

The following are the DRAFT minutes of an ordinary meeting of Priston Parish Council held on Monday 6th December 2010 in the Village Hall, Priston. These have not yet been approved as an accurate record of proceedings.

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

Prior to the formal business of the meeting the Chairman responded to an enquiry from Mr Davies regarding Parcel 5856, High Street by advising that, although he was aware this piece of land had recently been sold, he had no knowledge whether this would be developed as plans previously submitted and approved, or if new plans would be submitted..

1. There were no **apologies**. Noted that District Councillor Clarke would join the meeting later.
2. **Minutes of the meeting** held on 20th September 2010, having been distributed electronically were accepted as a true record of proceedings and the minute book signed by the Chairman.
3. **Matters Arising:**
 - (i) **Grit Bins** – No response yet received regarding provision of the requested two bins. A suggestion was made that the Parish Council purchase bins and salt. Agreed to refer this outstanding issue to the District Councillor later in the meeting.
 - (ii) No information yet available as to the future of **ALCA**. The Council agreed that, in principle, to continue with ALCA but transfer to the Somerset Association if necessary.
 - (iii) **Village Green** – The Chairman advised he had requested the contractor to secure the litter bin adjacent to the Village Hall. Agreed to retain the protective fencing around the green at present as the recently laid turf was still very soft.
Councillor Wilkinson referred to the size of the walnut tree on the green. The possibility of a reduction in the size of its canopy was discussed. The Chairman to speak to a local tree surgeon for advice.
 - (iv) **Defibrillator** – Noted residents would be circulated with the relevant information to access the equipment. It had been established that dampness had penetrated the light fitting causing it to fail and it had not been necessary to construct a framework as agreed that the last meeting.
 - (v) **BOAT at Priston Mill** - Meeting advised that an order under the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 came into operation on 19 November. This prohibits any motor vehicle or load with a width of more than 3 feet 3 inches using the BOAT BA11/22, Englishcombe and BA20/18, Priston which extends from its junction with BA11/11 west of Home Farm, Inglesbatch, to the north side of the Conygre Brook at Priston Mill Farm, a distance of approximately 650 metres.
4. **Correspondence:**
 - (i) The Clerk read a recent email message from the Editor of The Link which advised that arrangements were being made to scan copies of The Link, from the first issue in October 1977 to the present, onto disc. The thanks of the Parish Council were expressed to The Link team for the good work that they continue to do and the Council would be very pleased to accept a copy of the disc when it becomes available.
 - (ii) **Journal of Local Planning** – Agreed not to subscribe to this publication.
 - (iii) **Privatisation of Royal Mail** – Following the circulation of documentation received, it was unanimously agreed not to become involved in union matters. There was some discussion on the problems which could be experienced and, amongst other comments, it was agreed that ALCA be approached.
5. **Financial Report:** The Clerk reported a balance at the bank of £4,282,74 which included the second half of the precept of £1,600 received 1st October, £1,000 Ward Councillor's Initiative Fund and the balance in the PRIDE account of £1,257.96. The Clerk wished to pay her salary for the third quarter of the year of £412.50 plus reimbursement of three months Broadband charges £38.97 and cartridge refills £29 for the printer.
Donations/Subscriptions etc: After discussion it was agreed to donate the annual amounts of £75 to Village Hall and £50 to The Link, renew membership with the Cam Valley Wildlife Group of £5, pay invoice to Bristol Water of £17.69 in respect of water supplied to trough and

drinking fountain. Letter received from Midsomer Norton Ring and Ride requesting donation of £50 for the year 2011/2012. Commented no residents currently use the service. Agreed the Clerk enquire if residents, who normally use their own transport, could take advantage of the Ring and Ride in snowy and icy conditions. Agreed a donation of £35, as last year, if the service was available as above. If this was not the case, no donation to be made this year.

In conclusion the Clerk advised she had received the annual information regarding the setting of the precept and that this needed to be discussed and agreed at the next meeting.

6. **Village Green** – The Chairman welcomed District Councillor Clarke to the meeting and expressed the hope that when the weather has improved, arrange for a photograph to be taken and formally thank him for his financial assistance which enabled the Village Green to be refurbished.

Continuation of item 3 (Matters Arising – Grit Bins) – Councillor Clarke was reminded of the request made to the District Council in February for the supply of two Grit Bins and undertook to take this matter up with the appropriate officers. The Clerk to forward to him copies of all relevant emails. Proposed by Councillor Hopwood, seconded Councillor Cross and agreed that, if it became necessary and bins were not provided by the District Council, action be taken to purchase grit bins, and road salt, for the village.

7. **Solar Panels** – The Chairman, after some discussion, expressed concern at the recent installation of Solar Panels on several properties in the village. He felt these installations were detrimental to the village scene and could impact on the older buildings.

8. **Proposed Traffic Calming B3115** – Information recently received on traffic management proposals to install a combination of road narrowing and speed cushions on the B3115, Tunley Road. The Parish Council was sympathetic to the problems experienced by the residents on this road, however, concern was expressed at these proposals bearing in mind the damage which can be caused to tyres whilst negotiating speed cushions and also the possibility of vehicles “rat running” through Priston to avoid the obstructions. The Clerk to pass these comments to the Highways Department.

9. **Defibrillator:** Councillor Wilkinson confirmed he continued to regularly check the defibrillator and would be more diligent now that the access details are in the public domain.

10. **Priston Website:** The Clerk read the report received from Mr Bottle advising of the current events publicized and photographs available to view and also that information had been received from the Environment Agency on the action to take in the event of an accidental spillage of heating oil.

11. **Footpaths and Bridleways:** (i) Councillor Whybrow reported that the wording of the recently displayed notices did not appear to be unreasonable. They advised “No Public Right of Way”. He had referred this to the Public Rights of Way officers of the B&NES who would investigate and take action as appropriate. (ii) Councillor Cross advised the Footpath sign in Priston Lane, at the bottom of Cleeve Hill, had not yet been replaced. The Clerk to again contact Public Rights of Way.

12. **Planning Applications:**

The Old Coach House, Priston Lane – Erection of two-storey side/front extension and restoration of building – Resubmitted application received.

1 The Woodlands – Single Storey Side Extension – To note receipt of consent form from Planning Services.

The Old Rectory (Left) – The Chairman advised that a building appeared to have been erected without planning permission. This to be investigated by Planning Services.

The Old Dog Inn House – Retrospective planning permission was to be sought for the construction of a toilet and boiler house.

13. **Schedule of meetings for 2011** – Agreed meetings are held on 7 February 28 March (Annual Parish and ordinary meeting), 9 May (Annual General and ordinary meeting), 18 July, 12

September and 5 December. The Clerk to liaise with regular users of the Village Hall and the Booking Manager as customary before confirmation to Councillors and publication.

14. **Date of Next Meeting:** Monday 7 February 2011, commencing 7.00pm at which the precept would be discussed and agreed.
15. **Any Other Business:** (i) The Chairman reported on the accidental spillage of domestic heating oil and the action which had been taken by himself and the Clerk. (ii) District Councillor Clarke advised that the **Draft Core Strategy** had been approved at a recent meeting at the District Council and would be issued for consultation. (iii) Councillor Clarke continued by advising that he would not be standing for re-election in the Local Elections in 2011 and, if he were successful in his election, would be replaced by Councillor David Veale. The Chairman thanked Councillor Clarke for his help and support whilst he had been in office. (iv) Councillor Pattison referred to the Priston directional sign at Crossways (the junction of the B3115 and A367) which he felt should be realigned to direct traffic along the B3115 as there had been a serious accident, due to the icy conditions, causing the closure of this narrow road.

There being no further business for discussion the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.45pm and thanked Councillors, residents and the District Councillor for their attendance and participation.