

The following are the DRAFT minutes of an ordinary meeting of Priston Parish Council held on Monday 6 February 2006. These have not yet been confirmed as an accurate record of proceedings. Date of next meeting – 3 April 2006.

Councillor Bowyer presided, Councillors Cross, Geake, Hughes, Whybrow and Parish Clerk were present. The Chairman welcomed District Councillor Mrs Rosemary Todd.

1. **Apologies** received from Councillors Lippiatt and Nokes.
2. **The Minutes of the meeting** held on 5 December 2005 were read, confirmed as an accurate record of proceedings and signed by the Chairman.
3. **Matters Arising:**
 - Telephone Box** – The Clerk advised she had received a telephone message that the box was to be inspected.
 - Priston Hill** – Reported that the meeting with the Highways Manager had been quite successful and reports submitted by Councillor Mrs Todd and Mrs Anderson. Work to be carried out in one month. Councillor Bowyer reported she had recently spoken to a member of the Gardiner family regarding our efforts to keep this road swept by B&NES. Agreed the Clerk write to Mr Gardiner to thank him for cleaning the mud from the road after work in the fields.
 - Marksbury Road** – Large potholes had recently been repaired. Councillor Todd advised that holes 10cm deep and 30cm diameter are repaired on a 24-hour notice.
 - Drain adjacent to Church Farm entrance** – Commented that serious work was needed to remedy the problem with this drain and would be assessed in line with other jobs.
 - Woodlands Lane** – Councillors Bowyer and Hughes reported that, on separate occasions, they had telephoned the police regarding the depth of mud on this road.
 - Pedestrian gate** – Councillor Bowyer had not yet had the opportunity to speak to the houseowner.
 - Land between Edgehill and Willow Rise** – No further communications received.
 - Footbridge, Priston Mill** – Noted this footbridge had not yet been replaced. After discussion agreed the Clerk write to the Public Rights of Way Officer to remind him of his undertaking to replace during the current financial year.
4. **Financial Report** - The Clerk reported a current balance at the bank of £538.89 and cash in hand £11. VAT of £25.38 had recently been reclaimed from HM Customs and Excise. Mrs Hunt advised she wished to pay the final quarter of her annual salary and reimbursement of three months Broadband charges during March to clear the cheques through the bank before the end of the financial year. She had recently purchased a new print cartridge and envelopes to a total of £22.98. The Clerk referred to a briefing note recently received from the National Association of Local Councils regarding internet purchases made by personal credit. Agreed unanimously that she be reimbursed and also reclaim VAT on purchases she may make in this way on behalf of the Parish Council.
5. **Precept 2006/2007** – The Clerk presented figures for the coming year itemizing foreseen expenditure and including the information that in excess of £2,420 had been spent in the current financial year. Mrs Hunt advised she had received confirmation from Tiscali that the Broadband charges would remain at £14.99 per month. After extensive discussion during which it was noted that the insurance premium may increase again this year, it was agreed with regret to request a precept of £2,800.

6. **Annual Parish Meeting** – After discussion it was agreed that Councillor Hughes contact Mr Mike Chapman, Archaeologist and Local Historian, to give an illustrated talk on the History of the Somerset Coal Canal. The Annual Parish Meeting to be held on Monday 3 April 2006 following the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting.
7. **Priston Website** – No report received from Mr Bottle. Councillors were unanimous in their appreciation of the coverage on the Website of the Banjul Challenge completed by village residents, Robin and Henry Anderson.
8. **Planning Applications:**
 - (i) **Church Farm - New Horse Riding Arena** – Noted the receipt of the Planning Consent form.
 - (ii) **Church Farm Cottage** – Drawings were presented on behalf of Mr and Mrs O Jones for a first floor two bedroom extension on to the existing kitchen. The meeting was advised that the drawings had been prepared with assistance from the Listed Building Officer at Bath and North East Somerset Council. The Clerk was asked to convey to Mr and Mrs Jones that Councillors would be happy to see the full plans but that they were not keen on the roof lines as shown.
9. **Any other business -**

Councillor Todd reported on several issues of interest to the parish:

 - (i) the travel survey had been very successful and a copy of the analysis was provided for Parish Council records. It was hoped that the 768 bus would not be cut.
Councillor Bowyer thanked Councillor Todd for her enthusiasm and support.
 - (ii) the Council Tax would probably be increased.
 - (iii) Regional Spatial Strategy. The Government has advised B&NES that it wants 16,000 homes built in our area. B&NES is looking into appropriate sites to accommodate some building.

Village Social – In reply to a request from the Village Hall Committee for the Parish Council to perform at the Village Social, the Clerk was requested to convey the apologies of Councillors for their inability to participate.

Parishes Liaison Meeting – Noted the next meeting was scheduled on Wednesday 15 February in the Town Hall, Keynsham. It was regretted that neither the Chairman, Vice-Chairman nor Clerk would be able to attend. Councillor Cross volunteered to represent the Parish Council.

Granary, Church Farm – Noted with regret and concern the deteriorating condition of this grade II listed building. After discussion the Clerk was requested to contact the Buildings at Risk Officer at Bath and North East Somerset Council.
10. **Date of next meeting** - Monday 3 April 2006 commencing 7.00pm followed by the Annual Parish Meeting as discussed under item 6 above.

There being no further business for consideration the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.40pm and thanked Councillors for their participation and attendance.