

**The Annual Parish Meeting was held on
Monday 2 April 2007 in the Village Hall, Priston**

1. Attendance and Apologies -

Councillor Bowyer presided with the Parish Clerk in attendance. The Chairman welcomed Councillors and Electors of the Parish and a register of attendance was circulated for signature. There were no apologies.

2. Minutes of last Annual Parish Meeting - The Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 4 April 2006 were read by the Clerk. These were accepted and agreed as a true record of proceedings and signed by the Chairman. There were no matters arising.

3. Chairman's Report - Referring to the previous winter, which had been warmer and wetter than for many years, Councillor Bowyer commented that although the roads had been ice and snow free, which had given the residents of Priston an easy passage out of the village, the rain had made the roads deteriorate at a quicker rate than in the past. Pot holes are in need of repair and road surfaces have crumbled at the edges.

It was regretted that Martin Geake had resigned during the year but the Parish Council had been pleased to welcome Peter Hopwood as his replacement.

Commenting briefly on the planning applications which had been considered during the year, Councillor Bowyer advised that there have been changes at Priston Mill Farm which reflect a different emphasis in farming today. Some of the farm buildings are now used as business premises. The residents of Brook Cottage, Laira and Pensdown had received consent for their proposed alterations, but 1 Summer Lea, The Poppies, The Old Skittle Alley and Hill Farm have yet to gain permission for their plans.

Councillor Bowyer extended thanks to Richard Bottle for his input and maintenance of the Priston Website which is always informative and popular. She continued by mentioning the Ring and Ride bus scheme, which had recently been extended to include rural viallages and which will provide a service to the village on request.

Councillor Bowyer expressed the hope that sufficient prospective councillors would stand at the forthcoming parish elections to enable an election to be held in Priston this year and concluded her report by advising that she would not be standing for re-election to the Parish Council and took the opportunity to thank the electors of Priston and, past and present councillors and clerks for making her 16 years as a member of Priston Parish Council an enjoyable experience.

4. Financial Reports:

(a) Parish Council - The Clerk gave a resumé of the Parish Council's finances advising that the year ending 31 March 2007 had opened with a balance at the bank of £107.65, a precept of £2,800 had been received and £2,620.85 had been spent. There would be a carry forward balance of £286.80. A full report would be given at the Parish Council's Annual General Meeting.

(b) Village Hall - The Parish Clerk advised that the Village Hall Committee had started their year on 1 December 2005 with a balance of £6,970, received income of £5,328, spent £2,865 and ended the year on 30 November 2006 with a balance of £9,433.

5. Any other business – As there was no response to Councillor Bowyer's invitation to attending residents to address the meeting, she declared the formal meeting closed at 8.00pm and invited all residents to join the Parish Council for some refreshments whilst the hall was prepared for the guest speaker, Tom McCraw the Land Steward from the Duchy of Cornwall Estates, Newton St Loe.