

The following are the minutes of an ordinary meeting of Priston Parish Council which was held on Monday 6 December 2004 in the Village Hall, Priston. These have not yet been approved as a true and accurate record of proceedings. Date of next meeting - Monday 7 February 2005.

Councillor Hughes presided, Councillors Bowyer, Cross, Geake, Lippiatt, Whybrow and Parish Clerk were present. The Chairman welcomed District Councillor Mrs Todd and village resident Mrs K Whybrow.

1. **Apologies** received from Councillor Nokes.
2. **The minutes** of the meeting held on 20 September were read, agreed and signed by the Chairman.
3. **Matters Arising:**
 - (i) **Computer** - The Clerk informed Councillors that she had taken no action to follow up the information provided by Councillor Mrs Todd as she had been advised by a fellow clerk that Bath and North East Somerset Council were investigating the possibility of issuing those parishes, without internet access, computers with this facility. She had unfortunately not been able to satisfactorily pursue this. Mrs Todd named the officer in B&NES whom the Clerk should contact.
 - (ii) **Horse Arena, Church Farm** - Mr Hughes advised that an Application for a Certificate of Lawfulness for an Existing Use had been submitted.
4. **Correspondence -**
 - (i) **Footbridge near Priston Mill** - The Clerk read the letter from Public Rights of Way, received in response to letter written on 21 September, which advised that the entire bridge would be replaced in the next financial year. Red safety mesh fencing was to be placed along the south side of the bridge to highlight the weakness of the rail.
 - (ii) **2005/2006 Transport Capital Programme** - The Clerk advised of the content of a letter sent to the Head of Environment and Consumer Services in response to his request for items for inclusion on the Programme for the coming financial year.
 - (iii) **Tree Preservation Order** - Noted the receipt by the Planning Services of an application to carry out work to an oak tree within the parish which had been damaged in a storm in October.
 - (iv) **Street Names in Priston** - The Clerk reported that she had recently received a map indicating street names in use by Bath and North East Somerset. Councillors were in unanimous agreement that "Priston Hill", shown as being the length of road from the junction with the B3115 Tunley Road to the Old Dog Inn House, and "High Street", from the Old Dog Inn House to the junction with the Marksbury Road, were not as in common use within the village. The Parish Council had been requested to indicate on the map the preferred names for this length of road and also a name for the stretch of road (indicated as un-named) from Blind Lane to the junction with Priston Road before Nailwell. After discussion during which it was agreed that this latter was known as Blind Lane and also that "High Street" was accepted to be the road through the village from the bridge over the brook to the junction with the Marksbury/Farmborough roads, Councillor Hughes offered to annotate the map as necessary.
5. **Financial Report** - The Clerk reported a current balance at the bank of £1,044.35 and a cash balance of £4.57p. The second instalment of the precept had been received in October. An amount of £14.25 had been paid to Bristol Water in respect of the drinking trough and fountain. The Clerk requested Council's agreement to renew annual membership with Cam Valley Wildlife Group for £5 and advised that she would shortly be receiving renewal notice in respect of membership of the Somerset Branch of the Society of Local Clerks. Agreed that both these renewals be paid.
In conclusion the Clerk advised that she had recently written a cheque for £250 being half of her annual salary.

6. **Community Funding** - Councillor Hughes reported that as a result of Priston's team successfully achieving second place in the Wansdyke Inter-Village Quiz the Parish Council had received a cheque in the sum of £50. After a brief discussion it was proposed by Councillor Bowyer, seconded Councillor Whybrow, that this prize money be shared equally between Priston Church and Priston Village Hall in support of their fundraising. The quiz team was congratulated on their achievement.
7. **Schedule of meetings for 2005** - As requested at the last meeting the Clerk had prepared a schedule of meetings which was agreed as follows: 7 February, 4 April, 16 May (AGM and ordinary meeting) 4 July, 19 September, 5 December. Agreed that the Annual Parish Meeting be held on 4 April together with the ordinary meeting.
8. **The Countryside Agency (Map of Registered Common Land and Open Country)** - The map recently received did not indicate the two pieces of common land within the parish and the Clerk had contacted the Countryside Agency to request an amendment. She had been advised that unfortunately this was not possible as the map had only recently been issued. Councillor Hughes to check original maps held within the parish archives to enable a formal application for amendment to be made.
9. **Parish Archives** - A list of archives held by the Chairman was circulated to Councillors for information.
10. **Footpaths and Bridleways** - Councillor Whybrow was thanked for arranging for the footbridge to be repaired as reported in item 4 Correspondence.
11. **Planning Applications** -
Clare Cottage - Erection of new garage - noted receipt of Consent Form from Planning Services.
Priston Mill Farm - Use of barns as longterm storage - Comment form returned to Planning Services indicating "Reservations" as Councillors were concerned that there may be an increase in traffic through the village.
Pressbarrow Farm - Erection of two barns - Noted the receipt of planning application from the Duchy of Cornwall Estate which was currently being circulated to Councillors.
12. **Any other business** -
(i) Pot Holes and general condition of parish roads - The Clerk to contact the Highways Inspector regarding the condition of Wood Lane, Mill Lane, Priston Hill and the Marksbury Road. Councillor Lippiatt advised that he had been in contact with the Environment Agency with regard to the condition of the road adjacent to his family's dairy.
(ii) Wilmington - Councillor Todd reported that the road at Wilmington had recently been swept.
(iii) Reviews - Councillor Todd advised that Bath and North East Somerset Council were continuing to review primary school places and also future retail shopping needs within the district.
(iv) Contract of Employment - The Clerk advised that she had recently attended a meeting of the Society of Local Council Clerks and it had transpired that she was one of only two clerks at the meeting who did not have formal Contracts of Employment. Councillors were in unanimous agreement that this situation should be remedied.
13. **Date of next meeting** - Agreed the next meeting be held on Monday 7 February 2005 commencing 7.00pm.

There being no further business for consideration the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.05pm and wished all present the compliments of the season.