

Minutes of the Priston Parish Council Meeting

Held on zoom on Monday 15 November 2021

Present: Cllrs Doug Pattison (Chair), Vicky Pai, Robert Davies, Fiona Hassard, Bruce Clarke, Jocelyn Nichols (Clerk), together with Aylet Anderson

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

- 1. Apologies:** Cllrs Peter Hopwood and John Lippiatt, B&NES Councillors Matt McCabe and Neil Butters.
- 2. Minutes of last meeting:** Agreed and signed as a correct record.
- 3. Matters arising:** Church Farm planning drawings have been amended to include a flood prevention wall.
- 4. Chair's Report:** Complaints have been received about the new fence at Mead Cottage. It was noted that planting has occurred outside the fence which will soften the look.
It was agreed that Father Christmas could be given £50 towards gifts for children.
It was agreed that in the spring a mock orange tree would be purchased for Bob's garden in recognition of Christine's long service as clerk, and in memory of her superb marmalade.
Doug has agreed with Wessex Water that he will work out where shared sewers are, and has a list of people interested in a tour which will be arranged when Covid is not so prevalent.
NALC have recommended that all councillors should not use personal emails for council business. It is too complicated and expensive for us to change, so it was agreed that all councillors would copy the clerk into any email correspondence concerning council business, in case of freedom of information requests.
- 5. Clerk's Report: Finances:** The bank balance stood at £10,581.55 on 3 November. The second half of our precept has been paid, and 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 £5,195.
- 6. Roads and Highways:** Potholes which were reported to 'Fix My Street' were speedily fixed.
- 7. Planning:** - Minor changes had been made to roof lights on Church Farm Planning Application 21/03682/FUL. The dog training application is awaiting appeal.
- 8. Flooding:** The serious flood on Watery Lane recently was caused by a large toy blocking the drain. When investigating this, George Dickenson remarked that the drain pipe possibly should have been replaced with a larger one last July. **Action: Aylet will discuss with George the need for a screen to stop large items washing into the drain in future.** She is concerned that the water running over the road at the bottom of the hill will cause issues in cold weather, so this will be looked at. Doug has cleared a drain at Marksbury dip. Simon Barnes has agreed to clear debris from under the bridge near his house.
- 9. Fingerposts:** Penny Rogers' written report on fingerposts was discussed, and it was agreed that the council would fund the cost of all the fingerposts, including Wilmington (about £600, but we have received a grant from B&NES of £250 towards it). **Action: The Clerk agreed to write an article on Fingerposts for the Link.**
- 10. Climate and ecological emergency:** Penny reported on the 2121 Climate Forum, which had been a great success. Doug has agreed to organise some presentations, one of which could form part of our Village meeting.
- 11. Footpaths:** Fiona has contacted Stuart Pow about a fallen tree on the footpath in his wood past the sewage works. He has removed the tree. The overgrown hedge at the Wood Lodge gate has been trimmed, and the path flattened. There is now a redundant kissing gate in the valley. **Action: Fiona will discuss with Sheila the B&NES footpath officer.**

12. Abuse of and by councillors: Following some examples of bad behaviour by councillors in the press, councillors agreed to support Jackie Weaver's application to introduce sanctions against this.

13. External meetings: Bathavon Area Forum is on 24 November at 6pm. Topics include winter pressures and B&NES budget for 2022/3.
ALCA B&NES is on 2 December 6.30pm.
B&NES Budget detailed meeting is on 14 December at 6pm.

14. Any other Business: A volunteer is needed to run the oil consortium.

15. Date of next meeting: Monday 17th January 2022 in the village hall.

Signed

Date

JN 15 November 2021

DRAFT