

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Priston Parish Council

Held at 7pm on Monday 7th July 2025 in the village hall

Present: Cllrs Peter Hopwood, Bruce Clarke, Helen Burns, Guy Davies, Robert Davies, John Lippiatt and Nick Keppel-Palmer, Jocelyn Nichols (Clerk) 1 Parishioner

- 1. Matters raised by parish residents:** Richard Bendall corrected his name from Roger in the previous minutes. He also corrected the Council's response to his planning application 25/01489/FUL New Farm Priston. We said 'The first application (21/01722/FUL) included lighting to which we objected', when we actually supported the application but asked for minimal lighting.

The Chair apologised to Richard for asking him to leave the meeting while we discussed his application last time. We have since discovered that this is not correct procedure that any interested applicant be asked to leave the meeting, but they should not contribute to discussion once they have had the chance to explain their application.

Action: The Chair and Clerk will write to Barnaby Harding again asking for clarification as to whether Councillors are allowed to stay in the meeting, but not contribute to discussion, if they have an interest in the application, whether as applicant or agent.
- 2. Apologies:**, B&NES Councillor Matt McCabe and B&NES Councillor Fiona Gourley
- 3. Minutes:** The minutes of the annual meeting on 12th May 2025 were approved and signed.
- 4. Matters Arising:** a) The dog mess situation has still not improved and the Clerk has purchased a bin, and emailed Matt and Fiona about a ward grant.

Action: The bin will be placed on the bridleway, by the cricket club lower gate by Guy and Helen and Bruce. Guy will also install poo bags.

b) **Action: the Clerk will email Matt and Fiona about the promised screen and stream improvements to Priston Lane.**

c) The Clerk has purchased a key box to access the hall in emergencies.

Action: Guy will install it near, but not on, the hall.

d) The large pothole up Priston (Watery) Lane has been filled in.

e) Peter and Helen estimate Emergency Plan costs to be £1200 for Health and Safety training.

f) **Action: Chair and Clerk to liaise with Richard about updating our backup procedures.**
- 5. Financial Report for the financial year 1st April 2025 to 31st March 2026:** The Parish Council had £10,402.82 in the bank on 1st May including £2,477.42 CIL money. The expenditure to 1st July was £1,850.80 including 3 CIL items of Rock Salt, Dog mess bin and a Key box. With the planned expenditure of £1,200 this leaves £730 remaining CIL money. If we spend in line with our budget, we should carry forward £4,765 to next year, which is about £500 more than last year. There was £8,552.02 in the bank on 1st July.

Councillors noted that hybrid meetings will be allowed by the Government, we await further news on how this might work.

The AGAR from next year will have a new Assertion 10, which mandates Councils to use a council owned email domain, so all Councillors will have a Parish email address. We will assert that our accessible website complies with GDPR requirements that personal data is processed lawfully and fairly.

Action: Chair and Clerk to liaise with Richard Bottle to ensure we comply by May 2026.

6. **Roads and Highways:** The upcoming closures for waterworks were discussed.
Action: Clerk will email Fiona and Chair will report on 'Fix my Street' the need for 20mph signs to be repainted on the road through the village.
7. **Planning:** a) **Action: The Chair has updated our procedure notes for planning applications and will re-issue once we have clarified who can stay in meetings when applications are discussed. Robert agreed to read the NALC planning advice and report to the next meeting.**
b) The Local Plan Housing Development Boundary Review was discussed. We are washed over by the Green Belt so no changes to our Parish are listed, but there is concern that changing to Grey belt in order to comply with the Government's housing target of 1,400 a year in B&NES could overload the local infrastructure.
Action: Robert will write an article for the Link to warn villagers about the upcoming consultation and the importance of responding about these high targets, to be discussed at the next meeting.
c) Bruce will write our response to the 25/01489/FUL New Farm Priston lighting application appeal. He will suggest that the inspector needs to visit the site at night when it is dark to assess the light pollution. He will circulate his response for approval.
8. **Flooding:** No current issues
9. **To report on the Climate and Ecological Emergency:** The wild flowers and butterflies around our parish are being enjoyed by all.
Action: Nick will express our interest in knowing more about the B&NES Community Energy Scheme, though it looks to be too largescale for us to consider.
10. **To report on footpaths:** Thanks to Sue Griffiths for helping Helen trim back the green tunnel by Wood Lodge.
11. **To report on external meetings and agree attendance at future meetings:** The next Parish Liaison on 16 July will be attended by the Chair and Robert.
12. **Any other Business:** None
13. **Date of next Meeting** –Monday 1st September 2025 7pm in the village hall.

Signed:Date: