

2022 Priston Annual Parish Meeting

In the Village Hall

March 19th 2022

Minutes

1. Apologies

B&NES councillors Neil Butters and Matt McCabe, councillor Robert Davies

2. Previous Minutes 29 March 2021 – Accepted as a true record

3. Matters Arising – None

4. Chair's Report

Parish Council - The Council has remained the same, and meetings have continued thanks mainly to Zoom.

Queen's Platinum Jubilee – Planning is well underway for celebrations in the Village in June, with our beacon being lit on Thursday evening, a 50s dinner in the Hall on Friday, and on Sunday a “street party” and silly games on the cricket field.

Planning – Church Farm. A revised application to build 2 detached houses on the site of the barns was objected to for a number of reasons, including being outside the Housing Development Boundary and not following the Priston Village Design Statement. At the recent B&NES Planning Committee meeting they agreed to have a site visit.

New Farm on Marksbury Lane. An application for a dog training facility was supported by the Parish Council, but has been refused.

The Roost (Bramble Barn). An application to extend the curtilage was supported by the Parish Council, and has been approved.

COVID – The Coronavirus Action Team – Priston, or CAT-P, has continued to give advice and support to our vulnerable villagers during the year, and Aylet Anderson introduced our Village Loop during periods of lockdown to give more instantaneous news than the Link.

Climate Emergency – Penny Rogers and her team have continued to lead our response to the climate and ecological emergency. The 2021 Climate Forum was held in the Village Hall in October, attended by over 70, and judged a great success, particularly the enthusiasm of our young people. Tree planting is proceeding apace, with 900 planted at Village Farm, Aylet has started “Lose it or Like it” to aid re-use in the village, and we even had Biodiversity Bingo! The talk by Gregor Heating after this meeting is in support of this endeavour.

Highways and footpaths – There were road surface improvements on Priston Hill and also on Farmborough Lane. The Fix-my-Street app continues to be a very effective way to get potholes etc. fixed, and parishioners are encouraged to use it. A new improved horse gate has been installed by the cricket field, and the change to the footpath past the sewage works requested by the landowner is about to become law. The continuing repairs to fingerposts led by Penny Rogers have been funded by the Parish Council and other council grants.

Flooding – A major flood in Watery Lane was caused by a large plastic toy; this and a serious collapse of the pipe have been repaired by B&NES Highways division. The trash screen at the start of the culvert has not yet been installed.

PEG — The Priston Emergency Group or PEG WhatsApp group – designed to alert villagers to a local emergency - now has over 70 members. Remember this is not just for you to help others in distress, but is also there for you to call for help.

Defibrillators – Many thanks to John Wilkinson, for having led the way to bring defibrillators to our Parish; we now have four, one in Wilmington. And to Roger Morrad who has kindly taken over his role as administrator.

Priston Cricket Field – The sale of the field took place without needing support from the PC, and I am delighted to say that the cricket club are able to continue to use it.

Priston Website - Once again thanks to Richard Bottle for maintaining the website.

Thanks - Finally thank you to our Parish Clerk Jocelyn Nichols, and all of our Councillors for their good work and support over the past year, and to all our villagers for their selfless support to neighbours.

5. **Parish Council Financial Report**

The current account balance stands at £9,177. The year end is 31st March, so with some outstanding invoices to be paid, we will finish the year with at least £6,350 in the bank. The precept has been authorised as £7,102 for the coming year. Notable items of expenditure in the last year have included fingerpost refurbishment. With our normal running costs we have spent £4,789 so far this year.

6. **Matters Raised by Residents**

Peter Brooks, who worked in housing association property maintenance, and Guy Davies, an architect, have experience of renewable heating systems and improvements to design, and are happy to visit village houses to provide free and impartial advice and expertise. Please contact Penny Rogers for their email addresses.

The bog by Sue and Steve's wood is very wet and slippery. It was suggested that Sammy Burt has spare hardcore, maybe this could be used to fill in the bog. **Action: Maggie will ask the Jones family for permission to try this.**

PEG (Priston Emergency Group) provides a very useful service, and uses 'what3words' to locate accidents. Over 70 villagers are members of the whatsapp group which can be contacted if you have an accident or emergency. All are encouraged to join by contacting Richard Bottle with your mobile number.

Fix my street is useful for reporting drainage problems as well as when trees have fallen into roads.

Go Green with Gregor

Villagers were then given a presentation by Paul Matthews - Renewable Manager, Ross Humphries – Senior Technical Engineer, and Tom Hancock – Renewable Electrician from Gregor about renewable technology and systems they can provide. The UK government have pledged that we will be net zero by 2050, and from 2025 new properties will not be allowed to install gas boilers.

Solar Photovoltaics (PV) are worth fitting if you are home all day, and excess power can be diverted to your hot water tank. They can be on roof or in roof. Retrofitting is likely to be on roof. Planning permission will be needed for listed buildings.

Smart EV Chargers can be fitted to take surplus power when it's cheaper and use it later.

Battery Storage can backup energy storage systems (BESS). They cost £4,500 and save £300- £400 a year, but savings will double with the increased cost of energy. They can be retrofitted and are useful during power cuts as 2.5 kw can be used.

Solar PV diverters can redirect extra solar power to the immersion heater for hot water.

Solar Thermal is not so common now, but small areas could benefit by reducing hot water costs.

Sunamp heat battery can heat 210 litres to 60 degrees.

Heat Pumps can be Air to Air (which can cool as well as heat), Air to Water or Ground Source. Most will install Air to Water pumps. They absorb the ambient air temperature, turning it from liquid to gas, then a compressor heats it and an exchanger absorbs the heat.

Gregor have installed an air source heat pump for Andy Love, and are in the process of installing one for Doug.

JN 19/3/22

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