

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Monday 26th March 2012 in the Village Hall, Priston.

1. Attendance and Apologies –

Councillor Pattison, as Chairman of the Parish Council, presided with the Parish Clerk in attendance. Parish Councillors and the large number of electors of the parish attending the meeting were welcomed. In extending a warm welcome to all attendees, the chairman reminded the meeting that parish councils are required to hold an Annual Parish Meeting, separate to the Annual General Meeting and residents and representatives of village organisations are invited and permitted to speak at this meeting. A register of Attendance was circulated for signature.

2. Minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting held on Monday 28th March 2011, having been distributed electronically to Councillors, published on the Priston Website and Parish Council Noticeboard, were accepted, agreed as a true record of proceedings and signed by the Chairman.

3. Matters Arising – Agreed there were no appropriate Matters Arising.

4. Chairman's Report –

The Chairman reported on the Parish Council business in the past year in particular noting that there had been some major changes to the council, with two new members, a new chairman and, in support, a new District Councillor, David Veale.

The Council is supporting celebrations to mark the occasion of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee with a street party and the lighting of the brazier.

Revised procedures for the consideration of planning applications had been agreed, looking in detail at the relevant BANES' policies. A sub-committee was formed to look at each application and recommend a response for the Parish Council to consider. Responses on The Old Rectory (Left), The Old Dog Inn, Staddlestones, Rozel, 36/37 Priston, 1 Hill View, Pressbarrow Farm, Parcel 5856 High Street, The Old Post Office, 10 Summerlea, Park Farm Newton St Loe and finally, the site of the former Tunley Colliery.

Thanks to the efforts of Councillor Whybrow there has been a reduction in dog fouling, particularly in the lane beside the cricket field and opposite the church.

The Council's efforts to have Priston Lane/Wood Lane declared unsuitable for heavy vehicles has been unsuccessful.

The District Council has replaced footpath stiles with kissing gates and the Parish Council arranged for the walnut tree on the Village Green to be trimmed.

The Chairman extended thanks to John Wilkinson for his continuing support in ensuring that the defibrillator is operational and also to Richard Bottle for keeping the Priston Website up to date. Information relating to the business of the Parish Council has been published on the website, including the Registers of Interest of the councillors. Thanks were also conveyed to Clare Cross for her continued development of Parish Online on behalf of the Parish Council.

Following a survey of the Acceptability of Rural Broadband in the parish a report was sent to BANES and the Parish Council was pleased at their decision to bank an improved service.

Concluding his report, the Chairman advised that despite repeated attempts to obtain grit bins through the District Council, the Parish Council had purchased two bins and rock salt.

5. Financial Report of the Parish Council –

The Clerk reported briefly on the Parish Council's finances advising the year had commenced with an opening balance of £3,036.84 which included £790.76 in the Parish Council's General Account, a balance of £1,257.96 in the PRIDE/Defibrillator account and £1,000 received from the Ward Councillor's Initiative Fund which had been earmarked and used for the renovation of the Village Green. A precept of £3,200 had been received and VAT of £473.47 reclaimed. There was a balance at the bank at 31st March 2012 of £1,585.36, which includes the balance in the defibrillator account after the purchase of the two mobile telephones. A full typed version of this report has been placed on file and a detailed financial report would be available at the Annual General Meeting.

6. Report of Village Hall –

Councillor Clare Cross, as Secretary of the Village Hall Committee, advised that income in the financial year which ended 31st December 2011, had been £6,470, expenditure had totalled £4,088 and there was a total of cash and bank balances of £8,193.

Councillor Cross continued by reporting on discussions which had taken place, and which were ongoing, to improve the car park and also was pleased to advise that the committee has three new members. Three of the previous committee had stood down at the Annual General Meeting and one other member had moved away from the parish during the year.

7. Any Other Business –

- (i)** In response to an enquiry from Mr Broomfield, the Chairman confirmed the plans which were in hand to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee and which would be published in The Link.
- (ii)** Mr and Mrs Broomfield referred to problems they had experienced with large stones obstructing the road at the top of Wood Lane. Councillor Whybrow advised that he had used the road recently and there had been no obstructions.
- (iii)** On being questioned, the Chairman said that it was probable the Parish Council would go ahead with producing a Neighbourhood Plan for the Parish, but a public meeting would be held before a formal decision was made.
- (iv)** The possibility of holding a Parish Council meeting in Wilmington was raised. However, the Clerk reminded members that all Parish Council meetings must be held in a public place.

After closing the formal business of the meeting, the Chairman gave a very interesting illustrated talk on the Greek Trireme Project with which he is involved.