

The following are the DRAFT minutes of an ordinary meeting of Priston Parish Council held on Monday 9th February 2009 in the Village Hall, Priston. These have not yet been approved as an accurate record of proceedings. (Next meeting 30th March commencing 7.00pm)

Councillor Hughes presided, Councillors Cross, Hopwood, Lippiatt, Pattison, Whybrow, and Wilkinson were present. The Parish Clerk being absent due to recent surgery, the minutes were taken by Councillor Cross.

The Chairman welcomed village residents Mr Bottle, Mrs Foley, Mrs Grimshaw and Mr Harris.

Prior to the formal business of the meeting the Chairman invited the village residents present to address the Council. A question was raised by Mrs Grimshaw regarding Grit Bins in the light of the current snowy conditions. The Chairman confirmed that they had been available in the village in the past but, due to the lack of usage, were removed some five years ago. He agreed the Parish Council should think about reinstatement for future years. Councillor Hopwood pointed out that road gritting was much more efficient now and was generally sufficient. The Chairman took the opportunity to thank Councillor Hopwood for arranging snow clearance through the village which had been greatly appreciated.

1. **Apologies** received from District Councillor Clarke.
2. **Minutes of the meeting** held on 1st December 2008, having been distributed to all councillors electronically, were accepted as an accurate record of proceedings and the minute book was signed by the Chairman.
3. **Matters Arising**
 - i) **Speeding Vehicles** – An email from T. Papaloucas (BANES Area Traffic Engineer) stated that the ATC survey recorded “85th percentile speeds of 27.9mph (eastbound) and 28mph (westbound)” suggesting a “30mph limit would be more appropriate than a 20mph”. The Parish Council decided that clarification of the phrase “85th percentile” was needed before debating if a request for the 20mph speed limit to be made mandatory would be submitted. Clerk to contact T. Papaloucas.
 - ii) **Pavement** – repairs have now been completed.
 - iii) **The Tree Planting Ceremony** to mark the 60th Anniversary of the Declaration of Human Rights was attended by Councillor Pattison who was thanked by the Chairman.
 - iv) **Telephone Kiosk** – no response regarding the application for listing.
 - v) **Land Registry** – the Chairman confirmed that the Fountain complex had been registered with the LR in 2000. The Village Green has been registered with Somerset County Council since 1968 with full documentation held so he saw no reason pay another fee to the Land Registry.
 - vi) **Freedom of Information Act** – the new model publication scheme has been adopted and the Clerk has compiled the information which is available on the Priston Website.
 - vii) **Drinking Fountain** – the Chairman reported that the tap was beyond repair and it would cost over £200 to replace. The Parish Council agreed that the replacement was essential.
4. **Correspondence:**

Letter of 11th December 2008 to British Telecommunications has received no response. The Clerk was requested to write again.

André Fournier of Cam Valley Wildlife Group replied to the request to speak at the Annual Parish Meeting that he was happy to give a talk on Barn Owls. He would bring his own projector but needed a screen to be provided. This was noted.

Email received January 26th 2009 from Gail Coleshill requesting information on allotments in Priston. The Clerk responded the same day informing her that there were none and the Parish Council had received no requests. After discussion decided to wait the outcome of the PAGE Questionnaire before responding further.
5. **Financial Report:**

The balance at the bank was currently £944.53 after payment of accounts as agreed at the last meeting. Expenditure for the current year has been £3,600 and with an estimated carry forward figure of £220.

6. Precept:

The Four Year's Expenditure and Projected figures for 2009/2010, prepared as usual by the Clerk, were distributed.

After discussion of the figures it was proposed by Councillor Pattison and seconded by Councillor Wilkinson that the Clerk's salary be raised by 10% with unanimous agreement. The Clerk's salary would now be £1,650 per annum.

The donation to the Village Hall was agreed to be raised to £100 and paid on January 1st each year. Other donations remained at their 2008/2009 level.

It was noted that one membership (SLCC) would be discontinued. The Clerk highlighted the cost of cartridge refills as a large expenditure item.

The precept was finalised at £3,200. Acceptance was proposed by Councillor Hughes, seconded Councillor Hopwood and unanimously passed.

7. Standing Orders/Financial Regulations:

It was agreed the Council should adopt both the Standing Orders and Financial Regulations. Formally proposed by Councillor Hopwood, Councillor Lippiatt seconded and unanimously passed.

8. Communities in Control:

The Chairman expressed his disappointment that not all Councillors had given their opinion on the proposed alterations for the Code of Conduct. The Clerk had returned the responses of the four councillors who had done so.

9. Parish Plan:

Councillor Cross suggested that the Parish Council wait until the decision of the Secretary of State on the proposed changes to the draft Regional Spatial Strategy was known. This was agreed.

10. Defibrillator:

Councillor Wilkinson was asked to present his paper and its proposals. He thanked the Chairman and remarked that the idea had been a direct result of the Parish Emergency Plan, which was compiled last year. The main points for discussion were:

a) Would the Parish Council agree ownership of the defibrillator as a parish amenity;

b) if yes, purchase the same and claim vat;

c) Insurance should be covered either by the Parish Council, The Village Hall Committee or PRIDE;

d) Issues of 3rd party and liability.

The Chairman then opened the meeting to include the residents present.

Councillor Hopwood expressed concern that the primary issue was saving life quickly and effectively and locked boxes took time to access. After much discussion during which issues of speed of operation, positioning of the defibrillator, and liability were aired it was finally suggested that possibly the best way forward was if the Parish Council agreed in principle to agree to ownership with the proviso that further discussion was needed on some of the details. This was unanimously agreed by all councillors and the Chairman then closed the meeting to the residents present.

11. Priston Website:

Mr Bottle informed the meeting of the current contents and recent additions to the website, including photos of the snowy weather, Burns Night and a new panorama. Information on the Defibrillator Project with links across to the Chew Valley Project and also on Valentine's Day fundraising. He also noted a device from B.T. which could help speed up broadband. Mr Bottle was thanked again by the Chairman for the excellence of the website.

12. Footpaths and Bridleways:

Councillor Whybrow had nothing to report.

13. Planning Applications:

New Farm – consent form received from Planning Services.

1 Hill View – returned to Planning Services with no objections raised, but advised them of covenants. The Parish Council, however, also felt that mesh gabions for retaining walls was not suitable in a village environment and they should be faced with rubble stone. The bricks should be buff grey for all building elevations, to match adjacent property and the change to red brick in the rear was not acceptable.

2 Wilmington – returned to Planning Services “object in principle”. Unanimous that the pitch of roof-line is too high and should be in sympathy with that of the house.

2 Church Farm – returned to Planning Services with no objections raised. However, unanimous that rubble stone should be used instead wavy boarding.

14. Date of Next Meeting: 30th March 2009 commencing 7pm followed by the **Annual Parish Meeting** – André Fournier of Cam Valley Wildlife Group will give an illustrated talk on “Barn Owls and the Cam Valley Wildlife Group’s Conservation Work with them”.

15. Any Other Business:

i) The Chairman reported that his current term as a trustee of the Priston Church of England Educational Charity on which he represents the Parish Council runs out this year. Councillor Cross proposed and Councillor Wilkinson seconded that he be asked to stand for another term of four years. Councillor Hughes agreed to do so. He reminded the meeting that there was also a vacancy, caused by the death of Christine Nokes, for the Village Representative which is a five year term.

ii) Councillor Lippiatt informed the meeting of a blocked drain on the Farnborough Road. The Chairman said that BANES had been informed, as they had of the other road problems, and who undertook to place them as high on the list as possible.

There being no other business the meeting was closed at 8.15 pm and the Chairman thanked all for their attendance.