

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of Priston Parish Council held on Monday 15th May 2006 in the Village Hall, Priston.

1. Attendance and Apologies –

Councillor Bowyer presided, Councillors Cross, Hughes, Lippiatt, C Nokes and Whybrow and the Parish Clerk were present. The Chairman welcomed village residents Mr and Mrs Anderson, Mr and Mrs Broomfield, Mr Kettley, Miss M Nokes, Mr Toghill, Mr and Mrs Wilkinson and District Councillor Mrs Todd. Apologies received from Councillor Geake.

2. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Monday 16th May 2005 were read, confirmed as an accurate record of proceedings and signed by the Chairman.

3. Matters Arising – Local Roads: On going issues with regard to the condition of local roads would be covered by the Chairman's report. **Emergency Plans:** In reply to an enquiry from Councillor Hughes regarding the current situation with regard to the Emergency Guidance Plans, Councillor Todd advised that some parishes had not wished to be involved but useful information was contained in the plans in the event of an emergency.

4. Chairman's Report for year ended 31st March 2006 – Commencing her first annual report as chairman, Councillor Bowyer welcomed residents of the parish and reminded the meeting that Councillor Hughes had relinquished his chairmanship of the Parish Council at the previous Annual General Meeting after serving for fourteen years in this capacity. Councillor Bowyer continued by advising that, during the year, the Parish Council had tried to ensure that features which contribute to the character of the village are retained. For example, it has been requested that the Gilbert Scott telephone box be preserved and placed on the listed buildings register. A decision is awaited from the Secretary of State. The Granary at Church Farm is in need of some restoration and the Buildings at Risk Officers and the owners are investigating this. The replacement of the bridge over the brook at Priston Mill has been promised during the current financial year, and an oak tree in the parish has received specialist attention.

Planning Applications include an extension at the Milking Parlour, Church Farm, Certificate of Lawful Use and a Riding Arena at Church Farm; a telecommunications mast at North Hill Farm, Tunley and change of use of a barn at Priston Mill. The Parish Council was also approached to comment on plans for an extension at Church Farm. New telegraph poles have been erected in Mill Lane.

Computer: The generosity of Mr and Mrs Geake, who had kindly donated a computer to the Parish Council, was acknowledged. The Council now has access to the internet enabling communication with the District Council and other organisations. Mr Bottle has been generous with his time in setting up the system and also tutoring the Clerk.

No.768 bus service: Funds had been made available by the District Council to keep the local bus service operational. The information gained through the Rural Transport Survey, organised by Community Action, completed by many residents, helped B&NES with their decision.

Local Roads: The Highways Manager visited the parish and noted areas of concern. Sections of Priston Lane have been resurfaced and pot holes repaired along the Marksbury and Farmborough lanes. It is noted that some of the highways in the parish seem to need frequent repair, for example, the lower end of the High Street and the bottom of Priston Hill.

The Link: Last year the Parish Council was concerned that The Link would fade from village life. The determination of the editors is acknowledged and the new style Link is flourishing. The Parish Council continues to give its financial support.

Parish Meeting: A local historian was invited to the Parish Meeting and gave a very interesting and informative talk on the Somerset Coal Canal.

Precept: It was with regret that the Parish Council approved an increase in the precept. This had been primarily to cover an increase in the Clerk's salary to bring this more into line with the national minimum wage.

Public Consultation: The Parish Council has set aside time at the beginning of each ordinary meeting to enable residents to discuss, with the council members, matters which cause them concern.

Concluding her report Councillor Bowyer advised that Councillor Martin Geake had resigned with effect from the Annual General Meeting and continued by thanking all Councillors, the District Councillor Mrs Rosemary Todd and the Clerk for their support during the year.

4. Financial Report - The Clerk presented accounts for the year ended 31st March 2006, copies of which were distributed to all present. Noted an end of year balance of £98.93 with cash in hand of £8.72. The formal adoption of this report was proposed by Councillor Hughes, seconded Councillor Lippiatt and agreed. Mrs Hunt was again thanked for the efficient and comprehensive manner in which the accounts were presented.

5. Election of Chairman – Councillor Bowyer was proposed as Chairman by Councillor Cross. Seconded and agreed unanimously. The Declaration of Acceptance of Office was signed.

6. Election of Vice-Chairman – Councillor Hughes was proposed to this office by Councillor Cross, seconded Councillor Bowyer and agreed.

7. Appointment of Clerk – Councillor Nokes proposed and seconded by Councillor Hughes that Mrs Hunt be reappointed as Clerk.

8. **Appointment of Footpath Representative** –Councillor Hughes proposed and Councillor Cross seconded that Councillor Whybrow be re-appointed for the coming year.
9. **Appointment of Village Hall Representative** – Councillor Whybrow was asked if he would be prepared to again undertake this duty of the coming year and, on his affirmation, was formally proposed by Councillor Cross and seconded Councillor Lippiatt.
10. **Signing of Cheques** – Councillors were in unanimous agreement that the Chairman and Vice-Chairman should continue as signatories on behalf of the Parish Council. It was not felt necessary for there to be a third signatory as had been recommended by the Internal Auditor.
11. **Any Other Business** – Mr Broomfield, requesting permission to address District Councillor Todd, asked why recent documentation referring to the Variation of Condition 2 of the planning application in respect of Hill Farm had not been sent to the near neighbours. It had been sent to the occupants of East and West Barn who were not immediately effected and who had not been involved in the earlier discussions. In reply Councillor Todd apologised profusely on behalf of the Planning Services of Bath and North East Somerset Council, regretting the oversight.

There being no further business for discussion at the Annual General Meeting, the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 7.28pm and proceeded with the first meeting of the new term.