

**The following are the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of Priston Parish Council which was held on Monday 17 May 2004 in the Village Hall Priston. These have not yet been approved by Councillors as an accurate record of proceedings.**

Councillor Hughes presided, Councillors Bowyer, Cross, Nokes and Whybrow and the Parish Clerk were present. The Chairman welcomed Mrs Anderson, Mr and Mrs Broomfield, Miss M Nokes and District Councillor Mrs Todd.

1. **Apologies** received from Councillors Geake and Lippiatt.
2. **The minutes of the Annual General Meeting** held on 12 May 2003 were read, confirmed as an accurate record of the proceedings and signed by the Chairman.
3. **Matters Arising** - Noted that the drain at Church Farm continues to work under normal conditions.
4. **Chairman's Report:** Commencing his report Councillor Hughes expressed his sadness at the death of Jim Hopwood on 15 May 2003. Mr Hopwood had been Vice-Chairman and a Parish Councillor for many years and was missed by the Parish Council and the village. The Parish Council had been very pleased to welcome Mr Martin Geake to fill the vacancy. Mrs Clare Cross and Mr John Whybrow had been co-opted to replace Mr Jones and Mr Perriton. The Parish Council was very grateful to Mr Whybrow for volunteering to act as Footpath Representative.  
**Village Green** - It had been agreed that a seat be erected around the tree in memory of Jim Nokes and Charlie Fry. Mr Putnam, the manager of the Ring O'Bells had volunteered to maintain the grass on the village green. It was also noted that tarmac had been placed around the well which it was hoped would overcome the problem of stones being inserted into the drinking fountain.  
**Land at:** (i) **Hill Farm** - The Parish Council had received notification that the appeal had been upheld; (ii) **Tunley** - The appeal for a stable block on land at Tunley had been dismissed but the field shelters would remain; (iii) **The Batch** - The owner had refused permission for a conservation order.  
**Mill Lane** - Open-topped buses had been using the lane in conjunction with weddings at the Parish Church. The Chairman had spoken to Mr Hopwood who confirmed that he did all he could to dissuade coach operators from using this lane. The Highways Department had been contacted about signage but they had not been helpful.  
**Overhead cables** - Western Power and British Telecom had been contacted regarding the overhead cables in the area around the church. The cost of laying these underground would have to be borne by the Parish Council. We are, of course, not in a position to cover this cost.  
The **Priston Website** has gone from strength to strength and is most informative. Thanks extended to Mr Bottle for all his work on this venture.  
The Clerk had been in contact with the RAF Police regarding low-flying **Chinook Helicopters**. They had carried out investigations and confirmed that they have the permission of the land-owner.  
The **Draft Local Plan** had been received and noted that no notice had been taken of the Parish Council's objections, which still stand.  
The last and previous years' **Three Requests** were still on file at Bath and North East Somerset Council. The Parish Council had been told that they may be considered for inclusion in the 2004/05 programme.

**Old Skittle Alley Site** - The Chairman reported that this matter had taken up a considerable amount of his time, together with the Vice-Chairman and Clerk and was currently in the hands of the local Government Ombudsman for investigation. It has been admitted by Planning Services that they should have followed certain planning procedures which they, it seems, did not. A response to our letters to them of 16 and 27 March have only been received today.

As a consequence of the actions, or non-action, of Bath and North East Somerset officers over this issue, Councillor Briony Seymour resigned. The Parish Council was very sorry to lose such a competent and helpful councillor. An election was subsequently called for and Mr John Lippiatt had been duly elected.

Concluding his report Councillor Hughes thanked all Councillors for their help and support during the year and extended particular thanks to District Councillor Rosemary Todd for her support and attendance at meetings during they year. Councillor Todd had advised that she had a different role in the cabinet to the previous year and was now responsible for environment and sustainability issues.

The Chairman continued by thanking Councillor Bowyer whose help had been much appreciated, Councillor Whybrow for his work on footpaths and to the Clerk, Mrs Hunt, for her contribution to the Parish Council. Finally the Chairman thanked certain members of the village who had kept him on his toes in the last year!

5. **Financial Report** - The Clerk presented accounts for the year ended 31 March 2004 copies of which were distributed to all present. Noted an end of year balance at the bank of £286.20. The formal adoption of this report was proposed by Councillor Nokes, seconded Councillor Bowyer and agreed. Mrs Hunt was again thanked for the efficient manner in which the accounts were presented.
6. **Election of Chairman** - At this point in the meeting the Chair was taken by the Clerk who requested nominations for the Office of Chairman. One nomination was received and Councillor Hughes was formally proposed as Chairman by Councillor Bowyer, seconded Councillor Nokes and agreed.
7. **Election of Vice Chairman** - Councillor Hughes proposed Councillor Bowyer, seconded Councillor Cross and agreed. Mrs Bowyer accepted this Office with thanks.
8. **Appointment of Clerk** - Councillor Nokes proposed and Councillor Cross seconded that Mrs Hunt be reappointed.
9. **Appointment of Footpath Representative** - Councillor Cross proposed and Councillor Bowyer seconded that Mr Whybrow be reappointed for the coming year.
10. **Appointment of Village Hall Representative** - Councillor Whybrow was asked if he would be prepared to undertake this duty for the coming year and on his affirmation was formally proposed by Councillor Hughes and seconded Councillor Cross.
11. **Signing of Cheques** - Councillors were in unanimous agreement that the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Clerk should continue as signatories on behalf of the Parish Council.
12. There being no further business for discussion at the Annual General Meeting, Mr Hughes again thanked Councillors for their support in the preceding year and declared the meeting closed at 7.40pm.