

The following are the minutes of an ordinary meeting of Priston Parish Council held on Monday 20 September 2004 in the Village Hall, Priston. These have not yet been agreed and approved by the Parish Council.

Councillor Hughes presided, Councillors Bowyer, Cross, Geake, Lippiatt, Nokes, Whybrow and Parish Clerk were present. The Chairman welcomed District Councillor Mrs Todd and resident Mr T Thacker.

1. **The minutes** of the meeting held on 28 June were read, agreed and signed by the Chairman.
2. **Matters Arising:**
 - (i) **Emergency Strategy** - Documentation has been completed and persons who volunteered to help in the event of an emergency have received, from B&NES, copies of the completed instructions.
 - (ii) **Drinking Fountain** - The Chairman advised that this had been repaired at no cost to the Parish Council.
 - (iii) **Councillors' Information Pack** - One set of documentation had been received from ALCA at a cost of £6.71 including postage and packing. Agreed that no further copies be purchased at the moment but that this be circulated to councillors.
3. **Correspondence** - The Clerk advised of letter written to Mr Stephen Jones, in response to a request from him, providing information received from Western Power and British Telecom regarding the possible siting of power cables underground in the area of the Church and Church Farm.
4. **Financial Report** - The Clerk reported a current balance at the bank of £544.35 and a cash balance of £11.11p. Noted that the annual insurance premium in the sum of £289.29 had been paid to the existing insurers as this compared favourably with the quotation recently obtained. Also an account received from the external examiners in the sum of £58.75 including VAT had been settled. The Clerk wished the Parish Council to note that she intended to write a cheque for half of her annual salary within the next month.
6. **Report and Recommendations from Internal Auditor** - The Clerk read the Internal Auditor's Report and Recommendations which had been acted upon as appropriate. Noted his recommendation that the Clerk have email facility to speed up communication. With this in mind the District Councillor provided details of approximately 20 computers which were being sold by B&NES. The Parish Council approved the possible expenditure of a maximum of £230 in this respect.
7. **Annual Return to External Auditor for year ended 31 March 2004** - The Clerk reported that the Annual Return had been returned from the Auditors which incorporated their signed audit certificate and opinion. She had arranged for the Statement of Accounts and notice of public rights to be displayed in a public place, for fourteen days, as was required.
8. **Consultation Changes - Planning Services** - Councillor Mrs Todd advised of the changes which are being made in response to a directive from the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister. She advised she was concerned that Parish Councils do not lose their right of decision.
9. **Priston Website** - Nothing new to report.
10. **Footpaths and Bridleways** - Councillor Whybrow (a) confirmed the two kissing gates had been installed, and (b) reported that the bridge over the brook near Priston Mill had been inspected by B&NES structural engineer who considered the bridge should be replaced. Insufficient funds are available for this work and consequently the handrail only will be replaced. The Clerk to write to the Public Rights of Way Section to request confirmation that the bridge is safe.
11. **Planning Applications** -
 - Conservatory, 8 Summerlea** - Consent form received from Planning Services
 - Single Storey Side Extension, 2 Wilmington** - Noted appeal by applicant against the Planning Inspectorate's decision.

Horse Riding Arena, Church Farm - Registering his interest in this application, the Chairman withdrew from the meeting and the chair was taken by Councillor Bowyer.

Mr Thacker was asked to address the meeting. He said that residents had written to Planning Services expressing their concern at the possible increase in traffic with the facility being hired to horse owners in surrounding villages. He queried whether horseboxes would be using the private access road the maintenance of which was the responsibility of the neighbours. After a lengthy discussion it was agreed that although the Parish Council does not object to the construction of the arena it is sympathetic to the concerns of the residents. The Clerk was requested to write to Planning Services advising that the Parish Council supports the justifiable concerns of the residents.

On his return to the meeting, the Chairman was briefed on the discussions and he, in turn, advised that it was not intended that there should be any increase in traffic. The extra traffic currently using the private drive was to another activity in the vicinity.

12. Any other business -

(i) Direction Signposts to Wilmington - Councillor Todd advised that direction boards had recently been sited.

(ii) "Rural Programme" - Councillor Todd informed the meeting that she hoped to set up a Rural Programme to deal with the special needs of the rural area and asked Parish Councillors for their ideas and suggestions.

(iii) Send a Cow - Councillor Geake advised that the Send a Cow Project which had been based at Priston Mill had moved to larger premises at Newton St Loe. Councillor Geake was congratulated on the expansion of this project.

13. Date of next meeting - Agreed the next meeting be held on Monday 6 December 2004 commencing 7.00pm. It was agreed that the Clerk compile a schedule of meetings for 2005.

There being no further business for consideration the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.55pm and thanked Councillors for their attendance and participation.