

The following are the DRAFT minutes of an ordinary meeting of Priston Parish Council held on Monday 7th February 2011 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 and Whybrow and the Parish Clerk were present.

1. **Apologies** received from Councillor Wilkinson and District Councillor Clarke who was unwell. Noted the prospective District Councillor David Veale hoped to join the meeting later.
2. **Minutes of the meeting** held on 5th December 2010 – Councillor Whybrow requested an amendment to item 11 Footpaths and Bridleways (i): The first two sentences to be amended to read “Councillor Whybrow reported that the wording of most of the recently displayed notices did not appear to be unreasonable. However, at the entrance to one public footpath, a notice had been placed which read: ‘No Public Footpath. No Public Right of Way’.” This amendment to be made in the minute book and initialled by the Chairman. With this amendment noted the minutes were accepted as a true record of proceedings and the minute book signed by the Chairman.
3. **Matters Arising:**
 - (i) **Grit Bins** – Response received from the District Council advising that the requested bins would not be provided as the sites suggested were not on the steepest roads in the parish. After lengthy discussion it was proposed by Councillor Pattison, seconded Councillor Cross, to purchase two grit bins in the next financial year. An amount of £400 to be added to the precept to cover this. Councillor Lippiatt volunteered to source suppliers of road salt. The siting of bins to be decided at a later date. The possibility of the purchase of a third bin was discussed but not agreed at this time.
 - (ii) Noted **ALCA** was to continue for the foreseeable future with changes made to the management structure. The Clerk advised of a possible change of name for the Association.
 - (iii) **Village Green** – The Chairman advised the litter bin had been secured adjacent to the Village Hall and that he wished to retain the protective fencing around the green for a little while longer. The Chairman continued by suggesting that arrangements be made for the Village Green to be “re-opened” on the evening of the next meeting, 28 March, and that District Councillor Clarke be invited to enable formal thanks to be extended.
 - (iv) **Defibrillator** – In the absence of Councillor Wilkinson the Council was uncertain whether all residents had been circulated with information to access the equipment.
 - (v) **BOAT at Priston Mill** – Councillor Hopwood reported that the BOAT was now restricted to riders and motorcyclists.
 - (vi) **Traffic Calming B3115** – The Clerk read the comments she had forwarded on behalf of the Parish Council and the reply received.
 - (vii) **Privatisation of the Royal Mail** – The Clerk informed the Council she had not received a response from ALCA who were currently moving their offices to smaller premises. She had however spoken with the Clerk of another parish which was also considering a central delivery and collection point.
 - (viii) **Signage at junction of A367 and B3115** – Councillor Pattison referred to informal and unminuted comments at the previous meeting regarding the signpost for Priston at this junction. It was agreed the Clerk contact the Highways Department to request a change to the directions given for Priston using the unclassified, ungritted road on which a near fatal accident had occurred during the snow and ice the previous month.
4. **Correspondence:**
 - (i) **90th Anniversary Royal British Legion** – Agreed no action be taken on the suggestion to organise a celebration.
 - (ii) **Renewable Energy** – The Clerk advised of an invitation, received three days previously, to attend a Public Consultation Meeting on Solar Farm Developments at Marksbury Village Hall on 9th February.
 - (iii) **Localism Bill** - Noted information received on a government requirement that all Parish Councils publish, on line, all payments over £500. Agreed that this is already carried out through the Priston Website.
5. **Financial Report** - The Clerk reported a balance in the Parish Council’s account of £1,295.41 plus £1,000 Ward Councillor’s Initiative Fund and the balance in the PRIDE account £1,257.96.

6. **Precept** – The Clerk distributed copies of projected expenditure for the financial year 2011/2012 as in previous years and, following discussions, it was agreed the clerk receive an increase in salary of 10%. Her annual salary to be £1,815 from 1st April 2011. Noted precept in recent years of £3,200. Formally proposed Councillor Pattison, seconded Councillor Hopwood, to request a precept of £3,765 to include £400 for the purchase of grit bins and £165 increase in clerk’s salary.
7. **Village Green** – The chairman reported that he had consulted a local tree surgeon, as agreed at the previous meeting, who had advised the most suitable time to prune the walnut tree would be when it is in full leaf.
8. **BANES’ Media Releases and Weekly Lists** – Agreed the Clerk should not, in future, electronically forward these documents to Councillors unless they relate specifically to Priston.
9. **Defibrillator:** No report available.
10. **Priston Website:** No report available.
11. **Footpaths and Bridleways:** Councillor Whybrow reported that the Public Rights of Way Officer would be personally walking all the footpaths to familiarise herself with the parish.
12. **Planning Applications:**
The Old Coach House, Priston Lane – Erection of two-storey side/front extension and restoration of building – Noted receipt of Consent from Planning Services.
The Old Rectory (Left) – Erection of Car Port (Retrospective) – Documentation returned to Planning Services in support of this application.
The Old Dog Inn House – Erection of extension following demolition of existing structure (Retrospective) – Documentation returned to Planning Services in support of this application.
Staddlestones – Erection of Porch - Documentation returned to Planning Services in support of this application.
Roze! – Installation of Solar Photovoltaic Panels (Retrospective) – New application circulated. Letter received from the applicants read to the Council.
36/37 Priston – Erection of 2-storey extensions following demolition of lean-to – New application circulated.
13. **Arrangements for the Annual Parish Meeting to be held on Monday 28 March** – The chairman advised that he had spoken with Mr W Collett who had agreed to provide an Audio Visual Show after the formal business of the Annual Parish Meeting.
14. **Date of Next Meeting:** Monday 28th March 2011, commencing 7.00pm to be followed by the Annual Parish Meeting.
15. **Any Other Business:** (i) The Clerk advised the next meeting of the Cluster Group of the Bathavon West Ward was to be held on 16th March and, on her request for questions for submission to this meeting, it was suggested by Councillor Pattison to enquire about the future of the local bus service.
(ii) The Clerk advised she had received the draft timetable for the local elections to be held on Thursday 5th May.
(iii) The Clerk had contacted the Highways Inspector to request the cleaning of the gullies on the Farmborough Road and the reinstatement of the bollards on Wood Lane.
(iv) Letter to be written to the Highways Department to thank all concerned for the excellent way in which the bus route into the village had been gritted and kept clear of snow and ice in recent months. The Clerk commented that the letter written following the previous year’s bad weather had been acknowledged by several departments including the office of the Chief Executive.
(v) The Clerk was requested to contact the Highways Department drawing attention to the condition of the passing place on the corner of the road leading from Priston Hill to the B3115.
(vi) The Chairman reported that concerns had been expressed to him regarding car repairs being carried out in the new garage at No.1 Summerlea. The Clerk requested to contact the Enforcement Officers.

There being no further business for discussion the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.45pm and after thanking Councillors for their attendance and participation welcomed the prospective District Councillor David Veale who spoke for a few minutes to introduce himself to the Parish Council.