

Minutes of the Priston Parish Council Meeting

Held in the village hall on Monday 5 July 2021

Present: Cllrs Peter Hopwood (Chair), Vicky Pai, Robert Davies, Bruce Clarke, Jocelyn Nichols (Clerk), together with Richard Bottle and Penny Rogers

All stood for a minute's silence to pay our respects to Christine Hunt, parish clerk for 17 years, who passed away recently.

Parishioners were asked if there was anything they wished to be raised at the meeting. No issues were raised.

- 1. Apologies:** Cllrs Doug Pattison, Fiona Hassard, John Lippiatt, B&NES Councillors Neil Butters and Matt McCabe.
- 2. Minutes of last meeting:** Agreed and signed as a correct record.
- 3. Matters arising:** The sale of the cricket field has been completed, and the cricket club are able to continue to use it.
Still to Action: Doug and Jocelyn will obtain clarity on how we report shared sewers, which are now the responsibility of Wessex Water.
- 4. Chair's Report:** It was proposed by Vicky and seconded by Bruce that the clerk's salary would be increased by 2%.
- 5. Clerk's Report: Finances:** The bank balance stood at £9,368.40 on 1 July. The items of expenditure on the financial report were noted. If we spend as per the approved budget, and forecast expenditure, we would end the financial year on 31 March with about £5,160. This includes spending £100 on CPRE membership, as agreed at our meeting on 18 January.
Action: It was agreed that the clerk would investigate whether B&NES are still running volunteer schemes to assist with our finger post refurbishment.

The Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations occur from 2 – 5 June 2022. In the Autumn we will discuss brazier location and operation with the farmers, and consider whether there would be enough support for a village lunch on 5 June.

- 6. Roads and Highways:** Watery Lane will be closed for 3 days from 7 July, to fix the culvert. There was considerable discussion about the recent cutting of the verges which had resulted in many wild flowers, including Bath Asparagus, being cut. Unfortunately, we cannot control when the cutting takes place, and it does make visibility and width of the lanes safer for drivers.
- 7. Planning: 4 Hill View** - Bruce and Robert reported on the new office extension which is within permitted development. The building is of timber construction, and as it has no bathroom facilities it is unlikely to be used for anything other than an office. **Action:** Clerk will write to the villager who expressed concerns and include the report.
- 8. Flooding:** We welcome the impending work to the culvert on Watery Lane. Any drain blockages should be reported to 'Fix My Street'.
- 9. Climate and ecological emergency:** PAGE thanked the PC for paying for the prizes for Biodiversity Bingo, which has been a success, together with No Mow May. Even villagers who did not get involved were discussing the projects with interest. A meeting has been set up for 21 July when the biodiversity team will discuss more activities, and plan for the village event on 9 October. Following receipt of the ecological information from Green Thumb about maintaining the village green and Priston Lane triangle, it was agreed we would ask them to try not using weedkiller. **Action:** The clerk will ask Green Thumb if we could try not using weedkiller, but continuing with other treatments. The possibility of putting gravel around the seat on the green will be investigated by Robert and Penny.

- 10. Footpaths:** Fiona reported that B&NES will improve the gates from Wood Lodge to stop them becoming so muddy and wet. Also the path will be correctly reinstated through the Jones's field. There has been no recent progress on the sewage works path. **Action: The clerk will ask B&NES for a timeline for when the rerouting will be complete.**
- 11. External meetings:** Jocelyn attended ALCA B&NES group AGM on 30 June. Face to Face meetings were discussed, as were the climate and ecological emergency plans. Keynsham are hosting a community eco festival on 17 – 18 September, and B&NES have a climate and biodiversity festival on 13 – 26 September. Peter and Jocelyn will attend the parish liaison meeting on 14 July at 6.30.
- 12. Any other Business:** The removal of an old hedge at the Mead was discussed. **Action: Penny will write an article for the Link about the importance of hedges for wildlife and advertising the environment day on 9 October.**
- 13. Date of next meeting:** Monday 6th September 2021 in the village hall.

Signed

Date

JN 6 July 2021

DRAFT