

Minutes of the Priston Parish Council Meeting

Held in the Village Hall on Monday 14 March 2022

Present: Cllr Doug Pattison (Chair), B&NES Councillor Matt McCabe, Cllrs Vicky Pai, Robert Davies, Bruce Clarke, Peter Hopwood, Jocelyn Nichols (Clerk), together with Richard Bottle.

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

- 1. Apologies:** Cllrs Fiona Hassard, John Lippiatt, and Penny Rogers.
- 2. Minutes of last meeting:** Agreed and signed as a correct record.
- 3. Matters arising:** Doug has reported the GPO manhole on Watery Lane which is still flooding water onto the road.
- 4. Chair's Report:** Tim Hughes is in hospital and very ill. We await further news with concern. Village agents have been introduced by WERN to signpost services. **Action: Vicky will invite our agent to our next meeting.**
- 5. Clerk's Report: Finances:** The bank balance stood at £9,177.34 on 28 February. 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 £6,353. The draft budget for next year was re-examined, and the 6% increase in the precept has been approved.
- 6. Roads and Highways:** A tree in the layby on the way to Marksbury was reported to 'Fix my Street'. **Action: Clerk to write to Highways to ask for signs at the top and bottom of Watery Lane warning that it is unsuitable for HGVs.**
- 7. Planning:** - Robert has followed up his presentation concerning the barns at Church Lane with a diagram and more information, which is on the planning website. The planning officer will visit the site in the next 2 weeks, and the committee will meet again. Robert will apply to speak again. The local plan partial update special development strategy has been delayed by 3 months. It has been projected that by 2035 99% of people will be over 65.
- 8. Flooding:** No new issues.
- 9. Fingerposts:** The pieces for the fingerpost near Marksbury have been ordered. Mark was expecting to be making them this week, beginning 14 March. So, assuming everything OK with the parts, he should be able to submit his invoice by the end of this financial year. Once we have the parts and weather is more settled, we can get to work on preparing and painting this post and the one at Farmborough.
- 10. Climate and ecological emergency:** The Parish Council is organising the talks by Gregor about domestic heating (Annual Parish Meeting this Saturday) and by Bath & West Community Energy about local electricity generation. As agreed, Penny has asked Guy to come to the Parish Meeting to give a very short intro to his and Peter's offer to visit village homes and, where possible, make suggestions for improved insulation etc. Penny is happy to arrange a presentation by the Duchy about its environment audit and plans for the future, but would like to know the date for the talk by BWCE before proceeding. **Action: Doug will let Penny know he has sourced some red tile solar panels.**
- 11. Footpaths:** Following the recent correspondence from Sheila Petheridge with an offer of footpath maintenance work provided by the Somerset Ramblers, Fiona will endeavour to "beat the bounds" of the parish over the next few months to see if there is anything obvious that we could ask them to do. In the meantime if anyone else has any thoughts on the matter please let Fiona know. The path around the sewage works diversion public order has been made by the council on 3rd March.

Representations or objections need to be made by 6th April.

12. Queen's Platinum Jubilee: 2 meetings have been held by the working party and plans for the weekend were discussed. Councillors were asked for suggestions for a memorial to mark the occasion.

13. External meetings: The Parish Liaison Meeting is Wednesday, 23rd March, 2022, 6.30 pm

14. Any other Business: The Saturday Café raised £1,000 and collected lots of supplies for the Ukraine appeal.

15. Date of next meeting: Monday 9th May 2022 in the village hall.

Signed

Date

JN 15 March 2022

DRAFT