

Minutes of the Meeting of Priston Parish Council Held at 7 pm on Monday 1st July 2024 in the village hall

Present: Cllrs John Lippiatt, Bruce Clarke, Helen Burns, Nick Keppel-Palmer, Guy Davies, Farah Downing, Jocelyn Nichols (Clerk) and Richard Bottle and Aylet Anderson

1. **Matters raised by parishioners:** The wooden cover for the water stopcock needs replacing. **Action: Chair and clerk to organise replacement.**

2. **Apologies:** Councillor Peter Hopwood, B&NES Councillors Fiona Gourley and Matt McCabe

3. **Minutes:** The Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Monday 13th May 2024, and the extraordinary meeting held 29 May 2024 were approved and signed.

4. **Actions from previous meeting:** The missing sign at Hill View needs replacing, and as the numbering is confusing we will liaise with B&NES to improve the sign when the wall is fixed. **Action: Clerk to chase B&NES Highways about replacing the sign.**
Action: Helen will discuss with Lucy whether the footpath gate to the sewage works could be turned around to stop it being padlocked with the main gate by Wessex Water, and Helen and Guy will continue to monitor building materials and dust in Summer Lea when works are completed.
Farah was thanked for setting up a Whatsapp group for lift sharing. **Action: Farah and Helen will report progress and rules for using the lift service, as there was some concern to ensure the safety of children, in the Link and Loop.**
The dog poo situation has not improved despite Helen writing about dangers in the Link and Loop. **Action: Helen and Guy will produce some posters and investigate provision of bins.**

5. **Chair's Report:** The defibrillator box in lower Priston is rusty. **Action: Helen will investigate refurbishment.**
Action: Nick will look at the consultation on 'Creating Sustainable Communities in North East Somerset, and the Active Travel Masterplan' by 5 September, and Guy will look at the Sustainable Construction Checklist by 12 July. Bruce will look into the Radstock and Midsomer Norton parking charge review by B&NES.

6. **Financial Report for the financial year 1st May to 1st July 2024:** The Parish Council had £10,742.50 in the bank on 1st May and on 1 July there was £8,799.30. Expenditure was £1,943.20.

7. **Budget Review:** The auditor had expressed concern that we are spending over our precept, so we considered budget savings.
We agreed to cancel the Green Thumb lawn treatment service. **Action: Clerk will cancel Green Thumb service,** and only have one defibrillator training session, but to ensure it was well attended.
Action: Clerk will liaise with Roger about the training.
Action: Clerk will investigate whether we can cut our CPRE contribution.
Action: Clerk will see how much it cost to remove the water supply to the fountain (or for Bristol Water to provide a free service?)
Other suggested cuts to the budget were agreed. Without our CIL money we are projected to have a balance of £2,874 at the end of the year, so we need to consider increasing the precept, as our

administration costs are nearly the same amount as our current precept.

8. **Roads and Highways:** Most of the large potholes had been replaced, but there was more to do. Highways have agreed to add refreshing the white line on the pavement near the pub, but there is an urgent need to stop inconsiderate parking and John will approach wall owners to suggest a 'no parking' sign.
9. **Planning:** The B&NES enforcement officer has not reported progress with the lighting issues, but the lights at the Shepards Huts seem to be off at night now.
New Farm have applied for some hard standing, but this does not require planning approval. Young parishioners have expressed a desire to have a library in the telephone box. **Action: Clerk will liaise with the garden club about moving the tree, and Guy will re-instate the glass and provide shelves, then Farah will organise a children's library.**
10. **Flooding:** Clerk has reminded the B&NES flooding officer about our planned meeting.
11. **To report on the Climate and Ecological Emergency:** Nick has started to produce our nature recovery plan. It's aims are to improve land and waterways, and encourage diversity. We need to produce maps, work out who are the landlords and share with B&NES who may be able to access funding. Nick has produced maps from Parish Online which show a woodland network with specific areas identified as critical. **Action: Nick will email his report and all will check for up to date landowners.**
12. **To report on footpaths:** B&NES will not repair the footpath at Wood lodge until Autumn at the earliest, and the cricket field track will be cleared sometime this financial year.
The gate at Lammasfield Farm has recently been closed in a way which is difficult for horseriders to open. **Action: John will ask Martin the gamekeeper about it and liaise with Helen.**
13. **To report on external meetings and agree attendance at future meetings:** Parish Liaison is on 17 July 2024 at 6.30. Bruce will attend if the agenda warrants it.
14. **Any other Business: Peter and Helen will work on an active Emergency Plan.**
15. **Date of next Meeting** –Monday 2nd September 2024 7pm in the village hall.

Signed:Date:

JN 5/7/24