

**The following are the DRAFT minutes of an ordinary meeting of Priston Parish Council held on Monday 4 December 2006 in the Village Hall, Priston. These have not yet been approved as an accurate record of proceedings.**

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

1. **Apologies** received from District Councillor Mrs Rosemary Todd.
2. **The Minutes of the meeting** held on 18 September 2006 were read, confirmed as an accurate record of proceedings and signed by the Chairman.
3. **Matters Arising:**
  - Footbridge: Priston Mill** – Councillor Whybrow advised that Councillor Todd had been in contact with the Highways Manager and, due to heavy expenditure in another area, funds would not be available in the current financial year to carry out necessary repairs. If the repairs could not be effected in 2007/08 the footbridge would have to be closed. Agreed to write to the Highways Manager before the beginning of the next financial year as a reminder that this work needs to be carried out.
  - Ash Tree, Church Farm** – Councillor Hughes reported that an estimate in the sum of £285 plus VAT had been received in respect of the arboricultural work to this large tree. It was also noted that as power cables are in the vicinity of the tree it will be necessary for the power to be shut down for the duration of the work and for which a charge will be made by the electricity authority. Councillors were informed that, during the discussions on this matter at a recent meeting of the Parochial Church Council, several members offered to contribute £10 each towards the costs involved and a private donation also promised to cover half the cost. After discussion of the Parish Council's finances it was agreed that there was a sufficient balance in the accounts to cover half of the estimated costs involved.  
The Clerk was requested to write to the owners of the tree to advise of the estimate received and also that personal donations had been promised by church members and to request that they consider making a donation themselves.
4. **Correspondence** – The Clerk advised of two recent communications (i) Midsomer Norton and Radstock Ring and Ride requesting financial support and (ii) a reception and briefing by the Army Presentation Team on Wednesday 17 January 2007. Agreed that it was not possible to offer financial assistance to the Ring and Ride scheme and also apologies be sent to the Army Board.
5. **Financial Report** - The Clerk reported the current balance at the bank was £1,248.27 with £1.34 cash in hand. The Clerk advised she wished to claim her salary for the third quarter of the year (£375) and also that she had, in September, changed the arrangement with Tiscali. The Broadband charge would now be £12.99 per calendar month. She therefore wished to claim reimbursement of these charges for half of September plus October, November and December to a total of £47.19. The Clerk also advised that she had received the renewal notice in the sum of £55 from the Society of Local Council Clerks. Agreed that cheques be written in respect of these three expenditures.  
In reply to question regarding the purchase of the seventh edition of "Local Council Administration" by Charles Arnold Baker, the Clerk advised she had ordered this publication on 20 May, received an email on 3 June requesting an address to which the book should be sent and, despite several email and a letter sent as reminders, nothing further had been heard. The Clerk to telephone the publishers to ascertain the reason for the delay and non-delivery. Noted that no payment had yet been made.
6. **Ring-A-Ride Scheme** – Councillor Bowyer reported that the Clerk had recently had a large quantity of leaflets delivered to her home by a driver of one of the scheme buses. The Chairman and Clerk had shared the task of delivering them to almost every resident in the parish. Councillor Bowyer felt it was an imposition that the Clerk should have been expected to deliver these leaflets.

7. **B&NES Local Plan** – The proposed modifications to the Local Plan had been circulated to all Councillors and would be placed on file. Councillor Bowyer expressed concern that the local authority is beginning to encroach onto the green belt.
8. **Priston Website** – Noted that Mr Bottle was currently out of the country on business and favourable comments were again made on the usefulness and detail of the Website.
9. **Footpaths and Bridleways** – Councillor Whybrow had nothing further to add to comments made under item 3 above.
10. **Planning Applications:**
  - Hill Farm – Reserved matters application for single dwelling** – Noted this planning application had been withdrawn.
  - Laira – Single Storey extension** - This application had been returned to Planning Services with no objections raised by Parish Councillors. Noted receipt of consent form.
  - Pensdown – Double garage and garden room (rebuild)** – This application had been returned to Planning Services with no objections raised by Parish Councillors. Noted receipt of consent form.
11. **Schedule of Meetings for 2007** – Agreed that meetings be held on 5 February, 2 April (Annual Parish plus ordinary meeting), 14 May (Annual General plus ordinary meeting), 2 July, 17 September and 3 December. The Clerk would liaise with other regular users of the hall and also reserve these dates with the Hall Booking Manager. After these confirmations had been completed the dates would be published in The Link and on the Priston Website.
12. **Date of Next Meeting** - Monday 5<sup>th</sup> February 2007 commencing 7.00pm.
13. **Any other business:**
  - (i) **Priston Lane/Wood Lane** – Councillors expressed their dissatisfaction at the general condition of this road with several large potholes and hanging branches. The Clerk advised she was to meet with the Highways Inspector in the next few days and would make a point of drawing these comments to his attention.
  - (ii) **Tyres Adjacent to Public Right of Way, Treatment Works** – The Clerk to request B&NES to arrange the removal of a large quantity of tyres, some of which are disintegrating, from the side of the public footpath at the treatment works.
  - (iii) **Statement of Community Involvement** – The document recently received from B&NES would be circulated to Councillors who were asked to provide comments for inclusion in a questionnaire to be returned by 17 January 2007.
  - (iv) **No.1 Summerlea, Erection of double garage and relocated vehicle access** – Councillor Bowyer informed the meeting the applicants had advised her of their intention to appeal against Planning Services decision. The letter written in support was read to councillors and placed on file.
  - (v) **Energy Crop Scheme** – Documentation received from the Forestry Commission advising of a proposal to plant Miscanthus at North Hill Farm, Tunley had been circulated to all Councillors. Councillor Cross advised that the Forestry Commission had been contacted expressing the concern of residents whose properties are adjacent to the fields to be used. It appeared that consideration would be given to increasing the boundary around the crop as the properties are downhill and downwind of any agricultural spray used.

There being no further business for consideration Councillor Bowyer declared the meeting closed at 8.05pm and thanked Councillors for their attendance and participation.