

2026 Priston Annual Parish Meeting Priston Village Hall

14th March 2026

Minutes

Present: Bruce Clarke, Guy Davies, Nick Keppel-Palmer, Helen Burns, Fiona Gourley (B&NES Ward Councillor), Jocelyn Nichols (clerk), and 18 villagers

1. **Apologies**
John Lippiatt, Robert Davies, Peter Hopwood.
2. **Previous Minutes 15th March 2025** – accepted and signed as a true record
3. **Matters Arising** – none
4. **Chair's Report** The Chair welcomed Fiona, and introduced all Councillors to the parishioners.

The Chair thanked all for coming to the meeting. All are also welcome to attend any or all the Ordinary or Extraordinary meetings we hold throughout the year. It's been a pleasure to serve as Chair for a second year, and he thanked all those villagers who volunteer for different village activities in order to make this such a great place to live:

PAGE for all the work they do on environmental issues

Our Flood Warden who also manages the Link and Loop

The Education Trust

The Village Hall Committee

The Saturday Cafe

The Church and the bellringers

The Festival organisers

The Cricket Club

The Book Club

The Gardening Club

The Priston Emergency Group including Defibrillators and first aid training

And all the other groups who make it a pleasure to live in Priston

- Our auditor, Patrick Dawson, conducted a thorough audit of our accounts and procedures, and having previously suggested that our admin costs were taking almost the total precept, and we need to build in about 6 months carry forward to be secure, was impressed that we had made savings, and we have again asked this year for a

12% increase to our precept. He suggested that we monitor our Community Infrastructure Levy money separately, which we now do.

- Robert Davies was welcomed back to the Council . Thanks to all the Councillors for all their work.
- We purchased a dog mess bin which has been placed by the cricket field, with a grant from the Ward Councillors. Grateful thanks for this grant. Thanks also to Guy who regularly empties the bin. We hope to add one or two more bins in the next year.
- We have installed a key box by the village hall for emergency use.
- Thanks to Sue Griffiths and Helen for footpath maintenance in particular by trimming back the green tunnel by Wood lodge.
- We 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.
- We replaced defibrillator pads and purchased a new case for the Wilmington defibrillator and continue to maintain the defibrillators. Bleed kits are installed in each defibrillator box, and we are investigating installing separate red boxes for these kits..
- We arranged a First Aid training course, and plan to offer more.
- We are investigating making the junction at Priston Lane /High Street safer.
- Thanks and congratulations were expressed to Steve Lawton for a very successful remembrance day.
- A generous parishioner is organising a Portland stone plaque to commemorate the 4 Priston soldiers who died in the 1st World War, and we hope to see this installed in the next week. There will be a dedication at noon on Saturday 21 March, all are welcome.
- We have responded to the B&NES Local Plan Consultation and the Movement Strategy plus Somer valley enterprise zone and other developments in the area.
- Richard Bottle has been working with the Chair and Clerk on the new AGAR assertion 10 and is checking our website conforms to the new accessibility statement. He is also ensuring all the PDF documents on our website have Optical Character Recognition applied so that text can be read aloud by Acrobat Reader if required. Our statement says that the clerk can be contacted by those who need documents in a different format. Our Privacy Policy has been updated.
- Thanks to the Cricket Club for entertaining us and removing the fallen tree on the adjacent path.
- Planning applications we have considered include:
 1. Dog Agility lighting at New Farm
 2. Tunley proposal for ribbon development
 3. Glamping Pods

- 4. 120 houses pre planning in Timsbury
 - 5. Change of use at Old Byre
 - 6. 2 Hill View
- Thank you to Richard Bottle for maintaining and updating our website, and all his IT assistance.
 - Thanks also to the clerk for managing our administration. She is retiring shortly so anyone who is interested in taking up this rewarding position can contact Bruce or Jocelyn.

Reports from Village Groups –

THE VILLAGE LOOP

Over 800 messages have gone out since its start during Covid. It does seem a useful service in keeping Priston up-to-date with events like power cuts, flooded road etc.

Aylet now holds contact details for almost every house in the village itself, Priston Mill and The Woodlands. An update is awaited on who currently lives in the Mill cottages.

THE LINK

The Link is now 49 years old. Since Covid, when it went digital, it has few costs, and we reckon we have probably 4 more years of being able to keep it as a free publication before we run out of funds.

FLOOD LIAISON

Despite the wet winter, there have been no reports of flooded houses. The lanes have continued to be a problem; due to the terrain there is little that can be done to avoid flash flooding (which, however, quickly subsides).

The main problem is motorists' attitude, and nothing can be done about that. The Lippiatts report time after time on people getting stuck in floodwater at The Dairy; drivers who actually remove or circumnavigate around the "Flood" signs and bollards that are put out there to stop them, drive into the water, and then are stranded. We believe the record stands at 4 cars in one morning.

We are concerned that people may do the same at the Conygre Dip (The Dipper), where the power of the Conygre pouring over the road could easily wash a broken-down car up against the downstream railings or, even worse, through the railings into the brook itself beneath. The motoring organisations say that 4 inches of fast running water is enough to 'float' a car.

- | 5. Parish | Council | Financial | Report |
|---|----------------|------------------|---------------|
| <p>The year end is 31st March, and with some outstanding invoices to be paid, we should finish the year with £4,888 carry forward and £1,310 Community Infrastructure Levy money in the bank. This is over six months budgeted running costs, as the auditor</p> | | | |

requested.

6. Matters Raised by the Residents

A parishioner thanked all the Councillors for their work over the year.

A parishioner mentioned the many potholes on our roads. All were encouraged to use 'Fix My Street' to report any potholes.

We have been trying to get 20mph roundels replaced and have now sent photos from google earth showing SLOW and 20mph painted on the roads from 2001 to prove that they were there. We have also reported the missing Village sign at the top of Mill Lane. Matt and Fiona will chase the progress of our 20mph roundels with Highways. Some parishes have installed their own signs on wide verges which discourage speeding, but we are not allowed to install our own signs on public highways.

7. Parking Survey

There is more pressure than ever on vehicles parking in the village. In 2011 there were 125 cars, in 2021 there were 155. The average age of our population has reduced, and there are more teenagers living at home. B&NES has the fastest growing number of 3 car families in the country. We wish to resolve the parking issue as a village, and in order to do so, the first stage is to issue a parking survey next week. Councillors will deliver the surveys, then come to collect a week later. We hope to analyse the surveys in time to discuss the results at our May meeting. The results will also be shared on the website.

8. Emergency checklist

Helen summarised our progress since last year's meeting. We have held first aid training, and are looking to make PEG a smarter communicating tool. Our grit spreader is available to help vulnerable people in the event of freezing weather. Peter, Helen and John Cameron attended B&NES resilience training, and made some useful contacts. We are looking for a new emergency co-ordinator to replace John, can anyone suggest someone?

Fiona praised the Priston Resilience plan and progress.

9. Any other business

Fiona thanked the Parish Councillors and the Clerk for all they do, and said it's a fantastic way to get involved in our thriving community. All parishioners clapped their thanks also.

Helen thanked Fiona and Matt for their support and sage advice to the council.

..... :Signed:Date