

2019 Priston Annual Parish Meeting

Priston Village Hall
April 11th 2019

Minutes

1. Apologies

Peter Hopwood, Claire Lawton

2. Chair's Report & Parish Council Financial Report

Parish Council

The Council has remained the same as last year, but Claire Lawton, and John Whybrow have announced that they were not standing for re-election. John has acted as our most able footpath representative for 16 years. The results of our 2019 elections have just been announced, and I am delighted to say that Dr Vicky Pai and Bruce Clarke will be joining the Council in May.

Village Design Statement

BANES informed us in September that our VDS has been given the status of a Supplementary Planning Document (SPD), which increases its authority, and which was the recognition we were seeking. The VDS has been printed and distributed to households in the village, and is agreed to be a beautifully produced document. Thanks are due to all of the VDS Working Party, but in particular Bruce Clarke as editor, Tony Baldero for the design, and Gail Pattison for chairing the Working Party for nearly 4 years.

Armistice Day Commemoration

Thanks to Claire Lawton for organising a most memorable event, and to John Lippiatt for the magnificent brazier on Pensdown hill.

Finance

There has been a slight increase in the Precept this year to allow for inflation. £2000 was donated to support the work on the Village Hall, with the offer of more later, should this become necessary. £500 has been spent on having the electric supply to the phone box disconnected and on repairs. The Village Design Statement cost £960 for consultancy fees and to pay for printing. First aid and defibrillator training cost £337. Refreshments after the Armistice celebration in November cost £150, and we also paid £25 to the young Bugler who played beside the brazier.

Planning

Mead Cottage

An application to remove the agricultural tie on the building was supported by the Parish Council, but was initially not approved by BANES. The tie has, however, now been removed.

Walnut Tree Hill

As Chairman of the Parish Council I have written four times to the Chairman of B&NES complaining about the delegated decision to allow the shipping container to remain, but without receiving a satisfactory explanation.

However, at our request, the wall to the North of the house has been changed from a rendered to a more appropriate natural stone finish.

Bramble Barn

The Parish Council supported the application to turn a garage into living accommodation, which has been approved.

The Piggeries, Marksbury Lane

An application to convert the ruins at the Piggeries into a home was supported, but with reservations concerning the greater volume of the buildings proposed, cars using the bridleway and external lighting.

Highways and Footpaths

The work done last year to bypass a blocked storm drain near the Village Hall seems to have been successful in reducing flooding down the High Street, and a large log removed from the culvert under the Marksbury dip will reduce flooding there.

Phone Box

The phone box has been repainted and the Gardening Club has provided planting inside and out, with the promise of more to come.

Defibrillator

A successful training session for 10 people was arranged in October, and we currently have 29 villagers on the associated call-out list. Many thanks to John Wilkinson for his continuing support of this project.

Priston Website

Once again thanks to Richard Bottle for maintaining the website, and for redesigning the interface to improve it for our smartphones.

Thanks

Finally thank you to our Parish Clerk Louise Callan, and all of our Councillors for their good work and support over the past year.

3. Matters Raised By Residents

It was requested that the Parish Council added the following items to future meeting agendas:

- a) Restoration of finger posts
- b) Renovation of the green triangle at the bottom of Watery Lane

4. PAGE Meets Priston Gardening Club: Presentation from Kate Rigby, Owain Jones and Dave Watson

We were extremely lucky to have presentations from three senior academics in the area of the environment, and while the outlook may seem gloomy for many species, it was pointed out that villagers can all take direct action now to help protect the wildlife in Priston.

Key Recommendations:

- Be untidy in the garden – leave undisturbed areas of long grass and some woodpiles to attract insects and nesting areas for wildlife.

- Don't use the popular slug blue pellets which contain metaldehyde. This chemical will be banned for outdoor use next year because it poses 'an unacceptable risk to birds and mammals'. To have any chance of encouraging hedgehogs we need to use alternatives, such as wool pellets – or just decide to do without those hostas.
- Create a pond. Big or small it will attract insects such as dragonflies and amphibians such as frogs and newts. Birds benefit from ponds too – they need water to bathe and drink.
- Plant to create food sources for birds and insects throughout the year. For example, pulmonaria, willow, flowering currant attract bumble bees and orange tips early in spring. Ivy is a good source of nectar late in the year. And plant high – honeysuckle and clematis climbing over arches attract many insects.

5. Discussion

There was a lively discussion around the topic with a high level of interest shown in creating 'dead hedges', asking people not to use slug pellets in the graveyard and keeping external lighting to a minimum.

6. Any other business/questions

None.

7. Coffee, tea and biscuits were served