

**The following are the minutes of an ordinary meeting of Priston Parish Council which was held on Monday 17 May 2004 immediately following the Annual General Meeting. These have not yet been approved by Councillors as an accurate record of proceedings.**

Councillor Hughes presided, Councillors Bowyer, Cross, Nokes, Whybrow and Parish Clerk were present. The Chairman welcomed Mrs Anderson, Mr and Mrs Broomfield, Miss M Nokes and District Councillor Mrs Todd.

1. **Apologies** were received from Councillors Geake and Lippiatt.
2. **The minutes** of the meeting held on 15 March were read, agreed and signed by the Chairman.
3. **Matters Arising:** Noted that the **Telephone Box** had recently been cleaned.  
**Planning Application withdrawn - 31 Greystones** - Councillors commented that the part of the work which had been withdrawn appeared to have been carried out. The Planning Application to be checked.
4. **Correspondence** - The Clerk advised of letters received from Victim Support and the Winged Fellowship requesting financial support. It was agreed that whilst these were both very worthwhile causes it was regretted that the Parish Council has insufficient finances to offer assistance. The Clerk to write accordingly.  
A quotation for insurance cover had been requested from Aon Ltd as comparison with the existing insurers. A reply was awaited.  
A further letter written to the RAF Police, as requested at the last meeting, and the reply received were read and would be placed on file.  
The Clerk advised of correspondence with Royal Mail with regard to the late delivery of mail in the village. It was suggested that residents who feel strongly about the current situation should themselves write to the Royal Mail with their complaints.
5. **Financial Report** - The Clerk reported that the first half of the precept had been received and there was a current balance at the bank of £966.20 after writing cheques for the tarmac around the well and £30 petty cash. She was currently holding a cash balance of £18.75p. Mrs Hunt requested formal confirmation to pay the Annual Subscription of £51.09 to ALCA. Agreed.
6. **Annual Return to External Auditor** - The Clerk advised that the Annual Return for the year ending 31 March 2004 had been received and she would liaise with the Internal Auditor regarding its completion.  
**Potential Conflict of Interest** - Councillors confirmed that they were not aware of any potential conflict of interest between themselves and the external auditors.
7. **Annual Parish Meeting** - Councillor Hughes commented that he felt the Annual Parish Meeting, held the previous week, had been very successful and hoped to be able to plan something a little different for next year. With this in mind he continued by asking Councillor Mrs Todd if she could advise of a speaker who could address the Parish next year.
8. **Memorial to J Nokes and C Fry** - Prior to the commencement of the Annual General Meeting held this evening, the bench around the tree on the village green was formally handed into the keeping of the Parish Council by the manager of the Ring O'Bells, Mr Ben Putnam. The bench was accepted on behalf of the Parish Council by the Chairman T N Hughes.

9. **Local Transport Plan - Annual Progress Report** - Agreed the Clerk should respond, passing on the comments made by Councillors when this document was circulated.
10. **Priston Website** - The value of the Website was again commented upon and tribute paid to Mr Bottle for all his hard work. The Clerk to write a letter of thanks on behalf of the Parish Council
11. **Footpaths and Bridleways** - The archaeological report on the culvert was still awaited. Councillor Hughes had been informed of loose stones at the stile into the field at Rockhill. Councillor Whybrow to investigate.
12. **Any other business :**
  - (a) Councillor Mrs Todd advised of matters of interest to the Parish of Priston -
    - (i) A new Chief Superintendent of Police for the area had been appointed. The Website address was passed to Councillor Bowyer.
    - (ii) Bath and North East Somerset Council, at its recent Annual General Meeting, had agreed that officers in the cabinet should continue to do the same jobs as at present.
    - (iii) Transportation had agreed a programme for the coming year but there would be no big traffic spends for Priston.
    - (iv) Following a visit from representatives from the office of the Deputy Prime Minister, discussions have taken place on ways in which planning decisions can be made quicker. It had been agreed that all planning applications would be decided by officers unless there is any controversy. These new arrangements would come into effect on 1 June 2004.
  - (b) In response to comments regarding furniture etc on the Marksbury Road in the area of the Conygre Brook, the Clerk advised that she had contacted the Action Line requesting its removal.
  - (c) The surface of the road at The Woodlands was again commented upon and also the condition of the road outside of the Former Skittle Alley. The Clerk to contact the Highways Inspector.
13. **Date of next meeting** Agreed the next meeting be held on Monday 28 June 2004 commencing 7.00pm.

There being no further business for consideration the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.45pm and thanked Councillors and village residents for their attendance and participation.