

Minutes of the Priston Parish Council Meeting

Held in the Village Hall on Monday 16 January 2023

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

- 1. Apologies:** B&NES Councillor Neil Butters and Cllr John Lippiatt.
- 2. Minutes of last meeting:** Agreed and signed as a correct record.
- 3. Matters arising:** John has sourced another gritter as there were problems with the previous supplier.
Action: Fiona will check if the bridge over the stream from Priston Mill to Inglesbatch is rotting, and if so she will report it to B&NES.
- 4. Chair's Report:** In order to encourage parishioners to stand for the new councillor elections, it was agreed that the clerk will write a piece for the Link, which Doug will check. **Action: Clerk to write article for Link on benefits of becoming a councillor.**
It will also be discussed at the annual parish meeting on 18 March, and it was agreed that a talk on farming or tree management in the parish would be interesting, and might persuade people to stay after the café. **Action: Peter will approach John Lippiatt and/or Stuart Pow about presenting a 20 minute talk, and if this is not possible, Doug will ask Charlie Samler.** Parishioners will also be asked to consider how we should spend our CIL money, one suggestion being improving the community space behind the hall, and possibly installing solar panels on the hall roof.
A new laptop has been purchased for the clerk, and Rohan will set it up. **Action: Clerk to pay him £25 and write a letter of thanks.**
It was agreed that gritter driving will be paid at £25 an hour around the village, and parishioners will be able to ask for private drives to be salted, and pay the drivers directly. **Action: Vicky will discuss practicalities with John, but driving should be in the daytime and on demand.**
- 5. Clerk's Report: Finances:** The bank balance stood at £14,111.41 on 1 January. 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 £8,526. There is a shortage of defibrillator pads, and ours need replacing, we also need to find another defibrillator trainer. Vicky will remind parishioners about using PEG, especially as there is a shortage of ambulances.
The Draft budget was discussed, and it was agreed that we would ask for a 5% increase to the precept, and would increase the gritting budget to £500, as we will be likely to use more.
The new car park charges at Park and Ride locations in B&NES have been introduced despite most people who responded to the consultation being against the charges. The parishioners feel that this charge does not encourage people to avoid driving into the city.
- 6. Roads and Highways:** We should continue to report the many potholes to 'Fix my Street'. The grid at Watery Lane suggested by B&NES is still awaited, as are the signs for discouraging HGV vehicles. **Action: Clerk will chase B&NES for the HGV signs, and the suggested grid, and also ask Owain to clear the ditch in his field by the lane.**
- 7. Planning:** - The response to New Farm Barn construction was agreed, as proposed by Bruce and Robert.
- 8. Flooding:** Watery lane has again a broken pipe, a report is being sent to B&NES.
Councillors would like to thank Aylet Anderson for her excellent work keeping us updated about flooding in recent weeks.
- 9. Climate and ecological emergency:** The B&NES parish tree giveaway of 1000 whips will be available for collection week commencing 30 January. A meeting with landowners and Louise Callan is arranged for Sunday 22 January to discuss our action plan.

10. Footpaths: The sign at the footpath by Rockhill needs repair, and also a new replacement waymark sign at Rockhill Drive is needed as people have been mistakenly walking up the private drive. **Action: Fiona will contact B&NES footpath officer.**

The boardwalks which were installed recently have been a great improvement. If they could be extended to cover the very muddy dip that would be great.

11. External meetings: There is an election briefing on 25 January 6pm. B&NES ALCA is on 1 February at 7.30pm. There is a webinar about community renewable energy on 18 January.

12. Any other Business: Games will be organised for the Coronation on 6 May, and we will consider provision of coins or mugs for children of the parish, in line with what other parishes are offering.

13. Date of next meeting: Monday 13th March 2023 7pm in the village hall.

Signed

Date

JN 17 January 2023