

**The following are the DRAFT minutes of an ordinary meeting of Priston Parish Council which was held on Monday 8 December 2003 in the Village Hall, Priston These have not yet been approved by the Parish Councillors.**

Councillor Hughes presided, Councillors Bowyer, Cross, Geake, Nokes, Whybrow and Parish Clerk were present.

The Chairman welcomed village residents B Putnam, E Lippiatt, C Kettley, S Lyddon and J Wilkinson.

1. **Apologies** were received from Councillor Mrs Todd

2. **The minutes** of the meeting held on 8 September 2003 were read. After comments made by Mr Putnam on the accuracy of item 4(i) Memorial to Mr Fry and Mr Nokes and the ensuing discussion the minutes were agreed by the Councillors and signed by the Chairman as a true record of proceedings.

3. **Matters Arising:**

(a) Noted that **Telephone Box** which had been slightly vandalised had been repaired.

(b) **Tarmac** - Councillor Hughes advised that he would not now be able to lay the tarmac around the well until the Spring.

(c) **Mill Lane** - Councillor Nokes again expressed concern that coaches and open-top double-deck buses are using this road as access to Priston Mill. Passengers were seen on the top of the bus and it was felt that, as trees are overhanging this road, this was a dangerous practice. Again commented that this road is used by walkers and horse riders. Mr Hopwood had confirmed that it was stipulated at the Mill that all traffic should use the Marksbury Road which has appropriate passing places. The Chairman volunteered to again speak to Mr Hopwood and also suggested that Highways be contacted with the request that a notice be displayed advising that the road is unsuitable for heavy traffic.

(d) **Resignation of Councillor** - Following outspoken comments made by a Councillor and village residents attending the meeting the Chairman apologised for the action taken following the resignation of Councillor Seymour. Bath and North East Somerset Council's Returning Officer would be contacted by the Clerk and formal steps taken to hold a by-election following his advice.

4. **Correspondence -**

(i) **Field Shelters off Blind Lane** - Letter received from Planning Enforcement which advised that such shelters are deemed as permitted use.

(ii) **Three Requests** - Letter received from Transportation, Access and Waste Management advising last year's submissions were still on file and would be considered for inclusion in 2004/05 programme.

(iii) Letter written to Mr John Lippiatt and Mr Steven Lyddon thanking them for their interest in the vacancy on the Parish Council.

(iv) Letter written to the Head of Planning Services to advise of fire escape under construction at the rear of the Ring O'Bells. No acknowledgement received.

5. **Financial Report** - The Clerk reported that the second instalment of the precept had been received. The formal completion of the audit had been received from the External Auditors and also their certificate and opinion. She had fulfilled the legal requirements in publishing the audited accounts. An invoice in the sum of £45 plus VAT (£7.88) had been received and settled. The Clerk had also renewed membership with Cam Valley Wildlife in the sum of £5. Mrs Hunt continued by advising that she had applied for and received reimbursement in the sum of £30.81 from Customs and Excise in respect of VAT charges on three invoices relating to auditing.

The current balance at the bank was £1,159.95 and cash of £7.66p. The Clerk requested the formal approval of the Council to renew membership with the Society of Local Council Clerks (£30pa) and to pay half of her annual salary. Agreed unanimously.

- 6. Memorial to J Nokes and C Fry** - Following comments made under item 2 above, Mr Putnam advised he would like to pursue the possibility of construction of a bench around the tree on the village green. In response to the Chairman's request for more information the meeting was advised that the bench would be no more than 18 inches wide, made out of a piece of green oak set around the tree and erected on posts. The seat would be approximately 3 inches thick, would not have a back or arms and would not require maintenance. Two brass memorial plaques would be fixed to the bench. Mr Putnam undertook to arrange a formal application to the Parish Council.  
The Parish Council agreed to Mr Putnam's requests with the proviso that he arrange a sketch or mock-up before the next meeting.  
Concluding his comments Mr Putnam volunteered to be responsible for the maintenance of the village green, mowing the grass and keeping it free from litter. Councillor Hughes thanked him for his offer.
- 7. Chinook Helicopters** - The Clerk advised of telephone calls she had made and letter written following complaints from residents regarding inconvenience and irritation caused by low-flying helicopters. The RAF Police were trying to establish which aircrew were involved. In response to questions and comments from Councillors, the Chairman advised that an arrangement exists between the farmer and the RAF and volunteered to speak to the farmer to ascertain the duration of the agreement.
- 8. Priston Colliery ("The Batch")** - The Clerk advised of correspondence with an ecologist within the Planning Services of Bath and North East Somerset Council and a petition received from residents at Tunley as the area is being used for motorbike trials. A letter of support had also been received from Dunkerton Parish Council.  
It was agreed that a letter be sent to the landowner to ask him of his plans for the area and to advise him of our hopes for it to be designated a Site of Nature Conservation Importance.
- 9. Parish Plans (The Countryside Agency)** - Noted that no responses had been received following the article placed in The Link.
- 10. The Local Plan** - Noted receipt of the Revised Deposit Draft Local Plan and that no notice had been taken of the Parish Council's objections.
- 11. Priston Website** - Agreed by Councillors that the Website was very useful and that its compilation by Mr Bottle was excellent.
- 12. Former Skittle Alley, Ring O'Bells** - Prior to discussions under this heading Councillors Cross and Nokes declared an interest as they both know members of the owner's family.  
Noted that this was scheduled as an enforcement item for discussion at a meeting of a Development Control Sub-Committee scheduled for 10 December. Councillor Hughes advised that he was prepared to speak at this meeting if the Parish Council so wished. Agreed unanimously by Councillors.

The Chairman reminded the meeting that the Planning Department have not communicated with the Parish Council even though we have been in touch with them on numerous occasions. In response to comments made by residents Councillor Geake emphasized that the Parish Council is not driven by any one person and also advised that the Parish Council has received several complaints about the size of the building.

Councillor Hughes, in closing the discussion under this heading, informed all present that the Parish Councillors do the best they can for the village and that the general opinion received by the Councillors was that this dwelling is too large.

- 13. Footpaths and Bridleways** -

Councillor Whybrow reported briefly on local issues and it was noted that BOAT BA15/19 had been restored. The Clerk was requested to convey the thanks of the Parish Council to the Public Rights of Way Officer.

**14. Planning** - No planning applications under consideration.

**15. Any other business :**

(a) Councillor Geake drew attention to the seasonal problem with flooding of the road near the bridge and adjacent properties. The Clerk to write to the Highways Inspector with the request that remedial work be considered.

(b) **Cluster Meetings** - The Clerk advised that a provisional schedule for the coming year had been received with Priston included in the group meeting on 22 March and 23 August 2004.

**16. Date of next meeting** Agreed as Monday 9 February 2004.

There being no further business for consideration the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.40pm thanking Councillors and village residents for their attendance and participation and wishing everyone a Happy Christmas and Prosperous New Year.