

**The following are the DRAFT minutes of an ordinary meeting of Priston Parish Council held on Monday 8 September 2003 in the Village Hall, Priston. These have not yet been approved by the Parish Council.**

Mr Hughes presided, Mrs Bowyer, Mr Geake, Miss Nokes, Mrs Seymour, Mr Whybrow and Parish Clerk were present.

The Chairman welcomed Councillor Mrs Todd and Mr B Putnam.

1. Apologies were received from Mrs Cross.

2. **Minutes** The minutes of the meeting held on 7 July 2003 were read and an amendment noted to item 10 - Former Skittle Alley. Mrs Seymour pointed out that the old garage section of the house had been measured not the whole of the house as minuted. Subject to this amendment the minutes were agreed as an accurate record of proceedings and signed by the Chairman.

3. **Matters Arising:**

(a) **Mill Lane** -Noted that Mill Lane had been resurfaced. Concern expressed that coaches are again using this road as access to Priston Mill from the village. After discussion, during which it was commented that this could be dangerous to pedestrians and horse riders it was agreed the Chairman should speak to Mr Hopwood on this.

(b) **Overhead Cables** - The Clerk reported that she had met with a representative of Western Power who advised that the expense for placing cables underground both in the road and across drives and gardens, would be in the region of £15,000-£20,000, and would have to be met by the Parish Council. She had been contacted by British Telecom who had advised that they would not undertake to move their cables unless the electricity cables were also moved. The Chairman to relay this information to the originator of this enquiry.

(c) **Telephone Box** - Noted that the telephone box had been cleaned.

(d) **Tarmac** - Mr Hughes advised that he was hoping to lay the tarmac around the well towards the end of the month.

(e) **Ford - Priston Mill** - Mr Whybrow reported that he had again been in contact with the Public Rights of Way Officer and that BaNES would not be providing stepping stones in this situation on health and safety grounds. It was considered that the bridge downstream of the ford would be sufficient to enable walkers to cross the stream. The possibility of some repairs to this were being considered.

4. **Correspondence -**

(i) **Memorial to J Nokes and C Fry** - The Clerk read a letter received from Mr B Putnam advising of a collection which had been made to enable the purchase of a suitable memorial to Mr Nokes and Mr Fry and suggesting the possibility of a bench being placed around the walnut tree on the village green.

During the discussion which followed it was pointed out that (1) the village green is covered by the Parish Council's insurance and maintained by the Parish Council, (2) the village green was given to the parish for the use and recreation of the parish, (3) the actual area around the tree is not level or very large, (4) it would not be satisfactory for the green to become an extension of the public house with ensuing problems of litter and broken glass.

It was favourably accepted that a bench as a memorial would be appropriate but noted that there already exists a two seater bench given to the Parish Council many years ago by the Women's Institute. The possibility of a 4 or 6 seater bench was suggested to be placed on the top edge of the green and the existing bench resited.

Mr Putnam thanked the Council for its considerations which he would pass on to the other villagers involved in the memorial collection.

(ii) **Annual General Meeting of ALCA** - Notification received of the AGM of the Avon Local Councils Association on Saturday 1 November.

(iii) **Overview and Scrutiny Panel** - Noted receipt of a letter from the Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Panel for Housing and Community Safety. Agreed to comply with his request to attend a future meeting. The Clerk to action accordingly.

5. **Financial Report** - The Clerk reported that the awaited account, in the sum of £95.18 including £14.18 VAT, had been received from the Audit Commission. A balance at the bank of £447.02 and cash of £15.23 were noted.
6. **Parish Plans (The Countryside Agency)** - Noted that an article had been placed in the Link as agreed at the last meeting. This item be placed on the agenda of the next meeting.
7. **Priston Website** - Mrs Bowyer reported that the minutes of the Parish Council continue to be placed on the website and that minutes from recent years can also be accessed. Other local organisations are publicising events and a calendar of events has been included. Information is also available on the sale of Christmas cards which utilises a water colour painting of the village from the nineteenth century. Also noted that Broadband may shortly be available. Concluding her report Mrs Bowyer advised that Mr Bottle was compiling an article for insertion in the October "Link".
8. **Former Skittle Alley, Ring O'Bells** - Mr Hughes reported that owing to the problems being experienced by Mrs Seymour and Mr Rowbottom, Mrs Seymour has felt obliged to resign from the Parish Council and it was with regret that he had accepted her resignation. Declaring her interest in this item, Mrs Seymour then addressed the meeting presenting photocopies of original and amended plans enlarged to 1:50 to emphasise the anomalies between the plans which had been approved by the planning office. She read a letter received from Mr David Davies which accompanied a report from the independent surveyor appointed by the planning office. This report had also been received by the Parish Council. Mrs Seymour advised that Mr Eric Potter, who is currently Chairman of Timsbury Parish Council and is a former head of Planning, would be inspecting all the plans within the next few days. His findings are awaited with interest.  
Mr Hughes read a further letter which he had drafted to be sent to Mr Ludek Majer who is the Area Development Control Team Manager.  
The receipt of a planning application for a conservatory on the site was reported and the plans for this were circulated in the meeting. It was unanimously agreed that the Parish Council object to this proposed structure on the grounds that it would increase the overall square footage and cubic footage of a building which was originally decreased because of size impact.
9. **Planning Application - Bramble Barn** - Approved by Councillors and returned to Planning Office.
10. **Any other business :**
  - (a) Noted that no comments were to be returned to Bath and North East Somerset Council in response to recently issued consultative documents. Councillor Mrs Todd spoke on the background to one of the documents ie BE: Better for Everyone.
  - (b) **Vacancy** - Agreed the Clerk place an advertisement in The Link requesting a replacement to Mrs Seymour.
  - (c) **Cluster Meeting** - The Chairman indicated he hoped to be able to attend the next Parish Cluster Meeting arranged for Monday 22 September.
  - (d) Mr Whybrow advised he had been approached by a resident with the request that a tree be placed on the small island adjacent to Hill View. Mr Hughes responded that this was not possible as the island does not belong to the parish but to the Highways division and also that any tree would considerably impinge the view for traffic.
  - (e) **Footpaths and bridleways** -Mr Whybrow reported that at Priston Mill (i) direction signs for footpaths were to be erected, (ii) a kissing gate is to be installed in place of a stile which is high off the ground, and (iii) complaints have been received by BaNES that some gateways on the byways are too narrow. Attention may be given to this after consultation with archaeological experts regarding the culvert over the old mill leat from Priston Brook.
  - (f) Mrs Todd advised of several matters of interest to the Parish Council - **(1) Fullers Earth** -

the enquiry had found in favour of the applicant but had been overruled by the Secretary of State; (2) **B3115** - a speed count had been arranged and Mrs Todd awaited the outcome with interest; (3) Bath and North East Somerset Council is joining with other councils to look after the development of rural areas; (4) Discussions are taking place on whether to make the district GM free; and (5) Bath and North East Somerset Council are aiming for a zero waste strategy and are leaders in the country in the recycling of waste.

- 11. Date of next meeting** Agreed the next meeting be held on Monday 8 December 2003.

There being no further business for consideration the Chairman declared the meeting closed again thanking Mrs Seymour for her contributions to the Parish Council during her nine years in office. Meeting closed at 9.48pm.