

The following are the DRAFT minutes of an ordinary meeting of Priston Parish Council held on Monday 8th February 2010 in the Village Hall, Priston. They have not yet been approved as an accurate record of proceedings.

Councillor Hughes presided, Councillors Cross, Hopwood, Lippiatt, Pattison, Whybrow and Wilkinson and Parish Clerk were present. The Chairman welcomed village resident Mrs Bowyer and advised that District Councillor Clarke would join the meeting later.

At the Chairman's invitation Mrs Bowyer addressed the meeting commenting on the effective and efficient manner in which Priston Hill and the High Street had been gritted during the previous month's ice and snow. Mrs Bowyer continued by expressing concern at the dreadful condition of the roads with some very deep pot holes, especially at the lower end of the High Street. The Chairman thanked Mrs Bowyer for her comments on which action would be taken during the formal business of the meeting.

1. No Apologies.

2. Minutes of the meeting held on 30th November 2009, having been distributed electronically to all Councillors, were accepted as a true record of proceedings and the minute book signed by the Chairman.

3. Matters Arising:

- (i) **Speeding Vehicles** – The Clerk had again been contact with the Area Traffic and Safety Engineer who had advised that delays had occurred due to the recent inclement weather and the slow signs were now expected during week commencing 22 February.
- (ii) **Ward Councillors' Initiative Fund** – Confirmed £1,000 had recently been paid into the bank account.
- (iii) **Sustainable Communities Act Amendment Bill** – The Clerk advised that she had written to the seven Members of Parliament as agreed at the previous meeting and also to the local MP. A response received to be circulated to Councillors in the usual way.
- (iv) **Electricity supply to telephone kiosk** – The Clerk advised she had contacted EDF following receipt of a letter regarding the signing of a contract for supply. She had advised the authority that the telephone kiosk is operated by BT and it transpired the letter had been sent in error. No further action to be taken.
- (v) **Defibrillator** – Councillor Wilkinson advised that fortnightly reports are still prepared; the recent low battery had not compromised the possible use of the equipment; a new light will be fitted as soon as it becomes available. Councillor Wilkinson concluded by thanking the Chairman for his generous offer to arrange the replacement of the light.

4. Correspondence: The Clerk advised (i) of emails she had recently written to the Traffic and Safety Engineer and also the Highways Inspector and (ii) of a letter received from ALCA advising of a Special General Meeting on 18 March to enable discussion and voting on the subscription paid to ALCA by larger Councils. Agreed the Chairman and Clerk attend this meeting, if convenient, and vote as they thought appropriate.

5. Financial Report: The Clerk reported a balance at the bank of £1,299.46 in the Parish Council's account following payments as agreed at the previous meeting.

6. Precept 2010/2011: The Clerk presented projected figures for the coming year, including a new contingency fund of 10% of the current precept as had been suggested by the Internal Auditor and agreed at the meeting held on 11 May 2009. After discussion, during which the Clerk commented that she expected an end of year balance in the region of £700, it was formally proposed by Councillor Pattison, seconded Councillor Cross to request a precept of £3,200 as received the previous year. The Clerk expressed her concern at the costs of refill print cartridges for the printer she currently uses. Agreed she discuss its possible replacement with Mr Bottle.

7. **Ward Councillors' Initiative Fund** – The Chairman formally thanked the District Councillor, on his arrival, for agreeing and arranging for the Parish Council to receive £1,000 for its chosen project. Agreed the shape around the tree should echo the shape of the seat, not as originally suggested, and that it would be practical for the work to refurbish the village green to be commenced after the annual May Day celebrations.
8. **Core Strategy Spatial Options Consultation** – District Councillor Clarke commented that he was very appreciative of the quality of the responses received from Parish Councils in his ward and also spoke of the effect the future development would have on parishes.
9. **Arrangements for Annual Parish Meeting** – The Chairman informed the meeting of the decisions taken by himself and the Clerk to engage a guest speaker for the Annual Parish Meeting on 29th March. Neil Macmillen, who had recently written a book on the Fullers Earth Mining Industry Around Bath, had agreed to give an illustrated talk on this subject. A donation of £20 had been requested to be given to charity. This decision was formally ratified by the Council.
10. **Grit Bins** – After discussion on the adverse weather and road conditions during the previous month, the Clerk was requested to contact the Highways Department to arrange for two grit bins for the village. These to be sited near Pressbarrow Farmhouse and at the junction with the Marksbury road.
11. **Defibrillator** – Already discussed at item 3 Matters Arising.
12. **Priston Website**: No report available.
13. **Footpaths and Bridleways**: Councillors Hopwood and Whybrow spoke of recent meetings and conversations with Public Rights of Way Officers regarding implementation of a Traffic Regulation Order on the BOAT at Mill Lane. The completion of the formal consultation was expected in March with a decision in April. Agreed Councillor Whybrow monitor the situation.
14. **Planning Related and Planning Applications:**
Underhill Cottage, Priston – Provision of pitched roof to existing garage – Noted receipt of consent form from Planning Services.
4 Wilmington - Erection of two storey side extension after demolition of existing single storey – Resubmitted application. Documentation returned to Planning Services in support.
2 Wilmington – Erection of garage after demolition of existing - Resubmitted application. Documentation returned to Planning Services in support.
9 High Street, Priston – Erection of single storey side and rear extension and garage/office – Resubmitted application. Documentation returned to Planning Services in support.
 Whilst under this subject heading, the Chairman advised that there had been delays with the circulation of recent applications which necessitated the Clerk contacting Planning Services to advise of decisions. The Chairman reminded Councillors that 21 days is allocated by Planning Services for the consideration of applications within the parish and emphasised that the documentation must be returned to the clerk by the date she requests. Attention was also drawn to the information provided by the Clerk advising when members are away from the parish and the need for applications to be circulated appropriately to enable all Councillors to give appropriate consideration.
15. **Date of Next Meeting**: Monday 29th March commencing 7.00pm followed by Annual Parish Meeting.
16. **Any Other Business** : (i) Councillor Hopwood addressed comments to the District Councillor regarding the **non-gritting of Marksbury to Priston road** on which accidents had occurred and also regarding the **non-collection of refuse** during the snowy conditions in January. He had contacted Council Connect but had not been successful in arranging the gritting of any road which was not a bus route and been advised that refuse was collected at the driver's discretion.

(ii) Councillor Cross reported briefly on the information she was inputting on the new **Parish Online**. The Chairman thanked Councillor Cross for all her hard work in this respect.

(iii) Councillor Pattison advised he had recently attended a workshop on community benefits from **Renewable Energy** which he had found to be very interesting and he intended to convey the information he had gained to a PAGE group meeting.

There being no further business for discussion the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.30pm and thanked Councillors and the resident present for their participation and attendance.