

**The following are the DRAFT minutes of an ordinary meeting of Priston Parish Council held on Monday 19 September 2005. These have not yet been approved as a true record of proceedings.**

Councillor Bowyer presided, Councillors Cross, Hughes, Lippiatt, Nokes, Whybrow and Parish Clerk were present. The Chairman welcomed village residents Mrs Anderson, Mrs Grimshaw, Mrs Pegg, Ms Rogers, Mr and Mrs Thacker.

**Note:** Several items on the agenda were open to public discussion.

1. **Apologies** received from Councillor Geake and District Councillor Mrs Todd. The good wishes of Councillors were extended to Councillor Geake who was unwell.
2. **The Minutes of the meeting** held on 4 July were read, confirmed as an accurate record of proceedings and signed by the Chairman.
3. **Matters Arising:**  
The Clerk advised that letters had been written to the Royal Mail regarding delivery of mail, to English Heritage re possible listing of telephone box and Councillor Todd re drainage ditches as requested at the previous meeting. No replies had yet been received. A response had been received from the Highways Inspector advising that the remedial work alongside the dairy of Pressbarrow Farm would be carried out. This has subsequently been done.
4. **Correspondence** - The Clerk informed councillors that she had replied, in the negative, to a letter from Transportation and Highways requesting information on suitable sites for the parking of large vehicles, ie lorries, buses and coaches, in the parish.
5. **Financial Report** - The Clerk reported the current balance at the bank was £800.45 and cash in hand £8. The Clerk continued by advising that she intended to settle accounts with the external auditor in the sum of £50 plus VAT and renew the Parish Council's insurance cover with Zurich £353.10. Noted an increase of £64 in the premium on the previous year. Alternative quotations to be obtained before renewal date next year. Mrs Hunt also wished to pay the second quarter of her annual salary (£375). Following the payment of these amounts the balance at the bank would be £13.60. The second half of the precept (£1,050) was due on 1 October.
6. **Computer** - Councillors were reminded of the attempts which had been made to obtain a refurbished computer for use by the Clerk, on permanent loan from B&NES. Mr Richard Bottle had obtained details of a Dell Computer which could be purchased, through the Internet, at a cost of £381 including VAT and delivery. As there would be insufficient funds remaining in the current financial year, the Clerk had offered to purchase the computer herself and be reimbursed in the financial year 2006/2007. It would, however, be necessary to increase the precept for that year by approximately £300 to cover this purchase. The Chairman commented that she was reluctant to increase the precept but the computer currently used by the Clerk is not capable of supporting Internet. The details which had been compiled by Mr Bottle to be circulated to all Councillors for their consideration before any arrangements are made to purchase a new computer.
7. **Supported Bus Service No.768** - (This item included public discussion.) The Chairman reported that, together with the Clerk, she had attended a meeting to which the Rural Transport Officer of Community Action had been invited. There had been lengthy discussion on the current village buses and the possibility of other forms of transport to suit the needs of residents of rural villages. A questionnaire was being compiled by Community Action who would collate the information. The Chairman planned, with assistance from Councillors, to distribute this questionnaire to all residents in the parish asking for their foreseen transport needs, not whether the present bus service should be retained. Ms Rogers offer of assistance with the distribution of the questionnaires was received with thanks.

8. **Parish Council NoticeBoard** - Noted the broken glass and deteriorated condition of the noticeboard. The Clerk was authorised to request her husband to repair or replace as appropriate at minimal cost.
9. **Children's Play Area** - (This item included public involvement.) The ongoing problem of children, currently mainly boys aged 10-15, playing football in the area of the village green and village hall was discussed at great length. It was emphasised that the Parish Council does not have the resources to purchase, maintain and insure a piece of land suitable for football, basketball and other activities. After extensive discussion it was proposed by Councillor Hughes that the Parish Council, on behalf of local parents, contact landowners to enquire if any of them would be prepared to let the children have a corner of a field, which could be tarmaced and approximately the size of a tennis court, as a play area. Commented by Councillor Cross that this is the type of project which could come under the auspices of a "Parish Plan" with parents, and the young people concerned, forming their own committee.
10. **Priston Website** - Councillor Bowyer read a report submitted by Mr Bottle advising of the information held on the website including calendar dates for the church, village hall and parish council. It is possible to receive regular updates to the Priston Web by emailing web@priston.org.uk. Mr Bottle was again thanked, in absentia, for all his hard work in making the Priston Website an excellent facility.
11. **Footpaths and Bridleways** - Nothing to report.
12. **Planning Applications:**
  - (i) **Church Farm - Certificate of Lawful Use** - Noted receipt of Certificate in respect of DIY livery stable for seven horses.
  - (ii) **Church Farm - New Horse Riding Arena** (This item included public discussion.) The Chairman reported that this application was to be discussed at a meeting of the Planning Committee to be held on Wednesday 21 September and she intended to speak, for the permitted three minutes, on behalf of the Parish Council. The residents who were in attendance expressed very serious concerns regarding the planned lighting, the increase in traffic and safety of children playing in the area. At the conclusion of very lengthy discussion, Councillor Hughes reiterated his previous comments that there would be no increase in traffic and only six of the seven stables would be used for horses.
13. **Any other business** -
  - (a) **Oak Tree** - The Chairman reported she had recently spoken with Mr Robert Gardiner who had confirmed that the damaged oak tree on his land had received specialist attention.
  - (b) **Verges** - Commented that the verges around the parish have been trimmed tidily.
  - (c) **Consultation Period** - After brief discussion it was proposed by Councillor Hughes and agreed unanimously that a 15 minute consultation period be allowed prior to the formal business of each Parish Council meeting to enable electors of the parish to speak to the Council about items which cause them concern. The Clerk to insert a notice in The Link to this effect.
14. **Date of next meeting** - Monday 5 December 2005 commencing 7.00pm.

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