

Minutes of the Priston Parish Council Meeting Held at 7 pm on Monday 11th March 2024 in the village hall.

Present: Cllrs Peter Hopwood (Chair), Bruce Clarke, Helen Burns, Nick Keppel-Palmer, Guy Davies, John Lippiatt, Farah Downing, B&NES Councillor Matt McCabe, Jocelyn Nichols (Clerk) and 6 parishioners.

Matters raised by parish residents: There have been a number of new residents of the village lately, it must be time for another welcome lunch. **Action: Farah will check whether the village hall committee are organising anything and report back.**

Apologies: B&NES Councillor Fiona Gourley

Minutes: The Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday 22nd January 2024 were approved and signed.

Matters Arising:

- Peter and Helen have attended some emergency planning training to help with our emergency plan. They will now review the 2018 Priston emergency plan.
- David Franklin and Charlie Samler are checking that the Manor trees are safe.
- The proposal to instal a cycle track between Priston and Timsbury has been withdrawn due to the likely cost and also advice from the footpaths officer.
- A supply of grit will now be purchased late Autumn

Cricket Club application for CIL money for new toilet: The report was discussed, and it was agreed by a majority of councillors to grant the request for £1,385 plus VAT to purchase a new Delux TFS Executive portaloo. **Action: the Clerk will inform Bob Copperman.**

Chair's report: a draft protocol for future proposals requesting PC support: The draft protocol was agreed. This will be used as a template for the consideration of large future proposals brought to this Parish Council.

It was also agreed that the need for the Parish to develop a framework for thinking about the future and to build a Neighbourhood Plan to guide decision making was important. **Action: Nick will investigate how we move forward to create such a plan.**

Financial Report for the year ending 31st March 2024: Councillors agreed to pay the clerk for 8 hours a week as per her contract of employment, backdated to 1 April 2023. The Parish Council had £9,931.68 in the bank on 1 March. The expenditure since the last report was £1,280.34. The expected expenditure to the end of the financial year was discussed, and we should end the year with at least £8,604 carry forward.

The amended draft budget for 2024/25 was discussed.

We have received some correspondence about the new bus route from Paulton and Fiona has suggested we contact Chew Valley Campaign Group to see if we can apply for a bus to the village. Englishcombe are also investigating, and we could work together to try to establish a bus route. **Action: Clerk to liaise with the Chew Valley Campaign Group and Englishcombe to find out more details.**

Flooding: Aylet's report was discussed, and it was agreed to send a shortened version with action points and what is needed, including depth markers, to Daniel Parr. **Action: Clerk to send the report and ask if he would come and see our problem areas.**

Roads and Highways: We are all encouraged to continue reporting potholes on 'Fix My Street'. At the moment it is too wet to fix them, but we hope it will soon be dry. There will be lane closures to install a solar farm near Marksbury and there are links on the website to find out which lane is closed and when.

Planning: Bruce has heard from Sam Grant, the enforcement officer about the lighting at the Batch and New Farm and he hopes to hear about progress in the coming weeks.

To report on the Climate and Ecological Emergency: It was agreed that we will write a Nature Plan. **Action: Clerk will respond to B&NES saying we will be producing one which Nick will lead.**

To report on footpaths: Helen has discussed improvements needed to the track by the cricket pitch with Eddie Proctor, footpaths officer, and he will be cleaning the mud off the stones and look at accessibility for horse riders by the gate. Rambler volunteers will improve some boggy areas on the valley path with embedded plastic. **Action: Helen will talk to Eddie about the horse gate above Pottern, and also the problem with Wessex Water locking the footpath gate by the sewage works.** The trees beside the footpath by Rockhill need to be trimmed back.

To report on external meetings and agree attendance at future meetings: Bruce and Nick were thanked for their reports on Matt's presentation about the Local Plan consultation. Individuals will be encouraged to respond at the Annual Meeting on Saturday. It was agreed that the parish council should engage with the consultation process. **Action: Bruce and Guy and Nick will draft a response, which will be discussed at an extraordinary meeting on 25th March at 7pm in the village hall.** Helen agreed to minute this as the clerk will be away.

Date of next Meeting –Monday 13th May 2024 7pm in the village hall including AGM.

Signed:Date: