

2023 Priston Annual Parish Meeting Priston Village Hall

18th March 2023

Minutes

Present: Chantal Young (village agent) and approximately 15 villagers

1. Apologies

Fiona Hassard, Dr Vicky Coles, John Lippiatt, Jocelyn Nichols, Bruce Clarke

2. **Previous Minutes 19th March 2022** - Proposed by Peter Hopwood, seconded by Clare Cross that they be accepted as a true record.

3. **Matters Arising** – the matter of the bog by Sue and Steve’s wood has been dealt with.

4. Chair’s Report

Parish Council - The Council has remained the same, and meetings have been able to continue without resort to Zoom.

Queen’s Platinum Jubilee – Celebrations in the Village with our beacon being lit, a 1950s-themed dinner in the Hall, a “street party” and silly games on the cricket field were most enjoyable and were supported financially by the Parish Council.

King’s Coronation – Again, the Parish Council will be supporting village celebrations.

Planning – Church Farm. The revised application to build 2 detached houses on the site of the barns was approved by B&NES.

Mill Cottage an application to extend the cottage was supported by the Parish Council and has been approved.

1 Wilmington an application for a garage conversion and extension was supported by the Parish Council and has now been approved.

New Farm on Marksbury Lane. An application for the erection of a farm building was supported and has been approved. A revised application for a dog training facility was supported and has now been approved.

Climate Emergency – Penny Rogers and her team have continued to lead our response to the climate and ecological emergency. Tree planting is proceeding apace, with 1000 whips planted this year at Church Farm and Village Farm. “Lose it or Like it” is proving popular in the village. A talk was given by Bath & West Community Energy on local electricity generation.

Highways and footpaths – A major re-surfacing of Farmborough Lane from Holt House to the Dairy was carried out in the summer. The Fix-my-Street app continues to be a very effective way to get potholes etc. fixed, and parishioners are encouraged to use it. Using CIL money (Community Infrastructure Levy – paid by developers in the Parish) a small gritter to be towed behind a quadbike is expected to be delivered soon. This will be used to grit parts of the village not covered by B&NES – details to follow.

Flooding – Watery Lane flooded once again in January.

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 Roger Morrad who has kindly taken over the role as administrator, made more difficult this year by difficulties in the supply of spares.

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

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

Proposed by Viv Perriton and seconded by Enid Lang, the report was accepted nem con.

4. Parish Council Financial Report

The current account balance stands at £10,405. The year end is 31st March, so with some outstanding invoices to be paid, we will finish the year with approximately £9,730 in the bank. The precept has been authorised as £7,457 for the coming year. Notable items of expenditure in the last year have included fingerpost refurbishment and purchase of a gritter. We have received £5,073 Community Infrastructure Levy for the current building at the Piggeries, Potters, which is included in the above carry forward. This should be spent on purchases to benefit the community.

Proposed by Peter Hopwood and seconded by Clare Cross the report was accepted nem con.

5. Matters Raised by the Residents

Niels Cross raised the matter of the local bus service. Robert Davies explained that he attended a WECA meeting and that our bus will probably cease on 3rd April. In its place residents will be able, via an App or phone, request a bus which will take them to the nearest regular bus service. It should arrive within an hour. This will be a trial for 2 years but the general opinion was that it would not work.

We do not know whether we will still get the B&NES gritter if there is no longer a bus route in the village.

Chantal Young, who is a Village Agent, explained her role in WERN to provide support to residents in rural areas. This might include help with transport, equipment in homes, benefits and basic networking with appropriate organisations. She works 10 hours a week and her contact details are on the Priston Web. Her service is confidential and free.

Coronation Day – the plan for the Coronation was explained:

Village café with Coronation ceremony on screen, games on the cricket field and party in Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 12.30pm

Niels Cross gave a very interesting and informative talk on the construction of the Millenium Dome.

GP 19.3.2023