

Minutes of the Priston Parish Council Meeting Held at 7 pm on Monday 4th September 2023 in the village hall

Present: Cllrs Peter Hopwood (Chair), Bruce Clarke, Helen Burns, Nick Keppel-Palmer, Guy Davies, Farah Downing, Jocelyn Nichols (Clerk) and B&NES Cllr Fiona Gourley

Fiona was welcomed to the meeting and explained her role as Member Advocate for Rural Communities, including bus provision and signposting help schemes for those in the community who need them.

1. **Matters raised by parish residents:**
 - a) A Priston Festival trustee spoke about the background to the festival, this will be the 14th held. It is now very difficult to receive any funding for the event, which has gained a reputation for being a lovely family event with most of the music and activities being free. As a result of this, last year the festival spent most of its reserves, and are applying to the council for financial support to employ 2 security guards and a professional first aider for the weekend of 16/17 September, at a cost of £690. Councillors agreed that the council wishes to support the festival, and would provide a one off grant of £690 this year. Future support of the festival would be considered if the request could be submitted with a little more notice.
 - b) John Wilkinson reminded parishioners about the Priston Emergency Group (PEG) with the WhatsApp group administered by Richard Bottle. Doug Pattison used to be on the organising committee, so Peter agreed to take over this role. John has also registered for a place on the B&NES community resilience day on 28 September, but if a councillor can attend that might be more appropriate. Helen agreed she can probably attend and will liaise with John.
 - c) The Community Infrastructure Levy was discussed as we have received £5,000 approx for the Piggeries house, and are likely to receive about £7,000 for Church Farm. We have 5 years to spend the money, and will consult the village community. **Action: Clerk will draft an article for the Link and website asking for ideas.**
 - d) At the moment the village only has 13 currently trained defibrillator users, so more training is needed. A reminder on how to access the defibrillators and what to do in an emergency is being published for the Loop, Link and website.
2. **Apologies:**, B&NES Councillor Matt McCabe and Councillor John Lippiatt
3. **Minutes:** The Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday 3rd July 2023 were approved and signed.
4. **Matters Arising:**
 - a) Steve Grant is working on making safe the cracked wall at the bottom of Priston Lane between 11th and 13th September.
 - b) We have been assured that the disposal of asbestos when church barns are dismantled will be correctly conducted.
 - c) The tenants of Walnut Tree House have moved out because of issues with water leaks. Matt has met with Building Control to find out why tanking installation was not enforced and what can now be done. The response was not helpful as there are no records kept. However if the property is relet then the building control officers can inspect it to establish if it is fit for habitation. Also, new

legislation restricts the amount of rent a landlord can demand in advance to 5 weeks, so this should provide some protection to a new tenant.

5. **Chair's Report:** Already covered in Matters Arising.
6. **Financial Report for the year ending 31st March 2024:** The Parish Council had £11,737.89 in the bank on 14 August. The expenditure since the last report was £1,160.80 including paying for the defibrillator training. The expected expenditure to the end of the financial year was discussed, and we should end the year with about £6,200 carry forward.
The insurance policy was discussed and it was agreed to change to Zurich as the quote is £200 cheaper than Hiscox, for cover at least as good as before.
7. **Roads and Highways:** The use of the gritter was discussed, and we need to inform parishioners about it's use in the autumn. **Action: Clerk to write to Matt and Fiona about what gritting will happen now there is no bus, and also ask Stefan Chiffers for 20 mile an hour signs and road repeaters through the village.**
8. **Planning:** Bruce listed the current ongoing planning issues.
9. **Flooding:** The pipe is still blocked 30-50 yards from Rockhill entrance. The grid to prevent blockages has still not been installed. **Action: Clerk to remind B&NES again by contacting Jim Collins.**
10. **To report on the Climate and Ecological Emergency:** The Biodiversity day has been moved to 4th November. Nick has reminded residents about the availability of grants for insulation for low income homes.
11. **To report on footpaths:** Helen has contacted Eddie Proctor, new B&NES footpaths officer.
12. **To report on external meetings and agree attendance at future meetings:** The Clerk attended Bathavon Forum on Wednesday 5 July and summarised discussions. The Parish Liaison committee on 19 July was attended by Bruce and the Clerk, and the Clean and Green team cleaned our fingerpost on the Marksbury, Farmborough junction as a one off.

Guy agreed to attend the Bristol Airport event on 12 September, and the workshop on the future of rural affairs on 26 September.
13. **Any other business:** Helen will investigate the shepherds huts in Blind Lane.
14. **Date of next Meeting** –Monday 13th November 2023 7pm in the village hall.

Signed:Date: