

**The following are the DRAFT minutes of an ordinary meeting of Priston Parish Council held on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> December 2008 in the Village Hall, Priston. These have not yet been approved by the Council as an accurate record of proceedings. (DoNM: Monday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2009.)**

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

The Chairman invited the village residents present to address the Council. Comment was made that Priston Hill is not being swept by the mechanical sweeper at the same time as the village roads. The Chairman confirmed that it is the farmers' responsibility, after trimming his hedges, to ensure that the roads are clean. He continued by advising that he had raised this issue at a PACT (Police and Communities Together) meeting which, accompanied by the Clerk, he had attended the previous week. The Clerk to again contact the Manager responsible for road sweeping.

Prior to the formal business of the meeting, the Chairman requested the Parish Council and residents to stand in silence for a few minutes in memory of Christine Nokes, who had died the previous week, and also to think of her sisters Mildred, Janet and Frances and their families. The meeting was reminded that Miss Nokes, who had been a Parish Councillor for 34 years, had served on the original steering committee of the Village Hall and, until her death, had been the village representative on the Priston Church of England Educational Charity.

1. **Apologies** received from District Councillor Clarke, who in tendering his apologies had offered his support with any problems experienced in the parish.
2. **Chairman's Opening Remarks** – The Chairman advised of an unfortunate incident which had occurred between Councillor Lippiatt and village resident Mr Christopher Kettlety and also a confrontation with Mr Kettlety's son. The Chairman advised of the action he had taken and read the report he had written and which would be placed on file.
3. **Minutes of the meeting** held on 15<sup>th</sup> September 2008 and also of the **Special Parish Meeting** held on 6<sup>th</sup> October, having been distributed to all councillors electronically (as had been agreed at a previous meeting) were accepted as an accurate record of proceedings and the minute book signed by the Chairman.
4. **Matters Arising:**
  - i) **Speeding vehicles** – Noted Automatic Traffic Count equipment had been installed.
  - ii) **Pavement** – Repairs were expected to be carried out in the near future.
  - iii) **Telephone Kiosk** – No response had yet been received regarding the application for listing of the Gilbert Scott kiosk.
5. **Correspondence** –

Communication received from the Land Registry regarding the registration of land owned by the Parish Council. The Chairman reminded the meeting the Village Green had been vested to the Parish Council many years previously. Agreed the Clerk to contact the Land Registry to ensure that the Village Green has been registered.

Letter received from the Information Commissioner's Office advising that the existing publication scheme, under the current Freedom of Information Act, would expire on 31<sup>st</sup> December 2008 and a new model publication scheme must be adopted from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2009. The Clerk to publicise the information, under the new scheme, on the Priston Website.

Letter received from the Chair of B&NES Council advising of three Tree Planting ceremonies, to be held on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> December, to mark the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Councillor Pattison volunteered to attend one of the ceremonies to represent Priston.

Notice received of B&NES' Information Events being organised in conjunction with Community Action. Forthcoming dates being Friday 30<sup>th</sup> January at Saltford Hall and Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> March at Somer Centre, Midsomer Norton. Further details available from the Clerk.

Email received from a Community Liaison Officer with B&NES requesting the opportunity to meet with the Parish Council to discuss any issues within the parish. No decision made to arrange a meeting.

Letter received from Midsomer Norton and Radstock Ring&Ride requesting financial support. After brief discussion it was proposed by Councillor Pattison, seconded Councillor Hopwood and agreed that a cheque in the sum of £30 be forwarded by the Clerk.

After discussion, following the receipt of an email from the Editors of The Link advising that it was no longer financially viable to reproduce the Parish Council minutes in the publication, it was agreed that in future the minutes would only be published on the Website and displayed (abridged to one sheet as appropriate) on the Parish Council noticeboard.

6. **Financial Report** – The Clerk advised that an account with the Ordnance Survey (in respect of map copying licence) in the sum of £64.33 had recently been settled as had accounts as minuted at previous meeting. The current balance at the bank was £1,589.93p.

Accounts awaiting payment were from Bristol Water in respect of water supplied to the trough and fountain for £74.41 and ALCA relating to a Councillors' Pack, recently requested, for £6.81p.

The Clerk continued by advising that the annual renewal of subscription with the Society of Local Council Clerks (SLCC) was now due and, following her suggestion that this not be paid as advice can be obtained from the ALCA, Councillors agreed to discontinue this even though it was appreciated that a small rejoining fee must be paid, as well as the annual subscription, should the Parish Council decide to join this Society at some date in the future.

In conclusion, the Clerk advised that she wished to receive the third quarter of her annual salary, as at 31<sup>st</sup> December as well as reimbursement of Broadband, print cartridge refills and petty cash charges. Agreed.

7. **K6 Gilbert Scott Telephone Kiosk** –

The Clerk advised of the current situation with regard to the completion of documentation in order to purchase the Telephone kiosk for the stated amount of £1 although no payment had yet been remitted. The Council was advised that an estimate in the sum of £198.72 had been received from Western Power to permanently disconnect the supply from the nearest pole behind the kiosk.

8. **Standing Orders/Financial Regulations** –

The Chairman advised of documentation received from ALCA and suggested that this be circulated to all Councillors to enable decisions to be made at the next meeting.

9. **Regional Spatial Strategy** –

Councillor Cross informed the Council that she would take a copy of Priston's submission to Planning Services in Bath the following day and hoped that the production of this document would generate enough interest in the village to enable a Parish Plan to be compiled. She suggested that this might be discussed at the next Parish Council meeting in February.

The Chairman emphasised that the Parish Council was indebted to Ms Seymour and Councillor Cross and that the document could not have been produced without the help of Ms Seymour. After discussion it was agreed unanimously that garden vouchers in the sum of £50 be given to Ms Seymour in acknowledgement of her conscientious compilation of the report.

Concluding this item the Chairman extended grateful thanks to Ms Seymour, in her absence, and to Councillor Cross for the very interesting illustrated talk held recently in the Village Hall. He regretted that the meeting had not been better supported by village residents.

10. **Priston Website** – Mr Bottle read his report on the current contents of, and recent additions to, the Priston Website advising that Christmas events had been publicised and that arrangements for

next year's Priston Festival were in hand.

- 11. Footpaths and Bridleways** – Councillor Whybrow reported that the footbridge had been installed and opened.

**12. Planning Applications:**

**Barn 3, Priston Mill** – Noted receipt of consent form from Planning Services.

**Long Barn, Priston** – Conversion of Byre to Studio and Double Garage – Noted Receipt of consent form from Planning Services.

**Priston Church** – Erection of new shed to replace existing - Noted receipt of consent form from Planning Services.

**New Farm, Marksbury** – Erection of a larger covered yard to replace smaller uncovered yard – documentation returned to Planning Services with no objections raised by Parish Council.

- 13. Date of next meeting** - Monday 9 February 2009 commencing 7.00pm.

**14. Any Other Business -**

(i) **Postal Services** – Councillor Cross informed the Council that the main sorting of mail is now carried out in Bristol instead of Bath and postmen cannot leave the Bath Sorting Office before 9.30am.

(ii) **Telephone lines and reception** – Councillor Wilkinson reported that significant areas in the village had experienced problems in recent weeks. It was felt that the problem had become worse since the laying of cables underground in Priston Lane. The Clerk to write to British Telecommunications advising of the situation and expressing dissatisfaction on behalf of those residents who had experienced telephone and internet connection problems.

(iii) **Annual Parish Meeting 30<sup>th</sup> March 2009** – The Council was reminded that a representative of the Cam Valley Wildlife Group, although invited to give an illustrated talk at the Parish Meeting earlier in the year, had been unable to attend. Agreed the Clerk should again contact him to enquire his availability for the meeting on 30th March 2009.

(iv) **Drinking Fountain** – Referring to the invoice received from Bristol Water for the supply to the tap and trough, the Chairman advised that due to interference by children with the installation, the tap had been damaged causing water to leak continuously. He would arrange for a repair to be carried out, if possible, for which a small charge would be made. If a repair is not possible the whole tap will need to be replaced at an estimated cost of £150 plus VAT.

(v) **Floral Tribute** – The Parish Council was in unanimous agreement that a bouquet of flowers be given to Miss M Nokes as a floral tribute in memory of her sister who had worked so hard for the village, church and parish council. The Clerk to make the necessary arrangements.

There being no further business for discussion the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.10pm and thanked Councillors and village residents for their attendance and participation.