

**The following are the DRAFT minutes of an ordinary meeting of Priston Parish Council held on Monday 11 February 2008 in the Village Hall, Priston. These have not yet been approved as an accurate record of proceedings.**

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

Prior to the formal business of the meeting the Chairman invited village residents to address the Council. Concern was expressed on the speed of traffic on the lower section of High Street. It was agreed to request the Highways Department to repaint the "slow" signs on the road.

1. **Apologies** received from Councillor Whybrow and District Councillor Clarke.
2. **Minutes of the meeting** held on 3 December 2007 were read, confirmed as an accurate record of proceedings and signed by the Chairman.
3. **Matters Arising:**
  - Walnut Tree** – The Chairman advised he had not yet had the opportunity to attend to this tree.
  - Surface Dressing, Priston Hill** – The Clerk advised she had written to the Project Manager as requested at the last meeting and read the response that had been received. Agreed the support of the District Councillor be sought.
  - Footbridge near Priston Mill** – The Clerk advised she had written to the Interim Network Manager regarding this outstanding repair as requested. The District Councillor had passed on the information that this project had been cut from this year's budget.
4. **Resignation of Councillor Nokes** – The Chairman reported with regret that a letter of resignation due to ill health had been received from Councillor Christine Nokes. He continued by paying tribute to her for her conscientious attention to detail and devotion to the village during 34 years in the office of Parish Councillor.
5. **Correspondence** – No correspondence received. The Clerk advised of letters written as requested at the last meeting.
6. **Financial Report** - The Clerk reported a balance at the bank of £842.86 with no petty cash in hand. She wished to write a cheque for the fourth quarter of her annual salary plus three months Broadband charges and petty cash expenditure to enable this cheque to be cleared before the end of the current financial year.
7. **Precept 2008/2009** – As in previous years the Clerk had prepared projected figures for the next financial year, copies of which were distributed to councillors and villagers. Suggested a sum of £100 be allocated to cover the cost of the purchase of first aid equipment and other items as considered necessary in support of the Emergency Guidance document. The balance at the bank at 31 March 2008 was estimated to be £400. The Clerk commented that the Parish Council does not have an overdraft facility and she was anxious to maintain a balance at the bank to cover any unforeseen expenditure. Following advice from Mr Bottle that a budgeted figure of £500 should be considered for the purchase of a new computer, it was proposed by the Chairman that this amount be requested as an increase to the precept for the year 2008/2009, making the total £3,400. Agreed. The Clerk to advise B&NES accordingly.
8. **Emergency Guidance** – Councillor Cross advised of the current situation with regard to the amendments to the document. Councillor Hopwood's offer, to include village first aiders in a refresher course when his own staff are retrained, was accepted with thanks. The need for an up-to-date map of the whole parish was also agreed. Councillor Wilkinson provided information on a

defibrillator that can be sited, in its locked box, in a prominent position in the village.

9. **Core Strategy Launch document** - Councillor Cross informed the Council that, following the discussions of the sub-committee of Councillors and residents, a report had been submitted to B&NES by the December deadline as had been requested.
10. **Regional Spatial Strategy** – Councillor Cross advised of the Report of the Panel on their findings from the Examination in Public of the Draft Regional Spatial Strategy and reported briefly on the meeting convened for the Bathavon Ward by District Councillor Clarke and held on 5<sup>th</sup> February. It was agreed to hold a meeting of Parish Councillors and residents to consider the Report of the Panel, prior to a further meeting of Bathavon West Councils, to agree a response. Opening the meeting at this point to general discussion and contributions, The Chairman advised that vast new developments are envisaged. The latest available figure is for 18,800 new homes in the B&NES District and that Priston Parish may be affected by the construction of new roads and increased traffic. The Clerk was requested to contact the District Councillor to enquire as to BANES’ intentions for a southern by-pass for Bath.
11. **Priston Website** – Mr Bottle reported on the current contents of the website and was again thanked for his upkeep of the website and his support of village organisations.
12. **Footpaths and Bridleways** – Covered under item 3 above.
13. **Planning Applications:**
  - Hill Farm** – Erection of Implement Shed (Retrospective) – Noted an appeal had been made to the Planning Inspectorate against Planning Services’ refusal of planning permission for this construction.
  - Barn 3, Priston Mill** – Change of use – Application refused by Planning Services.
  - Village Farm** – Demolition of single storey extension and building of new extension – application withdrawn.
  - Ring O’Bells** – Erection of new external staircase following removal of existing – application documentation returned to Planning Services with no objections raised by the Parish Council.
14. **Date of next meeting** - Monday 31st March commencing 7.00pm followed by Annual Parish Meeting. The Chairman was very pleased to report that Jane Lawes, Excavation Director, Bath and Camerton Archaeological Society had accepted the invitation to talk on their work and report on the recent geophysical survey.
15. **Any other business:**
  - (i) **Lower Village Green** – Following discussion on the general condition of this small green and the adjacent parking of vehicles, one of the members of the public attending the meeting was asked to seek the comments of the police officers at their next visit.
  - (ii) **Local Election** – The Chairman reminded the meeting that an election is scheduled for Thursday 13 March to fill the vacancy that had occurred following the resignation of Councillor Nokes.

There being no further business for consideration the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.35pm and thanked Councillors and village residents for their attendance and participation.