

The following are the DRAFT Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of Priston Parish Council which was held on Monday 16 May 2005 in the Village Hall Priston. These have not yet been approved, by the Parish Councillors, as an accurate record of proceedings.

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

- 1. Apologies** received from Councillor Geake.
- 2. The minutes of the Annual General Meeting** held on 17 May 2004 were read, confirmed as an accurate record of the proceedings and signed by the Chairman. Agreed there were no matters arising.
- 3. Chairman's Report** - Commencing his annual report, Councillor Hughes reminded the meeting that, prior to the last Annual General Meeting, a bench around the tree on the village green and paid for by villagers in memory of Jim Nokes and Charlie Fry had been formally handed into the keeping of the Parish Council.
Planning Decisions: New ways in which planning decisions can be made quicker had been implemented by B&NES following a directive from the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister. This came into operation on 1 June 2004 and is being closely monitored by all parish councils.
Roads: Remedial work still needs to be done on Wood Hill and the Parish Council has also been pressing to have Priston Hill swept, as and when required, by the mechanical sweeper. As in all areas, the state of the roads in the parish continue to deteriorate.
Street Names: The Council received from B&NES a map of the village giving what were considered to be existing street names. This was amended as appropriate and returned.
Parish Archives: A list of archives held by Councillor Hughes had been circulated to councillors.
Parish Computer: Progress on acquiring a computer from B&NES is still continuing.
Clerk's Salary: It was the decision of the Council that, with the extra workload undertaken by the Clerk, her salary be increased in line with the national minimum wage which is still lower than the recommended rate.
Contract of Employment: A Contract of Employment for the Clerk has been compiled by the Internal Auditor.
Common Land: On investigation it was found that the Parish does not hold any common land as previously thought.
Emergency Plans: We now have in place a customised Emergency Guidance Plan for the parish. Several villagers and farmers have agreed to act as Community Emergency Advisors. Copies of the plan are held by B&NES Council Emergency Services, the Parish Council and within the parish.
Footpaths and Bridleways: Two new kissing gates have been installed and the bridge over the brook near Priston Mill is to be replaced during this current year.
Inter-Village Quiz: Priston's Team in the Wansdyke Inter-Village Quiz were congratulated for achieving second place this year. The prize of £50 was shared between the Church Council and the Village Hall.
Priston Website: The Parish Council express their grateful thanks to Richard Bottle for all his work on the Priston Website.
Concluding his report Councillor Hughes advised that, after serving as Chairman for 14 years, he had decided not to stand for re-election at this year's Annual General Meeting. He expressed sincere thanks to past Councillors, District Councillors, Vice Chairmen and Clerk for their help and support, especially when he was first elected and finally extended grateful thanks to the present Councillors, the Vice Chairman, District Councillor and especially to the present Clerk.
Councillor Hughes concluded by commenting that he had enjoyed his time as Chairman and hoped his successor would do so as well.
- 4. Financial Report** - The Clerk presented accounts for the year ended 31 March 2005 copies of which were distributed to all present. Noted an end of year balance at the bank of £480.10 with cash in hand of £4.94. 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.

5. **Election of Chairman** - Councillor Hughes proposed Councillor Christine Bowyer as Priston's first lady chairman, seconded Councillor Cross. As there were no other nominations for this office Councillor Bowyer accepted with thanks and formally took the chair for the remainder of the meeting. Declaration of Acceptance of Office would be signed.
6. **Election of Vice-Chairman** - Councillor Bowyer proposed Councillor Hughes to this office commenting that she felt sure she would need his advice and support in the coming year. Seconded Councillor Whybrow and agreed.
7. **Appointment of Clerk** - Councillor Bowyer proposed and Councillor Hughes seconded that Mrs Hunt be reappointed.
8. **Appointment of Footpath Representative** - Councillor Bowyer proposed and Councillor Nokes seconded that Councillor Whybrow be reappointed for the coming year.
9. **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.
10. **Signing of Cheques** - Councillors were in unanimous agreement that the Chairman and Vice-Chairman should continue as signatories on behalf of the Parish Council. It was not felt necessary for there to be a third signatory as had been recommended by the Internal Auditor. Noted that parish clerks are no longer permitted to act as signatories.

There being no further business for discussion at the Annual General Meeting, Councillor Bowyer looked forward to the support of her fellow Councillors in the coming year and declared the meeting closed at 7.25pm.