Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Priston Parish Council
Held at 7pm on Monday 7th September 2026 in the village hall

Present: Cllrs Bruce Clarke (Chair), Peter Hopwood, Helen Burns, Guy Davies (midway through 8a below), Robert Davies, Nick Keppel-Palmer and John Lippiatt, B&NES Cllr Matt McCabe, Rebecca Landon (Clerk) and 8 Parishioners

1. **Matters raised by parish residents:** All were welcomed to the meeting. Highways issue raised by a parish resident to be discussed under item 8 below.

2. **Apologies:** None received

3. **Declarations of interest:** None. Cllr Lippiatt stepped out during item 9d below.

4. **Minutes:** The minutes of the ordinary meeting on 6th July 2026 was approved and signed.

5. **Actions from previous meetings:** a) Regarding the hedge at Mead Cottage, Cllr Burns has written a letter to the resident, the resident has agreed in principle but would like to meet next week. There is a need to establish who will be responsible for maintenance. **Action remains: Cllr Burns to continue to liaise with relevant parishioners regarding the hedge next to Mead Cottage, the Parish Council will source hedging and arrange volunteers to plant the hedge in the Autumn.** b) Landowner has given for permission for ditch to be cleared. **Action: Cllr Lippiatt to clear the ditch at the bend on Priston Lane and at the double dipper.** c) SLOW signs are now visible on Watery Lane. **Action: Cllr Burns to contact 'Fix My Street' for painted 20mph roundels for Watery Lane.** d) One Emergency Provision Checklist per residence has been circulated where possible. e) Clerk has contacted B&NES Highways regarding speed pillows and was informed that there is not deemed to be a need, as there is no known speeding issue. Conducting a speeding survey was discussed, however it was felt that there is not room in the budget for this. Speeding should be reported to the Police. f) Action cancelled due to current feeling regarding these issues in the village. g) A letter was sent regarding parking at the Cricket Club, and the owner felt unable to offer this. h) An EIR has been sent to Wessex Water by the Clerk on behalf of the Parish Council. Cllr R Davies emailed a report to the Parish Council concerning the grey belt. To be discussed under item 9 below. i) Action not taken – not sure if using DofE students is viable after further consideration. To consider a Clear Up Priston day instead. The Clean & Green Team at B&NES can collect rubbish the following day. j) The wall has been repaired. k) Police referred the Parish Council to the Radstock Neighbourhood Policing Team, who advised to catch any aggressive driving in the village using go pro footage and/or by calling the Police. After two calls the Police will act.

6. **Chair's Report:** Cllr Clarke and Cllr R Davies attended the Parish Liaison Meeting where they learnt that a vacancy has arisen within the Standards Committee. Anyone interested can contact the Committee directly. They also learnt that Priston is one of only a few with an emergency plan. TENs (Temporary Event Notices) were discussed, and camping events can be held if a TENs is held. WECA advised that they are unclear on the future of the budget for buses after the current three-year budget. The Chair also reported on a meeting he attended held by a resident regarding the double yellow lines issue. The Chair advised that the Parish Council will be holding a closed meeting after this ordinary meeting to discuss and agree the Parish Council's response to two complaints which

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have been received by the Clerk.

7. **a)** The Clerk has received a formal complaint and an accompanying FOIA request, and a separate complaint. These are being treated separately and confidentially. **b) Financial Report for 1st July 2026 to 1st September 2026:** The Parish Council had £6,911.72 in the bank on 1st September, including £1,122.04 CIL money. The expenditure during this time period was £1,121.07. If we spend in line with our budget, we should carry forward £5,929.22 to next year excluding CIL. The Clerk's pay has risen by 45p an hour for inflation on the NALC scale, which will be back-paid to the start of April, and the previous Clerk is also entitled to back pay, at 53p per hour. This should have no negative impact on the budget. **c)** The insurance renewal is now due. The Parish Council voted to renew the policy with Zurich at £264 for the year, due to other policies costing more. **Action: Clerk to renew insurance with Zurich. d)** The Parish Council voted to move across to the Unity Trust bank account to enable more than one member of the Parish Council to be able to access the bank account. The Unity Trust bank account costs £7 a month, and free options were available with other banks, however Unity Trust is recommended by NALC, and Clerks in other parishes have reported significant issues with other bank accounts. **Action: Clerk to set up a bank account with Unity Trust and move banking across.**

8. **Roads and Highways: a)** The Parish Councils response to the TRO consultation by B&NES was posted on the noticeboard and will be appended to these minutes (see Appendix A). The Parking Survey was not included in the response, but was sent to B&NES later (see Appendix B). (Cllr G Davies arrived at this point). There has been a proposal put forward by the B&NES committee not to proceed with the double yellow lines on the corner of the High Street and Priston Lane due to the level of opposition received during the consultation period – this proposal is currently subject to appeal. The Parish Council decided not to appeal B&NES decision, and agreed to take no further action on this issue at this time. **b)** The Parking Survey results summary was delivered to every house where access was possible. This will be appended to these minutes. **c)** The bridge in Lower Priston has been repaired, debris cleared and verge cleared. The concrete blocks raised at the start of the meeting by a parishioner were discussed. The parishioner was concerned about the impact on the narrowing of the road if these were to be extended. The Parish Council understand that no more bollards will be put in. **d)** It was raised that big holes have appeared at the junction with Marksbury Lane. **Action: Cllr Burns to report the holes at the junction with Marksbury Lane to Fix My Street.**

9. **Planning: a)** See item 5h above. Response due 18th September. **b)** Planning response to 4 Hill View – lawful. Planning response to The Old Byre – approved. **c)** Cllr Lippiatt left the meeting at this point. An appeal has been submitted regarding glamping pods at Pressbarrow Farm. The Parish Council previously supported this application and will reiterate their support to B&NES. **Action: Cllr R Davies to draft a response to the appeal for glamping pods at Pressbarrow Farm for the Parish Council to approve.** Cllr Lippiatt returned to the meeting at this point. **d)** Local Plan – proposal for Farmborough and Clutton new housing numbers has increased. Parish Councils will have an opportunity to comment by 30th October. Parish Council agreed to hold an extraordinary meeting to discuss their response. **Action: Clerk and Chair to arrange an extraordinary meeting of Priston Parish Council to discuss their response to the Draft Local Plan.**

10. **Flooding:** No updates. The repairs to the bridge will help. The brook is full of debris. Holding a Clean Up Priston day could help, or it could be publicised for residents to clear their own drains in the Link.

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Action: Cllr Burns to write an article for the Link regarding cleaning debris from drains to prevent flooding.

11. **To report on the Climate and Ecological Emergency:** The Asian yellow-legged hornet has been seen in Somerset, and sightings should be reported immediately. **Action: Cllr Keppel-Palmer to share details regarding the Asian yellow-legged hornet with parishioners.** Malaria has killed six individuals in Germany. It is important for the PEG to be aware that if someone is bitten by a mosquito and shows symptoms of malaria then action should be taken immediately.

12. **To report on footpaths: a)** See 5a above. **b)** Footpaths are due to be closed between Rockhill and Tunley from 2nd November and 22nd February. Residents have not been informed yet. **Action: Cllr Burns to inform affected residents of the footpath closures between Rockhill and Tunley. c)** Another dog poo bin may be needed near the path by Wood Lodge. It would need to be agreed who would clean it. **Action: Clerk to research cost of another dog poo bin.** Fixing post holding up dog poo bin by bridleway is damaged and bent. **Action: Cllr G Davies to fix the dog poo bin by the bridleway to a wooden post.**

13. **To report on external meetings and agree attendance at future meetings:** Cllr Clarke will attend a meeting regarding the Draft Local Plan in Keynsham on 24th September. Cllr R Davies and the Clerk will attend the Parish Liaison Meeting on 21st October, where the focus will be on the Draft Local Plan.

14. The Parish Council voted to provide a donation to towards the children's presents at the Christmas procession.

15. **AOB:** The Parish Council will need to consider next years' election in the budget for 2027-28.

Date of next Meeting – Monday 9th November 2026 at 7pm in the Village Hall.

Signed: ……Date: ……

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Appendix A: Parish Council response to TRO 26-050

Priston Parish Council Response to TRO-26-050:

1. The Priston Parish council support the creation of a double yellow line at the junction between Priston High St and Priston Lane as detailed in TRO 26-050.

2. The Parish Council considers that the proposal will

- *Increase pedestrian safety for pedestrians negotiating this section of the highway which has no footpath.*
- *Increase safety for vehicles traversing this corner, particularly when proceeding west towards the village green*
- *Increase the safety for emergency vehicles accessing this part of High St*
- *Increase the safety for large and farm vehicles traversing this section of the highway.*

3. The Parish Council has recently conducted a survey of parking spaces in the village and is aware that the proposal will reduce the number of spaces available which is detrimental to residents in the immediate area. Reducing the proposed length of the line to reduce the loss of parking to one space may still satisfy the safety issues outlined above.

4. The Parish Council acknowledges that there is a speed issue on this section of High St, particularly in the downhill easterly direction. We have requested 20mph signage on the roadway and roundels on the telegraph posts along all the village streets, but as yet none has been forthcoming from Banes. We have also requested speed cushions to be introduced on High St, Banes has responded stating that at the present time it would be unlikely to provide these without further justification work.

5. It is generally acknowledged that parked vehicles can be used to deter speeding by other road users. Several parishioners commented about poor visibility exiting Watery Lane/Priston Lane onto the High St on account of the number (and height) of vehicles that park at or near this junction. The Parish Council believe reducing the number of vehicles will outweigh the potential increase in speed as the increased visibility around this specific corner will allow both vehicles and pedestrians to have greater time to respond to any speeding vehicles, giving a significant advantage over the current 'blind' corner created by vehicles parking within 10m of the corner.

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Appendix B: Parking Survey Results

Priston Parking Survey 2026

Priston Parish Council is grateful to all the residents who returned completed the recent Parking Survey forms. The results have been analysed and below is a summary of the findings. These figures and comments provide us with useful information in our discussions with B&NES when resolving parking, highways and traffic issues raised by parishioners.

HEADLINES:

- 60 responses from 84 surveys
- Current number of vehicles 11% up from 3 years ago
- Planned number of vehicles a further 17% up from today in 3 years time

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KEY INSIGHTS:

- Space is very tight in central parts of the village but less so on the edges
- The number of overnight visitors to Priston is the single factor creating most parking stress
- On an average night there are 23 extra (non-resident) vehicles in the village, of which several are parked on the street
- On event days there are up to 86 additional vehicles of which many are parked on the street

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LOCALISED HOTSPOTS:

- Summer Lea suffers from vehicles parked on the pavement causing stress
- The strip from Hill View to the Pub is going to get worse - 33% more vehicles planned within 3 years, a growing number of overnight visitors, and very limited off-street parking
- That strip also suffers from displacement activity from elsewhere in the village as it is seen as a convenient place to park
- The lower part of the High Street suffers from not having a pavement meaning pedestrians are exposed to speeding vehicles (especially between 10pm and 11pm)
- Poor visibility exiting Watery Lane onto the High Street mentioned often

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A WIDE SPECTRUM OF VIEWS:

- Some (not all) expressed some reservations about yellow lines

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• Some thought there should be more parking restrictions and that vehicles should not be permitted to park where there were no pavements

• Several thought that the Village Hall car park would be better used for overflow parking and not for long term vehicle storage

• Many said that if people were running businesses (predominantly Airbnb) that brought more vehicles into the village those people should be obligated to provide parking

• Inconsiderate parking at the Pub makes it impossible for some people to access their driveways, meaning even more vehicles are on the street

• Some off-street parking is not used in the winter (as it gets too muddy)

• Several people said that their garages/driveways had been designed for a time when cars where narrower - many garages in the village are now unusable

• Parking on the street nearer home was seen as “more convenient” than parking further away (e.g. in the Village Hall)

• Only two people thought they might be able to create parking space on their property RESPONSES TO THE SAFETY ISSUES AT CORNER OF WATERY LANE PRISTON HIGH ST

• 8 responses came from residents living along Watery Lane • Of those 8, 3 expressed concerns over the turning and/or space specifically:

- visitors to the village are often parked by the disabled bay
- accessing the high street from Priston Lane is often hard owing to the size and number of cars and vans parked close to the junction

• Out of the total survey response of 60 people, 3 people expressed a wish not to have any yellow lines citing a desire to maintain the rural nature of the village

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CONCLUSIONS:

• there is not enough parking in the village centre given the demand

• the influx of Airbnb type services (likely to go up) is the primary driver of parking stress

• inconsiderate displacement parking is especially problematic in the central areas

• safety and visibility at the corner of Watery Lane/High St is an issue that cannot go unresolved

• Speeding and traffic in general is a concern which needs to be address in addition to parking.

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