

## Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> March 2014 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 two apologies noted.

### 2. Minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting held on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> March 2013, 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 four major challenges in the year:

1. exercising our rights under the new Community Right to Bid and, after discussions at a public meeting and speaking with property owners, the Parish Council had agreed to take no further action..
2. supporting BANES' Core Strategy
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 the Financial Regulations had been agreed and was published on the Priston website.

**Finance** – After discussion it had been agreed to increase the Clerk's salary which was very close to the National Minimum Wage and an increase in the precept had been agreed to cover this.

**Planning** – Responses had been sent to Planning Services on applications in respect of seven properties within the parish.

A **Draft Placemaking Plan** for the parish had been compiled by the Council with support from a number of parishioners, including from Wilmington. The Plan was submitted to the District Council and has received only a minor request for amplification.

**Highways and Footpaths** - The High Street had been resurfaced by the Highways Department towards the end of 2013 although problems have been experienced at the lower end of the village caused by floodwater. The severe problems with flooding on the Farmborough Lane have been improved by the impressive efforts of the Lippiatt and Bendall families. We await assistance from the Highways Department in this respect.

**Defibrillator and Priston Website** – The Chairman thanked Mr Wilkinson and Mr Bottle respectively and also Mr Bottle for his support in discussions with regard to bringing high-speed broadband to the parish.

Councillor Pattison's full report has been placed on file and published on the Priston Website.

### 4. Financial Report of the Parish Council – The Clerk reported briefly on the Parish Council's finances advising the year at 1<sup>st</sup> April 2013 had commenced with an opening balance of £1,276.38 in the Parish Council's general account and a balance of £826.92 in the PRIDE/Defibrillator account. A precept of £4,800 had been received and VAT of £94.27 reclaimed in respect of transactions during the previous financial year. There will be a balance of approximately £3,000 in the Parish Council's general account plus £275 in the PRIDE/defibrillator account at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2014 although figures had not yet been finalised. A typed version of this report has been placed on file and published on the Priston Website. A detailed financial report would be presented 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 2103 significant works had been carried out both internally and externally, where the garden and associated works had been completed. Some further work is planned for 2014, mainly internally, but it is expected that there will be a period of building up assets, in case of major roof repairs within a few years.

Income from all sources was £8,399 with a significantly improved contribution from MayDay. This amount included £1,893 donations towards the car park and includes Gift Aid rebate. Expenditure was £6,703, so that overall assets increased from £5,956 to £7,652.

### 6. Any Other Business –

- (i) Mrs Anderson reported that The Link continues to be successful with a wide distribution of copies. Past copies of The Link are currently being digitally archived with 85% of the magazine, which has been published for 37 years, stored in this way. Mrs Anderson concluded by thanking her fellow editor Mrs Susan Hunter-Jones and Treasurer, Mr "Perry" Perriton for their continued support and also the Parish Council and Village Hall Committee for their financial support and also Mr Bottle for his assistance.
- (ii) Mr Toghill expressed deep concern at the current situation with regard to on-street parking, especially in the area of the Village Green, pointing out that the District Council's gritting and road sweeping vehicles are not able to operate in this area. Agreed this matter be placed on the agenda of the next Ordinary Parish Council meeting for discussion.

After closing the formal business of the meeting, the Chairman welcomed Mr Ellis Lippiatt who had agreed to give an illustrated talk entitled "Out – Standing in the Field", his family's farming in the parish .