General Meeting** - Monday 14 May commencing 7.00pm to be followed by an ordinary Parish Council Parish Meeting.
10. **Any other business:**
 - (i) – The Clerk had received a quantity of updated leaflets giving information on the Ring-and-Ride scheme and requested she be advised of any residents who would like to receive a copy.
 - (ii) Councillor Mrs Todd reported that she had recently attended a conference of Chairs of Rural Councils at which the delegates had been briefed about the Local Government Bill which could make a great deal of difference to parish councils.
 - (iii) In reply to comments made by Councillor Hughes regarding the abundance of brown tourist type signs, which have recently been erected locally, advertising local hostelrys, Councillor Bowyer advised that this matter was raised at a recent B&NES Cluster Meeting and arrangements were in hand for their removal.

There being no further business for consideration Councillor Bowyer declared the meeting closed at 7.45pm and proceeded with the formal business of the Annual Parish Meeting.