

THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

will be held on Monday 24th March 2014

in the Village Hall, Priston

immediately following the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting

A G E N D A

1. Attendance and apologies
2. Minutes of last Annual Parish Meeting
3. Matters Arising
4. Chairman's Report
5. Financial Report of Parish Council
6. Financial Report of Village Hall
7. Any other business

Doug Pattison
Chairman
Annual Parish Meeting

March 2014

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Monday 25th March 2013 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 electors of the parish attending the meeting were welcomed. A register of Attendance was circulated for signature and one apology noted.

2. Minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting held on Monday 26th March 2012, 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. Agreed there were no appropriate Matters Arising.

3. Chairman's Report – Councillor Pattison commenced his report by advising that there had been three major challenges in the year:

1. understanding the changes caused by the Localism Act and the unfortunate failure of the BANES Core Strategy to satisfy the Inspector, leaving a most confusing planning situation.
2. the weather, with floods and snow,
3. and on a lighter note, arranging to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee.

As required by the Localism Act the Parish Council now has a new Code of Conduct, and revised Register of Interests – all overseen by Peter Hopwood and available on the Priston Website.

Referring to the Parish Council's finances, Councillor Pattison reported that it has been decided the reserves at the end of year should be gradually raised to £3000 by 2015, in line with National advice, and a start has been made by increasing the Precept this year.

Responses on the following applications have been sent to Planning Services: The Old Coach House; Land between Church Lane and Church Farm Lane; Village Farm; Priston Village Hall and Arum House

The Council, and particularly Clare Cross and Robert Davies, has also been working to understand the impact of the National Planning Policy Framework and the Localism Bill, plus the delay to the BANES Core Strategy. The Parish Council has decided not to develop a Neighbourhood Plan for the Parish, at least at the moment, but to collaborate with neighbouring Parishes to help BANES to develop its Placemaking Plan – the fine detail of the Core Strategy.

A Parish meeting was held in January, attended by about 50 parishioners, to explain the Community Right to Bid, Neighbourhood Plans, and the Placemaking Plan. The ensuing discussion covered suggestions for Assets of Community Value, and issues to be considered for inclusion in the Placemaking Plan.

Thanks were extended to John Whybrow for his efforts to reduce dog fouling, to John Wilkinson for his continuing support to the defibrillator project, and also to Richard Bottle for keeping the Priston Website up to date.

The Parish Council's role in maintaining our highways consists mainly of negotiating for assistance from BANES Highway Department to deal with potholes and floods, and our Parish Clerk, Christine Hunt continues to do an excellent job here.

This year we decided to invest in grit bins and salt, managed by John Lippiatt, and they proved their worth in the snow. Thanks to all the parishioners who helped to do the spreading. A further bin has been purchased, to be kept in Priston Lane.

Concluding his report Councillor Pattison advised that, despite inclement weather and some last-minute re-arrangement, the celebrations to mark the occasion of The Queen's Diamond Jubilee were judged most enjoyable, with a party in the Village Hall, distribution of commemorative mugs to the children of the Parish, followed by lighting of the brazier on Pensdown in time with the national chain of beacons.

4. Financial Report of the Parish Council – The Clerk reported briefly on the Parish Council's finances advising the year at 1st April 2012 had commenced with an opening balance of £346.40 in the Parish Council's general account and a balance of £1,238.96 in the PRIDE/Defibrillator account. A precept of £4,360 had been received and VAT of £220.39 reclaimed in respect of transactions during the previous financial year. There will be a balance at the year end of approximately £1,200 in the Parish Council's general account plus £800 in the PRIDE/defibrillator account at 31st March 2013. A typed version of this report has been placed on file and a detailed report would be available at the Annual General Meeting.

5. Report of Village Hall –

Mr Cross, the Treasurer of the Village Hall Committee, reported that the Hall continues to be widely used and is obviously appreciated as a valuable asset by the community.

In 2012 significant works had been carried out, mainly externally with the exterior woodwork of the Hall redecorated and various external repairs undertaken, mainly to areas of the roof.

Chairman's Report- Annual Parish Meeting – March 2014

The major challenges this year have been:

1. exercising our rights under the new Community Right to Bid. Despite the clear desire of parishioners to protect The Ring o' Bells and the cricket field, the Parish Council found that interfering with age-old rights of ownership of land and property roused very strong feelings, and agreed to take no further action in either case.
2. supporting BANES Core Strategy (still not accepted by the Inspector) by developing the Placemaking Plan for the Parish.
3. understanding the options for bringing fast Broadband to the Parish.
4. the weather, with long term flooding, particularly in the Farmborough Lane.

Governance - A new version of our Financial Regulations was agreed – all available on the Priston Web.

Finance – it was discovered that we were in danger of paying our Parish Clerk less than the National Minimum Wage, leading to a further increase in the Precept this year, which has been accepted by BANES.

Planning - Responses on the following applications have been sent:

**6 Summerlea
5, Sarabeth Drive, Tunley
Parcel 8970 Tunley Road
The Watermill, Priston Mill
East Barn
Parcel 5856 High Street Priston
Land at the junction of Priston Lane and Tunley Hill**

The Council, led by Clare Cross, and assisted by a number of parishioners, including, I am delighted to say, from Wilmington, produced a draft Placemaking Plan for Priston Parish, which was presented to a well-attended Public Meeting followed by an extraordinary Parish Council Meeting in December. Our Plan was

PRISTON PARISH COUNCIL

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING – MONDAY 24TH MARCH 2014

FINANCIAL REPORT

It is customary at this meeting to give a brief report on the Parish Council's accounts for the previous and the current financial year – to give an overview of the financial situation.

Therefore, the year 2012/2013 commenced with a balance at the bank of £346.40 in the Parish Council's general account plus a balance in the PRIDE/Defibrillator account of £1,238.96. The precept of £4,360 was received and VAT of £220.39 refunded by Customs and Excise. A donation of £350 had been received from the Millennium Committee towards the cost of the Jubilee mugs presented to children of the parish.

The total expenditure for the year ending 31st March 2013 was £3,440.44 including £440.03 on training and other expenses relating to the defibrillator.

1st April 2013 commenced with a balance in the Parish Council's "general" account of £1,276.38 plus £826.92 in the Defibrillator account. A donation of £100 and also a total payment of £127.20 by residents for personal masks - for use with the defibrillator - were paid into the defibrillator account. A precept of £4,800 plus £40 Council Tax Support Grant was received from the District Council and a refund of VAT £94.27 claimed and received.

The Parish Council's expenditure in this current year has totalled £4,000 and also expenditure relating to the defibrillator of approximately £770.

The year ending 31st March 2014 will see a balance in the Parish Council's bank account of approximately £3,000 plus £276 in the PRIDE/Defibrillator account.

These are obviously not the final figures at year end.

An itemised account of the Receipts and Payments will be presented at the Annual General Meeting on 12th May and copies available for all attendees at that meeting. The end of year accounts will also be published on the Priston Website in due course.

24th March 2014