

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of Priston Parish Council held on Monday 18th May 2015 in the Village Hall, Priston. (This meeting had been rescheduled from 11th May due to the delay in publication, by the District Council, of the results of the local elections.)

- 1. Attendance and Apologies** – Councillor Pattison presided, Councillors Davies, Lawton and Lippiatt, and the Parish Clerk were present. Whilst welcoming Councillors and village residents Mrs Anderson, Mr Bottle, Mrs Cross and Mr Girdlestone the Chairman commented that this meeting ends the old year and a new year was commencing with a new Parish Council. Apologies received from Councillors Hassard, Hopwood and Whybrow, Mr Wilkinson and District Councillor David Veale.
- 2. Declaration of Acceptance of Office – Councillors** –Councillors Davies, Lawton, Lippiatt and Pattison who were present at the meeting signed the formal Declaration of Acceptance of Office which were witnessed by the Clerk. The Clerk would liaise with Councillors Hassard, Hopwood and Whybrow to arrange their formal acceptance. Copies of these documents would be forwarded to BANES’ Solicitor after completion.
- 3. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting** held on Monday 12th May 2014, having been distributed by email 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.
- 4. Chairman’s Report for the year ending 31st March 2015**
Councillor Pattison commenced his report by advising that the major challenge in the year had been beginning the process to develop a Priston Village Design Statement. Meetings had been held and a Working Party selected. The cost of developing the Village Design Statement had involved a small increase in the annual precept.
The Chairman continued by advising that responses had been sent to Planning Services on applications in respect of three properties within the parish and also three in adjacent parishes. The Parish Council had proposed a change to BANES the Housing Development Boundary to BANES to preserve the open aspect of the area between the apple store at Church Farm and the Village Hall.
At the Parish Council’s request the District Council had agreed there should be a formal 20mph limit through the village. With the assistance of the District Councillor, David Veale, negotiations have taken place with the Highways Department to reduce the flooding on the Farmborough Lane.
Concluding his report, the Chairman thanked Mr Bottle and Mr Wilkinson for looking after the Priston Website and the Defibrillator, Councillor Cross and Mr Cross for carrying out a survey of the road drainage of the village, the PAGE Group for extending their excellent litter-picking to help keep gullies and ditches clear and finally the Parish Clerk, Mrs Hunt, and all Councillors for their good work and support over the past year, particularly Mrs Cross and Mr Girdlestone who had not stood for re-election at the recent Local Elections.
Councillor Pattison’s full report had been placed on file and published on the Priston Website.
- 5. Financial Report**– The Clerk presented and reported on the Parish Council’s finances for the year ended 31st March 2015 advising the year had commenced with an opening balance of £3,371.15 including a balance of £275.74 in the PRIDE/Defibrillator account. A precept of £5,4,60 had been received, plus £40 Council Tax Support Grant and VAT of £60.36 reclaimed. There was a balance at the bank at 31st March 2014 of £4,636.89 including three unrepresented cheques totalling £64.76. Typed copies of the accounts were distributed to councillors and attending residents and would be published on the Priston Website.
- 6. Election of Chairman** – In the absence of the Vice-Chairman, the Chair was taken by Councillor Davies who requested nominations for the Office of Chairman for the coming year. Councillor Pattison was formally proposed by Councillor Lippiatt, seconded Councillor Lawson and agreed. As there were no other nominations Councillor Pattison was duly elected to this office.

7. **Declaration of Acceptance of Office – Chairman** – The official Declaration of Acceptance of Office was signed by Councillor Pattison and witnessed by the Clerk.
8. **Election of Vice Chairman** – Councillor Hopwood had expressed a willingness to be serve for the coming year in this capacity and was formally proposed by the Chairman and seconded and agreed unanimously.
9. **Appointment of Clerk** – Councillor Pattison proposed, seconded Councillor Davies that Mrs Hunt be reappointed as Clerk.
10. **Appointment of Footpath Representative** – Proposed Councillor Pattison, seconded Councillor Lippiatt and agreed that Councillor Whybrow, in his absence, be appointed for the coming year.
11. **Appointment of Village Hall Representative** – Agreed this appointment be made at the next ordinary meeting when it was hoped a full Parish Council would be in attendance.
12. **Appointment of Roads and Highways Representative** – Councillor Lippiatt volunteered to serve in this capacity and was formally proposed by Councillor Pattison, seconded Councillor Lawton and agreed.
13. **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.
14. **Signing of Cheques** – Agreed the Chairman and Vice-Chairman continue as two of the signatories. Councillor Lawton expressed her willingness to act as third signatory. The Clerk to arrange the necessary documentation with the National Westminster Bank.

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.