

Minutes of the Priston Parish Council Meeting

held at Priston Village Hall on Monday 21st January 2019 at 7.00 pm

Present: Cllrs Doug Pattison (Chair), John Lippiatt, Peter Hopwood, John Whybrow, Fiona Hassard and Louise Callan (Clerk).

1. Apologies: Claire Lawton, Robert Davies

2. Minutes of last meeting: Agreed and signed as a correct record with an amendment to the Footpaths report.

3. Matters arising: It had been reported that strong chemical smells were coming from the Opticolour factory at Priston Mill. This had been investigated and the smell is caused by the solvents used to clean spray paint guns. The company is moving to using water-based paints which will not require the chemicals to be used. The Priston Facebook Page is now running as a Group rather than Community page. This allows all members to post messages. The old page will be removed eventually, so users need to sign up to the new *Priston Chat* page if they want to continue to see posts. The Clerk had asked BANES to replace the 20 mph sign that has gone missing, but BANES did not agree to do it. **Action: Clerk to pursue.**

4. Chair's Report: Highways repair issues can be reported to BANES via the App, Fix My Street. It was agreed to buy a Union Jack Flag for the church. John Wilkinson had submitted an Emergency Plan for the councillors' consideration. **Action: All councillors to review the plan and submit their views on the proposal to move forward.**

5. Clerk's Report:

Financial Report: The bank balance stood at £8,126.23, with £2,000 still to be paid to the Village Hall restoration fund. (See financial report for full breakdown of expenditure.) An updated draft budget was presented showing committed costs and estimates for existing proposals for expenditure. See website for copy of the budget and proposals to spend the precept. Village Hall noticeboards: The church had decided that they wished to continue with their current noticeboard. The Village Hall committee was to discuss whether they would like to replace their noticeboard at their January meeting. It was agreed to send a donation of £50 to Lifeskills in Bristol, a charity which teaches children first aid and how to respond in a fire etc. Priston children attending Marksbury school benefit from attending courses there. Promotional materials had been obtained regarding signage gateways which could be erected at the entry points to the village. **Action: Clerk to pass on details to Claire Lawton to investigate further.** The clerk will promote lift sharing via Facebook and The Link.

6. 2019 Precept: The budget was discussed and reviewed and it was agreed to increase the precept to £6,400. **Action: Clerk to inform BANES.**

7. Council Elections: The parish and local council elections will take place on May 2nd.

8. Bus services: The 179 bus service, which passes close to Priston and is used by some residents to travel to Bath, is being reduced and may be completely cut. A campaign was running to save this service. A meeting was to be held on 23rd January in Timsbury to discuss rural transport. The clerk agreed to attend the meeting.

8. Flooding: Aylet had received a flood newsletter with maps showing flood risk and highway drainage. It also included information on watercourse responsibilities. E.g. it is illegal to dam streams that pass through gardens. No further work had been carried out on the ditch at the bottom of Watery Lane to take the water over into the stream. **Action: John Lippiatt to dig the ditch out.**

10. Highways: A branch from overhanging trees had hit a vehicle in Watery Lane. The clerk had requested that BANES put up a sign stating that the road was unsuitable for heavy goods vehicles, which it is believed damaged the trees, causing the branches to break. However BANES had responded to say that they would not put up the sign due

to financial restraints. **Action: Clerk to make a further request, offering to pay for the sign. Clerk to write to land owners asking them to cut back the trees at the edge of the road.** It was agreed to purchase a grit spreader at a cost in the region of £500-600. **Action: John Lippiatt to purchase.**

11. Footpaths: BANES are able to replace stiles with metal kissing gates at no cost to the parish, using the services of The Ramblers Association to install the gates. See separate report.

12. External meetings: Fiona Hassard had submitted a report on the Parishes Liaison meeting. Dates were not yet available for future meetings.

13. Parish Council Meeting Dates: These were confirmed as below. It was agreed to combine the Annual Parish Meeting with a gathering for new residents on Saturday March 23rd. **Action: Clerk to organise event.**

2019 PC Meetings	Jan	March	May (+ AGM)	July	September	November
	21st	18th	13th	8th	9th	18th

19. Date of next meeting: Monday 18th March 2019 at 7 pm.

Signed

Date

Footpaths report – January 2019

1. B&NES supplies kissing gates and the Public Rights of Way Officer, Sheila Petherbridge, arranges for their installation by Ramblers Association volunteers.
2. Sheila has been trying to get the stile by the “owl barn” replaced by a kissing gate, but the landowner is not keen on giving permission for kissing gates on his land.
3. The Watery Lane gate is normally unlocked (the landowner kindly allows horse riders to use it) so that dog owners can also use it rather than the stile. At present the gate is still damaged but is fastened by a plastic rope and is easy to use.