

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of Priston Parish Council held on Monday 13th May 2013 in the Village Hall, Priston.

1. Attendance and Apologies –

Councillor Pattison presided, Councillors Cross, Davies, Girdlestone, Hopwood, Lippiatt, Whybrow and the Parish Clerk were present. Councillor Pattison welcomed Councillors and village residents Mrs Anderson, Mr Bottle and Mr Wilkinson and District Councillor David Veale. Apologies received from Mr Hunt and Mrs Pattison.

2. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Monday 14th May 2012, having been distributed electronically to Councillors, published on the Priston Website and on the Parish Council Noticeboard, were accepted and agreed as a true record of proceedings and signed by the Chairman. There were no matters arising.

3. Chairman's Report for the year ending 31st March 2013

Councillor Pattison reported that there had been some major challenges in the year, namely (a) 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. (b) the weather, with floods and snow, and on a lighter note, (c) arranging to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee.

Governance - As required by the Localism Act the Parish Council now has a new Code of Conduct, and revised Register of Interests – which are available on the Priston Website.

Finance – it has been decided that the reserves at the end of year should be gradually raised to £3000, in line with national advice, and a start has been made by increasing the precept this year.

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

The Council, and particularly Councillors 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. We have 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.

Highways and footpaths - John Whybrow's efforts to reduce dog fouling continue, and appear to be having some success.

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 bought, to be kept in Priston Lane. More recently we have been in consultation with Highways leading to the repair of the culvert in Priston Lane and a partial solution, with the help of the farmers, involved the flooding at the Dairy on Farmborough Lane.

Defibrillator – The Chairman continued by extending thanks to John Wilkinson for his continuing support to this project, including the arrangements for training and also to Richard Bottle for keeping the **Priston Website** up to date.

The Queen's Diamond Jubilee – Despite inclement weather and a lot of 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 our excellent brazier on Pensdown in time with the national chain of beacons.

Mayday – Lastly, and not strictly for this year's report, the Council wish to congratulate the Village Hall Committee on an outstanding Mayday.

4. **Financial Report**– The Clerk presented and reported on the Parish Council’s finances for the year ended 31st March 2013 advising the year had commenced with an opening balance of £346.40 plus 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. There was a balance at the bank at 31st March 2013 of £2,103.30. Typed copies of the accounts were distributed to councillors and attending residents and would be published on the Priston Website.
5. **Election of Chairman** – At this point the Chair was taken by the Vice Chairman, Councillor Hopwood, who requested nominations for the Office of Chairman for the coming year. Councillor Pattison was formally proposed by Councillor Cross, seconded Councillor Girdlestone and agreed unanimously.
6. **Declaration of Acceptance of Office – Chairman** – The official Declaration of Acceptance of Office was signed by Councillor Pattison and witnessed by the Clerk.
7. **Election of Vice Chairman** – Councillor Hopwood was proposed by Councillor Cross, seconded Councillor Davies and agreed.
8. **Appointment of Clerk** – Councillor Pattison proposed, seconded Councillor Hopwood, that Mrs Hunt be reappointed as Clerk. Mrs Hunt whilst thanking the Parish Council for her re-appointment for the coming year commented that she felt she needed to give a year’s notice of her intention not to stand for this office in 2014. The Parish Council suggested she reconsider this decision later in the year and either continue as clerk or give six months’ notice.
9. **Appointment of Footpath Representative** – Proposed Councillor Pattison, seconded Councillor Lippiatt and agreed that Councillor Whybrow be appointed for the coming year.
10. **Appointment of Village Hall Representative** – Proposed Councillor Hopwood, seconded Councillor Whybrow and agreed that Councillor Cross be appointed for the coming year.
11. **Appointment of Representative to Priston AED Project** – Proposed Councillor Cross, seconded Councillor Lippiatt and agreed that John Wilkinson, who had indicated his willingness to continue in this capacity, be appointed for the coming year.
12. **Signing of Cheques** – Agreed the Chairman and Vice-Chairman together with Councillor Cross continue to be the three signatories for cheques and noted two of the three signatures were needed on all cheques.

There being no further business for discussion at the Annual General Meeting, the Chairman declared the meeting closed and proceeded with the first meeting of the new term.