

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Priston Parish Council

Held at 7pm on Monday 1st September 2025 in the village hall

Present: Banes Cllr Matt McCabe Cllrs Peter Hopwood, Bruce Clarke, Helen Burns, Guy Davies, Robert Davies, John Lippiatt and Nick Keppel-Palmer, Jocelyn Nichols (Clerk) 3 Parishioners

1. **Matters raised by parish residents:** None
2. **Apologies:** B&NES Councillor Fiona Gourley
3. **Minutes:** The minutes of the annual meeting on 7th July 2025 were approved and signed.
4. **Matters Arising:**
 - a) The Chair and Clerk wrote to Barnaby Harding and he clarified that Councillors with an interest in a planning discussion should leave the meeting, but parishioners may stay for the discussion, but not contribute to discussion.
 - b) **Action: The dog bin is still to be placed on the bridleway, by the cricket club lower gate by Guy and Helen and Bruce.**
 - c) **Action: Guy will install the key box near, but not on, the hall.**
 - d) **Action: Chair and Clerk to liaise with Richard about updating our backup procedures, and complying with AGAR assertion 10.**
 - e) Robert has read the NALC planning advice and reported back. **Action: Our checklist needs updating at next meeting.**

Matt reported that we will receive the Options document for the Local Plan on 17 September and consultation begins on 2 October. There will be 4 main sites for new houses – Hicksgate will be 4,000 – 5,000 homes, Keynsham North 4,000 homes, West Bath, Twerton and Newton St Loe 7,000 homes, and also Somer Valley a large number of houses as part of the A4 Bath-Bristol corridor. Paulton, Midsomer Norton and Clandown will have more houses. A total of 28,000 new homes will have a profound effect on our infrastructure. A large proportion of the Green Belt will become Grey Belt.
 - f) Bruce has written our response to the 25/01489/FUL New Farm Priston lighting application appeal.
 - g) Nick expressed our interest in knowing more about the B&NES Community Energy Scheme, and noted that there are 108,000 solar panels at the Marksbury farm.
5. **Chair's Report** Parishioners will be reminded there will be an emergency alert test on 7 September at 3pm via the Loop.

Parishes will have to pay for their own Election charges: About £100 for an uncontested Election, £785 for contested, and £50 for uncontested By Election and £1475 for a contested one. We will need to budget for this.

We have advertised the Youth Guarantee Scheme in the Link.

The new bus is now running for 6 months, we should use it or lose it.
6. **Financial Report for the financial year 1st April 2025 to 31st March 2026:** The Parish Council had £6,721.23 in the bank on 1st September including £1,650.95 CIL money. The expenditure to 1st September was £1,830.79 including 1 CIL item of Defibrillator pads. With the planned H & S expenditure of £1,200 this leaves £497 remaining CIL money. If we spend in line with our budget, we should carry forward £4,946 to next year.

Councillors agreed to renew the insurance policy with Zurich for £264, and noted that the Clerk's pay had risen by 50p an hour for inflation on the NALC scale.

7. **Wilmington Defibrillator:** It was noted that in May 2020 we agreed to maintain this, and therefore Councillors agreed to the purchase of a new case for £32.56 from CIL money.
Action: Clerk will write to inform Debbie Keeling.
There will be first aid training on 18 November, and Councillors agreed that CIL money would pay the £50 per person. It would be useful to obtain a list of all parishioners who have first aid training.
Action: Peter will list a projection of likely costs for defibrillators and bleed kits and when they are due.
8. **Roads and Highways:** The new tarmac is cracking past the Dairy due to the hot summer.
Action: Clerk to write to Stephan Chivers to request the white line at Priston (Watery) Lane is increased to make visibility greater.
Helen pointed out that the white lines at the top of Mill lane and where the road to the mill meets Marksbury lane are very faded and require attention.
Action: Bruce/Helen will inform B&NES via Fix My Street
9. **Planning:** a) **Action: Guy will produce a template for the Clerk to write to residents of 4 Hill View to remind them that planning is needed for change of use to offer B & B in their outbuilding.**
b) Robert has responded to the Section 106 consultation.
10. **Flooding:** **Action: Clerk to write to Stephan Chivers about clearing the blockage where the ditch goes under the entrance to Gardener's field and Aylet's top gate on Priston Hill, (location What3Words: rush.scariest.aliennated).**
11. **To report on the Climate and Ecological Emergency:** This has been the hottest summer on record.
12. **To report on footpaths:** **Action: John will ask Martin about clearing the brambles from the footpath gate at Lammasfield.**
13. **To report on external meetings and agree attendance at future meetings:** The Clerk will attend the Bathavon Forum on 22 September, and possibly Helen. The next Parish Liaison on 15 October will be attended by the Chair and Robert.
14. **Any other Business:** There have been some antisocial bonfires during the hot weather. **Action: Helen will write an article for the Link warning of the dangers of fires.**
15. **Date of next Meeting** –Monday 10th November 2025 7pm in the village hall.

Signed:Date: