

Minutes of the Priston Parish Council Meeting

held at Priston Village Hall on Monday 10th September 2018 at 7.00 pm

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

1. Apologies: Claire Lawton, Robert Davies

2. Minutes of last meeting: Agreed and signed as a correct record.

3. Matters arising: The fly tipping at the Piggeries was still outstanding. **Action: John Lippiatt to pursue.**

4. Chair's Report: Work has continued on renovating the phone box. There is still a power supply to the box which has been made safe. **Action: Clerk to write to Western Power to have supply removed.** A reply had been received from BANES regarding the complaint on planning procedures and it was agreed to pursue this further. **Action: Doug Pattison to write a further letter.** A red Ensign had been purchased to fly in recognition of Merchant Seaman's Day in September. Although not put into use this year, it will be used in future. Tim Hughes is the Parish Council Trustee on the Priston Educational Trust (with a term of four years). The hearing loop, partly funded by BANES and the PC, was put into action in the meeting and worked well.

5. Clerk's Report:

Financial Report: The bank balance stood at £8,308.03 on 6 September. Significant expenses included the Clerk's salary, a payment of £105 for VDS expenses and £291.20 to renew the insurance policy. (See financial report for full breakdown of expenditure.) A payment of £350 is due for payment to a Consultant for the Village Design Statement. The PC has been registered with the Information Commissioner's Office. An annual payment of £35 to be paid by direct debit. **Action: Clerk to return forms.** A draft budget was presented showing committed costs and estimates for existing proposals for expenditure. See website for copy of the budget and notes below on plans to spend the precept. The clerk had started to investigate replacing the noticeboards on the village hall with one larger joint one. The Rector and Chair of the Village Hall Committee were in favour of an upgrade. The noticeboard could cost up to £1,400. It was agreed to put forward a more detailed proposal with exact costings. **Action: Clerk to source quotes.**

6. The project to update the PC web page has moved on and is 80% finished. **Action: Clerk to continue working with Richard Bottle and show Councillors once draft is ready.**

7. Battle's Over – A Nation's Tribute. This event is taking place over the weekend of 10th – 11th November to commemorate the end of the First World War. A number of different tributes will take place to be advertised in the next issue of The Link. It was agreed to fund drinks in the Ring o Bells for a sum of £150. **Action: Claire Lawton to continue coordinating arrangements.**

8. A proposal had been made that the Parish Council should source 100 sets of cutlery and some tablecloths for use by any of the groups within Priston. Both cloth and plastic table cloths are available via the village hall, so it was decided not to purchase any more. It was also decided not to buy cutlery as this can be hired easily.

9. Planning: **Mead Cottage:** A new planning application had been submitted to BANES to request the removal of the agricultural tie on the house. The owner's agent has written to potential (agricultural) purchasers within 10 miles without response. Although the Parish Council had not commented on the new application, the councillors continue to support the removal of the tie as per our original comments to BANES. Cllr Veale agreed to mention this to the Planning Department.

Bramble Barn: Permission has been granted to convert the garage into a two bedroom dwelling.

10. Emergency Planning: John Wilkinson has met with BANES Emergency Planners and gathered information about the most up to date way of ensuring a community can deal with different situations. **Action: John Wilkinson and Doug Pattison to create a subcommittee of specialists from within the village to progress.**

11. Defibrillator Training: This has been arranged for October 17th in the Village Hall. **Action: John Wilkinson to continue to advertise and encourage participation.**

12. Village Design Statement Update: A final sign off is awaited from BANES. Once the copy has been approved it was agreed that the VDS would be printed and given to every household in Priston. A digital copy will be kept on the website. Print costs of £500 were agreed. **Action: Clerk to liaise with Tony Baldaro to confirm agreement for printing.**

13. Seat Renewal: Nothing to report.

14. Flooding: Aylet Anderson and Louise Callan met the BANES Drainage Officer in August and Aylet presented a thorough report. (Please see attached.) **Action: Clerk to write to the Bendalls regarding clearing the Conygre Brook at the Marksbury Dipper. John Lippiatt to dig out trench on Watery Lane (submit quote for time required). Aylet Anderson to pursue BANES about pipe under road on Priston Hill and ask Drainage Officer to visit when next flooding occurs.**

15. Roads and Highways: The potholes on Watery Lane have been repaired. The grit spreader was discussed and it was agreed to look further into the purchase of a suitable model. Costs vary between £445 and £1800. **Action: John Lippiatt to produce exact costings at the next meeting.**

Triangle of Grass at the Bottom of Priston Lane: John Lippiatt to take top surface off. Louise Callan to source the topsoil. To be seeded initially and bulbs planted. It was agreed to add some large stones (less than 30 cm high) at the edges. Budget of £500 although it is unlikely to cost this much. **Action: John Lippiatt and Louise Callan to pursue.**

16. Footpaths: There is now a permissive footpath in addition to the public footpath beyond the sewage works.

17. External Meetings: Doug Pattison agreed to attend the ALCA Meeting if able to go. Fiona Hassard and Peter Hopwood agreed to attend the Parishes Liaison meeting.

	Sept	October	November
Bathavon Forum			
ALCA		19 th September	
Parishes Liaison		24 th October	

18. No further business

Signed

Date

PRISTON DRAINAGE INSPECTION
Friday 24 August 2018

Present: **Jim McEwen (B&NES)**
 Louise Callan (Parish Clerk)
 Aylet Anderson (Flood Liaison, Priston)

Aylet's Notes

1. Road Drainage on Village Farm side of Priston Bridge.

Problems:

- a. Surface water flowing down both sides of Priston Hill being unable to access the drain on downstream side of bridge (the water doesn't reach it)* and
- b. the reduced size of the hole in the wall on the upstream side where floodwater can escape into the ditch in Brook Cottage field

Possible solutions:

- a. Drainage pipe under road to take the Village Farm side water to the Brook Cottage side
- b. Enlarge the hole in the wall. It used to be c.15" diameter but since B&NES altered it some years ago is now only about 8"

*Simon Barnes of Village Farm told us that workmen had turned up unannounced 3 weeks ago "to repoint his wall and to remove the culvert" (this is a. as above) on instructions from B&NES. Simon sent them away. Jim knew nothing about this. He will investigate.

2. The Conygre Dip (The Dipper) on Marksbury Lane

Problem: Serious flooding in heavy weather and considered dangerous, as the Conygre, which should pass under the road in a pipe, spreads out in the little flood plain above and then races across the road very fast and deep

Solution:

- o Jim inspected entrance to the pipe. A lot of debris at its mouth although the pipe itself is clear.
- o Ideally the landowners (the Bendalls) need to clear away all the brash that builds up at the entrance and to keep it clear. Jim also suggested
- o putting in 2 or 3 Steel angle posts across the Conygre a few metres upstream, to catch any large debris coming down before it reaches the mouth of the pipe. (The whole situation is difficult, as the river itself, having been piped under the road, does a very sharp right angle and flows parallel to Marksbury Lane (alongside the railings are on the downstream side of the road) for 10 or 12 metres before turning away left sharply again. The 'wall' beneath them goes straight down to provide a bank for the watercourse

3. Various sites along Watery Lane (Priston Lane) working upstream from Horsepool

Horsepool:

- o cleared out and tidied up
- o No debris either at egress of roadside pipe or mouth of the bridge under Rockhill Drive.
- o There is a small pipe parallel to the large one. This is low priority. It has been camera-ed, if that's the word, for some yards upstream. Not clear where it originally comes from, because BT appear to have damaged it in doing some work in the field, so the camera can't see beyond. It is probably a land drain from the Dawson-Pauls' paddock

Roadside pipe:

- o Camera work revealed a very large root, with 'streamers' lodged through and in the pipe about halfway between Horsepool and the under-road culvert. Jim will arrange for suitable machinery to remove this root and repair the pipe at that point

The culvert:

- o This takes the Priston Brook under the lane from the Jones's land to run in the pipe alongside the lane, in Robert Gardiner's field. Camera had revealed a very substantial sawn log, wedged firmly in the culvert. This, a gas tank lid and a child's toy had all served to restrict the water flow considerably.
- o Jim suggests putting in place the same arrangement as at the Conygre Dip (3 Steel angle posts upstream) to catch brash before it can enter the pipe.

Safety Niels Cross had queried the safety factor of the 'bridge' over the culvert as regards small children. No side rail so could someone fall over the edge if the road was covered with floodwater. It does however have warning posts. Is this sufficient?

Ditch above sharp corner at entry gate on right to Cowleaze

Jim agrees this badly needs cleaning out from about 25 yards up the hill where a pipe can be seen in the right-hand hedge. I think the Parish Council have that in hand? He says if it was properly cleared out, and also the sedgy pool just inside the gate to facilitate the water flow, things would be much improved.