

Notes from the 2018 Annual Parish Meeting

11.00 am on Saturday 19th March

Priston Village Hall

The meeting was well-attended by approximately 35 residents of the parish. Richard Bottle, Penny Rogers and Cllrs Fiona Hassard and Claire Lawton sent apologies. The minutes of the 2017 Annual Parish Meeting were approved and a number of presentations were given.

Chair's Report

Parish Council - The Council has remained the same as last year.

Village Design Statement - BANES has confirmed that our VDS has the status of a 'material consideration' in planning matters, and after a number of additions concerning the historic background to the village, is being considered for adoption as a Supplementary Planning Document (SPD), which should increase its authority.

Finance - There has been a slight increase in the Precept this year to allow for inflation. A grant of £350 was obtained to fund a new Parish Council laptop, and a grant of £250 received from BANES Community Empowerment Fund has been donated to the Village Hall to contribute towards a hearing loop. The Parish Council matched this funding and donated a further £250.

Planning - Walnut Tree Hill. A considerable amount of Parish Council time has been spent concerning the areas where planning permission has not been followed. Despite considerable objections from the Parish Council and villagers the shipping container has this week been approved. The outcome for the wall is expected soon.

The Milking Parlour, Church Farm Lane, Priston. With Support from the Parish Council, approval has been given for a new home to be built.

Bramble Barn, the Parish Council supported the application to turn a garage into living accommodation.

Trout Cottage, 9 High Street, Priston. Despite support from the Parish Council approval has not been given for a larger garage.

Village farm. A request for prior approval for a change of use agricultural building to a dwelling house at was also supported. This has now been approved.

Mead Cottage. An application to remove the agricultural tie on the building was supported by the Parish Council, but was not approved by BANES.

Highways and footpaths – The larger pipes to lead flood water away across the fields from the road at the Milking Parlour were installed by John Lippiatt and the Bendalls in the autumn, and although flooding still occurred during heavy rain, the new pipe has been successful in reducing flooding far more rapidly than in the past. John Lippiatt and Highways will work together to resurface the road when the weather improves. BANES have installed a new large pipe alongside the Village Hall, which has greatly reduced the water flowing in front of the VH. The grit bins were well used during the snow.

Children's Play Area – There has been no success in finding a suitable site.

Phone Box – The phone box is now owned by the Parish Council, and repairs to the door are planned when the weather improves.

Defibrillator - a successful training session for 21 people was arranged in October, and many thanks to John Wilkinson for his continuing support to this project.

Priston Website - Once again thanks to Richard Bottle for his sterling efforts on our behalf.

Thanks - Finally thank you to our Parish Clerk Louise Callan, and all of our Councillors for their good work and support over the past year.

Doug Pattison, Chairman, Priston Parish Council

PARISH COUNCIL FINANCIAL/CLERK'S REPORT

The current account balance stands at £7,783. The year end is 31st March, so with some outstanding invoices to be paid, we will finish the year with around £7,300 in the bank. The precept has been increased to £6,200. Expenditure in the last year was approx. £5,150. It has been agreed to set aside £1,000 to dig ditches where flooding might be occurring and BANES are suggesting that it will be a long wait for them to do anything about it. Almost all Parish Council transactions are now electronic which has made things much more efficient. The roads coming into Priston have all recently been inspected by the BANES highways inspector and we have been assured that all the potholes are on a list to be fixed.

BANES are planning to introduce a new app (Fix my Street) to report issues such as potholes or fly tipping. It is not yet in use, but looks useful in terms of being able to pinpoint where the problem is on a map, add photos etc.

Louise Callan, Parish Clerk

VILLAGE HALL

The Hall continues to be well used and now has superfast broadband provided at no charge by Truespeed. Progress has been made towards the proposed hall renovations. A list of substantial Improvements has now been put together including: re-sanding and sealing the floor, improving the ladies toilet, insulating walls and ceiling in the toilet area, replacing flooring in the kitchen and toilets, installing a loft hatch and ladder in the corridor to toilets and providing some sort of cladding on the wall between kitchen and main hall. Grant applications will be made and there will be a fundraising drive to achieve these improvements.

Gail Pattison, Chair, Village Hall Management Committee

LOCAL ORGANISATIONS - REPORTS

Priston has many active voluntary organisations as well as some commercial sports activities in the village hall.

1. Bellringers

The bell ringers continue to ring each week at the Parish Church. Practices take place on Tuesdays and anyone is welcome to come along and watch or to find out more about it. This year 1,400 new bell ringers are being sought throughout the country to replace those lost in World War 1. There will be bell ringing taking place on 11th November to commemorate the 100 year anniversary of the end of the war.

Jill Wilkinson, Captain

2. Cricket Club

The cricket club continues to attract good support from the village. A family fun day will take place on 5th August.

Paul Barclay

3. Festival

The Festival is celebrating its 11th year this year and the organisers are very grateful to all those who volunteer to make it a success. The committee has seen some changes in the past year. It is not planned to increase the size of the festival. The Festival has set up an Easyfundraising page and would like everyone to sign up to raise money while doing online shopping.

Owain Jones

4. Gardening Club

This club meets once a month on Tuesday afternoons at 2.30 pm to talk about gardens. Around 10 people attend and after a cup of tea and a good chat there is much discussion about gardens and gardening

techniques. The members have varying expertise from complete beginners to seasoned experts. Everyone is welcome and it is a very informative and relaxed event.

Michele Cameron

5. Defibrillators

The two village defibrillators continue to be maintained on a regular basis and are in full working order. A training session was held in October 2107 and 27 people have now undergone the training. The devices are easy to use and anyone without the training would still be able to make use of them. This session will be repeated in October 2018.

John Wilkinson

6. Saturday Café

It's been another successful year. We have a stalwart team of volunteers and have been helped recently by Rev Martin's son Leo who is working towards his Duke of Edinburgh award. We are still making a tidy profit each week resulting in the following donations having been made last year: £500 to Sanitation First: £500 to RNLI: £500 to British Red Cross. Thank you to all our customers and volunteers.

Sue Copperman

7. Flood Liaison Contact

Aylet continues to volunteer as our flood liaison person. Please contact her by email or phone if you see any localised flooding.

Aylet Anderson

8. The Link

The Link has had another successful year.

Aylet Anderson

9. The Website

The Priston Web is operated on behalf of the Parish Council by Richard Bottle. The Parish Council owns the priston.org.uk domain, and pays hosting and domain charges, which amount to just 12p per year per resident.

The Priston Web normally has between 150 and 200 repeat visitors each month, who on average make about 4 visits per month. This supports the view that it is a helpful means of communication for the village. 40% of visits to the website over the last year were by mobile, 39% via desk top computer, and 21% via tablet. The web-site is an important means by which the Parish Council communicates with the village – all Council agendas and minutes and significant documents are published on the website. The Priston Web provides a web-presence for the majority of village organisations in addition to the Parish Council, including the Village Hall, Ring O'Bells pub, Church, Cricket Club, The Link, PAGE, Saturday Café, and Festival. If anyone would like their organisation/initiative represented please get in touch. The website also contains over 3,000 photos of Priston and Priston life, taken over the 16 years that the website has been in existence. Photos from villagers are always welcome. The Calendar is always kept up to date and so is a helpful reference to organisations when planning events. The Priston Web works closely with The Link. The two channels complement each other well, with the Link well-suited to ephemeral material while the Web can retain lengthy material indefinitely, and present images more easily. There are also Quick Links on the home page to information on: local Planning Applications, Weather, Rainfall radar, dates of Refuse Collections and Mobile library visits, Church Newsletter, Footpaths, and Bus timetables, and to the Report It form for reporting of problems to B&NES. If people would like other Quick Links, then suggestions are welcome. A web-page has been set up to enable anyone (even those not signed up to Facebook) to access the Facebook site for Priston set up by Louise Callan. It is hoped more time will be available in the coming year for implementing further improvements in the format and content of the website. Thanks to everyone who has contributed items/photos etc to the Priston Web. Please do continue to do so, to keep the website alive and relevant.

Richard Bottle

10. Sports Activities in the Village Hall

Pilates takes place once a week on Tuesday evenings (run by an external teacher). Circuit training is also available on Monday evenings. This is run by those who take part and is an informal, low cost and fun way to keep fit without having to drive anywhere. Tai Chi is also available in the village hall once a week.