

Minutes of the Priston Parish Council Meeting

Held on Zoom on Monday 16th November 2020 at 7.00 pm

Present: Cllrs Doug Pattison (Chair), Peter Hopwood, Vicky Pai, Robert Davies, Bruce Clarke, John Lippiatt, Fiona Hassard, Matt McCabe, Neil Butters, Richard Bottle, John Wilkinson and Jocelyn Nichols (Clerk). Villagers near 4 Hill View attended for the planning discussion.

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

1. **Apologies:** None

2. **Minutes of last meeting:** Agreed and signed as a correct record.

3. **Matters arising:** The pub was Covid secure when visited by the Chair. The Council is considering declaring a climate emergency, and the clerk will attend training by B&NES on action to reduce carbon emissions on 26 November.

The parish records consist of several minute books and about a foot of other documents. **Action: The Chair will discuss how we keep our old minute books and other documents with Clare Cross and John Wilkinson, and Vicky will obtain a quote to scan them to enable easy access. The clerk will ask ALCA what our legal obligations for record keeping are.**

Marksbury Council had passed village concerns to the organisers of the car boot sales, and the council has been given their risk assessments and Covid procedure documents.

The New Farm planning application has been withdrawn.

4. **Chair's Report:** Vicky reported for CATP on the rise in Coronavirus cases in B&NES and Bristol, particularly Wellsway School. Vicky has agreed to be interviewed by Bath University for their joint research with B&NES on Covid 19 and health and wellbeing in our area. Any ideas about how to reduce loneliness, and any reports of assistance needed would be welcomed by the CATP team, who report regularly via the village loop to remind residents about help available.

The Armistice day ceremony was a success and the chair laid a wreath at the oak tree on our behalf.

The walnut tree on the green has a number of dead and low branches and councillors agreed to ask Charlie Samler to rectify this.

The village hall projector is over 20 years old, and in need of replacement. **Action: Robert will give Richard his spare projector to see if it would work as a replacement, if not the council will consider contributing to the cost of a new one.**

The Christmas carol procession has been cancelled this year due to Covid restrictions, but the council would like to provide some Christmas cheer for the children of the parish. Vicky has an idea for a Santa treasure hunt around the village. **Action: Vicky will discuss with Nicky Slee, and arrange purchase of gifts to a maximum of £60.**

5. **Clerk's Report: Finances:** The bank balance stood at £7,717.93 on 31 October. We have received our second instalment of our precept of £3,350 from B&NES. The items of expenditure on the financial report were noted, and if we spend as per the approved budget, and last meeting's forecast expenditure, we would end the financial year on 31 March with £3,509. The Council has just received £906.38 Community Infrastructure Levy in respect of Bramble Barn planning application. It was agreed this would be put towards a gritting machine. **Action: John to purchase a gritter for the council.**

6. **Roads and Highways:** The road outside the dairy and Priston Hill have been tarmacked, and Highways have been thanked by the council.

7. **Planning:**

a) **Church Farm housing development** – extra plans have been requested and the decision date is projected to be 27 November.

b) 4 Hill View – The application is for the conversion of existing outbuildings (garage and shed) into a single habitable building over approximately the same floor plan and to the same height as the existing structures. Neighbours of the property reported not being informed about the application, and the applicants had been surprised by the speed of the process. As a result the council has asked for an extension to the consultation period for all villagers, and this has been granted until 7 December, though responses after 18 November must be submitted by email to development_management@bathnes.gov.uk.

The applicants did not realise that Curo own the track, which is an unadopted track over which they have right of access. Close residents were concerned that Air B & B guests returning from weddings at Priston Mill would create noise and disturbance late at night, and there would be parking issues caused by the extra cars, as well as pressure on the Priston sewage system which is already overloaded. Intrusion on wildlife habitats in the adjoining gardens was also a concern. The applicants supplied their email address in order to meet with their neighbours to discuss the issues.

Robert has asked the planning officer to clarify how many Air B & B guests B&NES allow a year, and it was noted that guests would not be able to stay longer than 4 weeks. It was agreed that Robert and Bruce would submit a revised proposal to the council after the neighbours had discussed their issues, with a view to a parish council meeting in early December to decide our response.

Westvale planning application was considered to have no significant effect on the parish.

- 8. Footpaths:** The gate at Watery Lane has been mended with new posts, so it is now easier to use, and the intention is to replace the stile with a gate so that the large farm gate can be locked shut. Although it is not a bridleway, those who ride horses through the gate will be given the combination to the lock.

A proper horse gate is also planned by the cricket pitch, which is a bridleway.

We await a final footpath decision from B&NES by the sewage works.

The Priston-Timsbury path beyond the duck pond has had material laid down at several points to aid the access to vehicles involved in the shoot, but this is heavily contaminated with plastic. Robert has asked Sheila Petherbridge in B&NES to inspect the area and advise.

- 9. External Meetings:** Parish Council Climate Emergency Workshop 26 November 9.30 – 4.30 is being attended by the clerk.

Planning in plain English 23 November 6.30-8.30 is available for councillors to attend, as is Understanding Risk Management during Covid 19 on 4 December 10-12.

- 10. Any other Business:** Defibrillator training has been organised for Saturday 5 December in the village hall. Our new defibrillator will be in a similar cabinet to the one outside the village hall, and is being installed soon.

- 11. Date of next meeting:** Monday 18th January 2021 on Zoom.

Signed

Date