

The following are the DRAFT minutes of an ordinary meeting of Priston Parish Council held on Monday 14 July 2008 in the Village Hall, Priston. These have not yet been approved, by Councillors, as an accurate record of proceedings.

Councillor Hughes presided, Councillors Cross, Hopwood, Pattison, Whybrow, Wilkinson and Parish Clerk were present. The Chairman welcomed village residents Mrs Anderson, Mr Bottle, Mrs Grimshaw, Mrs Seymour and District Councillor Clarke.

Prior to the formal business of the meeting residents were invited to address the Council but no representations were made.

1. **Apologies** received from Councillor Lippiatt.
2. **Minutes of the meeting** held on 12 May 2008. Councillor Hopwood proposed that the practice of reading the minutes to the Council be discontinued as minutes were distributed to Councillors, were available on the Priston website and are also précised for publication in The Link and on the Parish Council noticeboard. After discussion the proposal was seconded by Councillor Pattison and agreed. It was, however, agreed that if any member of the public in attendance had not had the opportunity to read the minutes they should be read to the meeting. It was subsequently proposed by Councillor Cross, and agreed unanimously by all Parish Councillors that, as the minutes are distributed electronically as “draft minutes”, all Councillors should acknowledge to the Clerk that they had read the minutes. Agreed to accept the minutes of the ordinary meeting held on 12 May, as distributed, as an accurate record of proceedings and the minute book was signed by the Chairman.
3. **Matters Arising:**
 - (i) **Signpost** – Noted the broken Farmborough arm of the signpost had been replaced as had the “Priston” arm.
 - (ii) **Emergency Guidance** – Councillor Cross confirmed that copies of the Guidance had been distributed.
 - (iii) **Speeding vehicles** – The Clerk advised of the letter written to request “20mph” to be painted on the straight section of High Street.
 - (iv) **Pavement** – No update available regarding resurfacing of pavement at Hill View.
 - (v) **Priston Lane** – Noted that Highways Inspector to take photographs in the culvert to assess the problem.
 - (vi) **Litter Bin** – Request for replacement of bin on village green had been passed to Cleansing Department.
 - (vii) **Telephone Box** – The Clerk advised of correspondence received which contained the advice that the telephone and post boxes should be “listed”. Agreed to complete application form which had been made available electronically.
 - (viii) **Road repairs** – Noted the quality of repairs carried out in recent weeks was not satisfactory. The Clerk to contact the parish’s new Highways Inspector. District Councillor Clarke also volunteered to speak with him.
4. **Correspondence** – The Clerk read a letter from the Planning Policy section of the District Council with a subject heading of Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment and advising that the Secretary of State had recommended an additional 18,800 dwellings be built in the B&NES District between 2006 and 2026. Commented this letter had probably been sent to developers requesting information on sites suitable for development as well as to Parish Councils. Councillor Clarke informed the council he would be attending a meeting in the coming days and would ascertain the situation with regard to Central Government and B&NES.
5. **Financial Report** - The Clerk advised she had claimed VAT for the previous financial year in the sum of £66.60 which gave a total at the bank of £961.25. The Parish Council’s new computer had been purchased for the quoted amount of £492.98 including VAT. Mr Bottle was thanked for arranging the purchase who, in turn, advised that problems with connection to the internet had been

experienced. It was possible that a new modem would need to be purchased.

The Clerk reported she had been paid the first quarter of her salary (£375) and also reimbursement of broadband charges and print cartridge refills to a total sum of £448.47.

Councillor Pattison expressed the opinion that travelling expenses should be claimed by the Chairman and Clerk when attending meetings on behalf of the Parish Council. After discussion, Councillor Pattison was thanked for his concerns but, at the present time, the Chairman and Clerk would not request reimbursement of travelling expenses.

6. **Risk Assessment 2008** – Copies of the recently updated Risk Assessment were distributed to all Councillors and, after short discussion, the document was approved.
7. **Parish Council Response to Planning Applications** – The Chairman reminded the Parish Council that six planning applications had been submitted for a dwelling on land adjacent to Hill Farm, now known as Parcel 5856, High Street. These applications had involved many hours of research and deliberation by the Parish Council at the time to ensure that proper consideration was given.
An implement shed was subsequently built outside the Housing Development Boundary and without Planning Permission being sought by the then owner of the land. The Chairman continued by reading the letter sent by the Parish Council to the Planning Inspector, supporting B&NES decision, as the owners had appealed against the District Council's decision that the shed must be removed.
The Parish Council was advised that the new owner of the land had received a copy of this letter, with other documentation, from Planning Services and took exception to the wording. He had approached Councillor Wilkinson regarding this. The Chairman stated that Councillor Wilkinson, at the close of the last meeting, had accused the Chairman and Clerk of non-professionalism relating to the wording of the letter, comments which, unfortunately had not been minuted by the Clerk. At the conclusion of further discussion, Councillor Wilkinson retracted his accusation and formally apologised.
It was agreed that it was not practical for letters relating to planning applications, being sent on behalf of the Parish Council, to be circulated to all councillors before posting. It was also agreed, that if any application is felt by Councillors to be in any way controversial, Councillors should contact the Clerk to be made aware of comments being passed to Planning Services after the circulation and consideration of applications.
8. **Postal Deliveries** – The Chairman informed the meeting he had received complaints on the late delivery of mail in the village. It was noted that the current, regular postman is trustworthy and helpful, a point not disputed. Following comments by several councillors it was agreed that no action be taken.
9. **Regional Spatial Strategy** – Councillor Cross commented that she had nothing further to say on this subject at this time.
10. **Priston Website** – Mr Bottle read his report on the current contents of the Priston Website including information on the Priston Festival planned for September and the panoramic photograph taken of the village.
11. **Footpaths and Bridleways** – Councillor Whybrow reported that delivery of the replacement footbridge over the brook at Priston Mill had been predicted, by the manufacturers, to be by 12th August. A temporary closure notice would be instituted and it was hoped that the bridge would re-open on 19th August.
Councillor Cross reported that the post for the footpath sign at Rockhill was corroded and in need of replacement. The Clerk to contact the Public Rights of Way Officer with this request.
12. **Planning Applications:**
Barn 3, Priston Mill Farm – Change of use to storage (Resubmission) – no response received from Planning Services.
Priestbarrow House – Conversion of existing outbuildings – Noted receipt of consent form from Planning Services.

The Old Byre – Erection of single storey extension – Noted receipt of consent form from Planning Services.

9 Summerlea – Erection of single storey extension – no response received from Planning Services.

13. Date of next meeting - Monday 15th September 2008 commencing 7.00pm.

There being no further business for discussion the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.36pm and thanked Councillors and residents for their attendance and participation.