

## Minutes of the Priston Parish Council Meeting

held at Priston Village Hall on Monday 20th January 2020 at 7.00 pm

**Present:** Cllrs Doug Pattison (Chair), Peter Hopwood, Vicky Pai, Fiona Hassard, John Lippiatt, Robert Davies, Bruce Clarke and Jocelyn Nichols (Clerk). Councillor Matt McCabe was welcomed to the meeting. Aylet Anderson and Richard Bottle also attended.

Villagers were asked if there was anything they wished to be raised at the meeting. The database of contact details for villagers had been lost, and was now being recreated.

1. **Apologies:** None
2. **Minutes of last meeting:** Agreed and signed as a correct record.
3. **Matters arising:** The clerk is still pursuing improvements to our banking systems. **Action: Clerk will investigate Bankline and other methods of ensuring dual accountability with payments.**

The Marksbury road has not been gritted again, this resulted in a car overturning, and the school bus not running.

The new drains at the dairy appear to be working unless there is a huge amount of rain. A height marker could be considered to reduce the likelihood of cars getting flooded.

Wessex water are supposed to be regularising the footpath diversion around the sewage works. **Action: Robert to follow up whether this happens with Sheila Petherbridge, Public Rights of Way Officer, from B&NES.**

4. **Chair's Report:** A rowan tree has been planted on the Triangle. Unfortunately at least 3 vehicles have already driven over the new grass, so the possibility of erecting timber or plastic bollards on the corners of the triangle were discussed. **Action: Clerk to write to B&NES Highways to find out if we would be allowed to erect 3 0.9 metre high posts.**

B&NES Chief Executive visited Priston and was shown around the village by Doug, Matt and Neil Butters, who pointed out the problems caused by not gritting Marksbury Road.

The water fountain has a leak and has been turned off at present. This was a millennium project, and we need to decide whether we can keep it. **Action: Bruce has agreed to liaise with the original installer (Sharky) and investigate the cost and feasibility of different options.**

Nominations have been requested from councils for this year's Royal Garden Party invitation ballot. It was agreed that we would nominate Doug and Gail for all the tireless work they do for the village.

5. **Clerk's Report: Finances:** The bank balance stood at £6,887.64. The unusual items of expenditure on the financial report were discussed and a generous donation of £400 towards the new seat has been received. Expected expenditure for the rest of the financial year is about £3,700. This includes a new gritter which will now cost around £1,100. **Action: Clerk to add the gritter to the council's insurance policy when it has been purchased.**

The draft budget for 2020/21 was discussed, and councillors felt that, as we have agreed to support the village hall more, the request for our precept should be increased by about 4.8% to £6,700. All other items in the budget were agreed.

Vicky has discussed school transport issues with Neil, and will email him again as the bus has not managed to get to Priston due to ice on Marksbury road.

6. **75 VE Day Celebrations:** John Wilkinson kindly agreed to look into the parish celebrations on 8 May 2020 and has written in the Link asking for interested volunteers to be involved.
7. **Website Accessibility Regulations:** Richard and the clerk have discussed options for redesign of council documents, and will report more progress at the next meeting.
8. **Village Hall Notice Board:** This has been installed and Doug is providing a plaque to commemorate Mike Turner's donation.
9. **Emergency Plan:** There will be another public meeting on 1 February 2020, 12.30pm in the Village Hall.
10. **Footpaths:** Robert reported that the new horse gates which were planned for Watery Lane and by the cricket pitch have now been postponed due to the recent unfortunate accident, where the design of the gates caused the death of a horse. The offending gate has been removed and Sheila Petherbridge is investigating safer options. There has been a complaint about the state of 2 stiles and Sheila is looking at replacing these.
11. **External Meetings:** Councillors noted the meetings – a) Marksbury PC on 28/1/20 will be attended by Doug and John Cameron to discuss the dangerous junction. It was suggested that road markings could be changed to enable one line of traffic and improve visibility. b) The clerk will attend the Parish Clerks Network on 31/1/20. c) The Cam Valley forum is coming to our village hall on 13/2/20, the clerk will write an article for the Link, and Peter and the clerk will attend. **Action: Clerk to write for the Link and check B&NES requirements for the meeting.**
12. **Any Other Business:** Fix my Street is an excellent service, and reported potholes are fixed within 48 hours.
13. **Date of meetings:** Monday 16<sup>th</sup> March 2020 in the Village Hall. Annual Parish meeting will be after the Saturday Café on 28<sup>th</sup> March 2020, possibly to discuss the Priston tree planting initiative. **Action: the clerk will investigate 'More Trees for B&NES', the Woodland Trust, and other possible tree donors.** May 11<sup>th</sup> will be our AGM.

Signed .....

Date .....

JN 20 January 2020