

An ordinary meeting of Priston Parish Council was held on Monday 24 March 2003 in the Village Hall, Priston.

Mr Hughes presided, Mrs Bowyer, Mr Hopwood, Miss Nokes, Mr Perriton and Parish Clerk were present.

1. **Apologies** received from Mr Jones, Mrs Seymour and District Councillor Mrs Todd.
2. **Minutes** The minutes of the meeting held on 10 February 2003 were read, confirmed as an accurate record of proceedings and signed by the Chairman.
3. **Matters Arising:**
 - (a) **Apple Store and overhanging tree** - No response received from Mr Jones.
 - (b) **Footbridge at Priston Mill** - Reported that a representative from Public Rights of Way had visited Priston Mill with a view to reinstating a footbridge for use by walkers.
 - (c) **Potholes** - The Clerk advised that the Highways Inspector was arranging for the problems with the recently repaired potholes at the lower end of the High Street to be rectified. It was also hoped that some remedial action would be taken by the local authority in the coming financial year to overcome the ongoing problem of potholes on the Marksbury road near New Farm.
 - (d) **Ditch** - Noted that the ditch on the hill of Priston Lane had been cleared by B&NES.
 - (e) **Priston Colliery** - Nothing to report.
 - (f) **Parish Precept** - An increase of £200pa to the Clerk's salary was formally proposed by Mr Perriton, seconded Mr Hopwood and agreed.
4. **Correspondence** - (i) The Clerk advised she had recently received requests for financial support from the NSPCC, Marie Curie Cancer Care, Cruse Bereavement Care and Focus Counselling. It was agreed that the Parish Council has insufficient finances to support these causes and Mrs Hunt was authorised to write accordingly.
(ii) Noted the receipt of suggestion from Radstock Police for Community Safety Days to be held across the Radstock Sector during the coming months and requesting a suitable venue. Agreed this be passed to the Village Hall Committee for their consideration.
(iii) Received documentation from the local branch of ALCA regarding the Parish Sweeper Scheme and agreed that this was not relevant to Priston.
5. **Financial Report** - The Clerk reported a balance at the bank of £75.10 and a petty cash balance of £3.00. Mrs Hunt advised that she had recently paid the Internal Auditor £50 nett and also renewed membership with the Somerset Branch of the Society of Local Council Clerks. An invoice has still not been received from District Audit for the auditing of the two years accounts as previously advised.
6. **Local Government Elections** - Nomination forms were distributed to Councillors present. Mr Perriton indicated that he no longer wished to stand for election. General discussion took place on persons within the Parish who might possibly be interested in serving on the Parish Council.
The Chairman extended sincere thanks to Mr Perriton for his contribution to the Parish Council and for acting so efficiently and conscientiously as Footpath Representative.
7. **Priston Website** - Mrs Bowyer reported that the Parish Council minutes for the past year, photographs from Mr Robert Lippiatt in Canada and information on footpaths had been placed on the Website.

8. Planning Applications -

(i) Land Adjacent to Hill Farm House - No information received on date of hearing of appeal. Mrs Bowyer advised that several residents, including herself, had forwarded copies of relevant documentation to the Planning Inspectorate in Bristol.

(ii) Stable Block, Blind Lane, Tunley - No information received on date of hearing of appeal.

(iii) Grain Store, Wilmington Farm - Returned to Planning Office “no objections”.

9. Any other business -

Parish Cluster Meetings - Confirmation had been received that the next meeting would be held on Monday 22 September in Wellow Village Hall.

10. Date of next meeting Agreed the Annual General Meeting be held on Monday 12 May 2003.

The meeting closed at 7.50pm