

An ordinary meeting of Priston Parish Council was held on Monday 10 February 2003 in the Village Hall, Priston.

Mr Hughes presided, Mrs Bowyer, Mr Hopwood, Mr Jones, Miss Nokes, Mr Perriton and Parish Clerk were present. The Chairman welcomed Mr Bottle and District Councillor Mrs Todd to the meeting.

1. **Apologies** received from Ms Seymour.
2. **Minutes** The minutes of the meetings held on 2 and 19 December 2002, having been distributed to all Councillors, were confirmed and signed by the Chairman.
3. **Matters Arising:**
 - (a) Noted no reply had been received in response to letters written to Messrs H and S Jones with regard to the Apple Store and overhanging tree. Members agreed it was not appropriate to write a further letter at this time but accepted Mr Owain Jones' offer to pursue with relevant members of his family.
 - (b) The Clerk reported that she had spoken to the tenant farmer of Priston Mill who confirmed that he does carry out repairs to the gate on the byway. She had also written to the Public Rights of Way Officer with regard to the BOAT BA15/19 and read his letter of reply, the contents of which were noted with interest. During the discussions on the byway at Priston Mill, Mr Perriton advised that he had spoken to the Enforcement Officer regarding a missing footbridge across the stream and the Clerk was requested to write to B&NES to confirm the telephone request for its reinstatement.
 - (c) Footpath at Rockhill - Mr Perriton advised that the contractors had been authorised to proceed with rectification.
 - (d) Priston Colliery - The Chairman reported on conversations with Mr Lovegrove and also with the neighbour who owned the next property and who had expressed an interest in purchasing the colliery in order to protect it. It was with regret Mr Hughes advised that Mr Lovegrove was not prepared to wait while an independent valuation was carried out and funds raised. He wished to proceed with the sale. In reply to a question Mr Hughes confirmed that the Colliery would be considered by B&NES as a Site of Nature Conservation Interest irrespective of who owned it but with his/her permission.
4. **Financial Report** - The Clerk reported a balance at the bank of £100.10 and a petty cash balance of £6.51p. An account for supply of water to the trough in the sum of £14.70 had recently been paid. An invoice had not yet been received from District Audit for the auditing of the two years accounts 2000/2001 and 2001/2002. This was expected to be in the region of £100.
5. **Parish Precept 2003/2004** - The Clerk had prepared comparable figures for the preceding four years to give an indication of expenditure against the precept received in each year. A copy of this was appended to the minute book. The Chairman wished to discuss the salary paid to the Clerk at which point Mrs Hunt withdrew from the room. On her return a precept of £1,500 was proposed by Mr Hughes, seconded Mr Hopwood and agreed.
6. **District and Parish Elections** - Noted that Local Government Elections would be held on Thursday 1 May 2003. Documentation not yet received from B&NES' Electoral Registrar. The Clerk requested to place a notice in The Link advising of the elections.

7. Planning Applications -

(i) Land Adjacent to Hill Farm House - Noted a further Planning Committee Meeting had been held on 11 December 2002 at which Mrs Anderson spoke on behalf of the residents, Mr Hughes on behalf of the Parish Council and District Councillor Mrs Todd gave her support. Mr Hamilton had also spoken at this meeting. Mr Hughes reported that one of the main concerns of residents was the drainage of foul waste, the problems experienced at Brook Cottage and also that the system is overloaded. In response to a question from a councillor, Mr Hughes advised that a septic tank would be impractical on this site.

(ii) Stable Block, Blind Lane, Tunley - An appeal had been lodged against the District Council's refusal of this application. A letter, again objecting to the application, has been sent to the Planning Inspectorate in Bristol.

(iii) High Acres, Tunley - retention of stable block. Returned to Planning Office "no objections".

(iv) The Calf House, Priston - two storey extension. Garage with room over. Returned to Planning Office "no objections".

8. Any other business -

Noted that: (i) the recently repaired pot holes at the lower end of High Street were not satisfactory; (ii) A large pothole had appeared on Priston Hill; (iii) The ditch on the hill of Priston Lane was in need of clearance and (iv) Fly tipping has occurred in the corner of a field owned by the Pow family. The Clerk to contact the Highways Inspector on all these points. Mrs Bowyer volunteered to accompany the Clerk on an inspection of these problems with the B&NES representative.

9. Date of next meeting Agreed the next meeting be held on Monday 24 March 2003 and the Annual General Meeting on Monday 12 May. Both meetings to commence at 7.00pm.

The formal meeting was concluded at 8.00 pm and followed by a very interesting demonstration of the Priston Website by Mr Richard Bottle.