

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of Priston Parish Council held on Monday 14th May 2012 in the Village Hall, Priston.

1. Attendance and Apologies –

Councillor Pattison presided, Councillors Cross, Girdlestone, Hopwood, Lippiatt, Whybrow and the Parish Clerk were present. Councillor Pattison welcomed Councillors and village resident Mr Nevill. Apologies received from Councillor Davies, residents Mr Bottle, Mr Hunt and Mr Wilkinson and District Councillor David Veale.

2. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Monday 16th May 2011, having been distributed electronically to Councillors, published on the Priston Website and on the Parish Council Noticeboard, were accepted and agreed as a true record of proceedings and signed by the Chairman. There were no matters arising.

3. Chairman's Report for the year ending 31st March 2012 – Councillor Pattison, at his first Annual General Meeting as Chairman, commenced by advising that there had been some changes in the Parish Council in the past year with two new councillors and a new District Councillor. There had been a major learning experience for all Councillors following the non-election of the Council's most experienced Councillor and Chairman, Tim Hughes which had led to considerably more work for all the councillors and the need for increased training.

The Queen's Diamond Jubilee – The Council is supporting celebrations to mark the occasion of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee with a street party and the lighting, on Pensdown, of the village's brazier.

Planning – A revised procedure for considering of planning applications had been agreed and published on the Priston Website. This new procedure looked in detail at the relevant BANES' policies. A Planning sub-committee was formed to look at each application and recommend a response for the full Parish Council to consider.

Responses on applications received from The Old Rectory (Left), The Old Dog Inn, Staddlestones, Rozel, 36/37 Priston, 1 Hill View, Pressbarrow Farm, Parcel 5856 High Street, The Old Post Office, 10 Summerlea, Park Farm Newton St Loe and finally, the site of the former Tunley Colliery had been sent to Planning Services.

Highways and Footpaths – The Chairman continued by advising that the Parish Council's efforts to have Priston Lane/Wood Lane declared unsuitable for heavy vehicles had been unsuccessful, noting that most of the footpath stiles had been replaced by kissing gates and also that the walnut tree on the village green had been trimmed. Thanks were extended to Councillor Whybrow for his efforts to reduce dog fouling, particularly in the lane beside the cricket field and opposite the church.

Defibrillator – Thanks were extended to John Wilkinson for his continuing support to this project, including the purchase of mobile telephones for use in the event of an emergency.

Priston Website – More information on the business of the Parish Council had been published on the website, including the Registers of Interest of the Councillors. Thanks were once again extended to Richard Bottle for his work on behalf of the Parish Council.

Parish Online – Councillor Cross was thanked for her continued development of the database, which now includes the owner/user of each of the fields in the parish.

Grit Bins - Concluding his report, the Chairman advised that the Parish Council had purchased, and filled, two grit bins which, fortunately, it had not been necessary to use in the preceding winter.

4. Financial Report– The Clerk presented and reported on the Parish Council's finances for the year ended 31st March 2012 advising the year had commenced with an opening balance of £1,778.88 which included £1,000 from the Ward Councillor's Initiative Fund which, during the year, had been used for the renovation of the Village Green plus a balance of £1,257.96 in the PRIDE/Defibrillator account. A precept of £3,765 had been received and VAT of £47.84 reclaimed in respect of transactions on behalf of the Parish Council. There was a balance at the bank at 31st March 2012 of £1,585.36, which included the balance in the defibrillator account after the purchase of the two mobile telephones. Typed copies of the accounts were distributed to councillors and attending resident and the accounts would be published on the Priston Website.

5. Election of Chairman – At this point the Chair was taken by the Vice Chairman, Councillor Hopwood, who requested nominations for the Office of Chairman for the coming year. Councillor Pattison was formally proposed by Councillor Cross, seconded Councillor Girdlestone and agreed.

6. Declaration of Office – Chairman – The official Declaration of Acceptance of Office was signed by Councillor Pattison and witnessed by the Clerk.

7. **Election of Vice Chairman** – Councillor Hopwood was proposed by Councillor Pattison, seconded Councillor Lippiatt and agreed.
8. **Appointment of Clerk** – Councillor Pattison proposed, seconded Councillor Hopwood, that Mrs Hunt be reappointed as Clerk.
9. **Appointment of Footpath Representative** – Proposed Councillor Pattison, seconded Councillor Lippiatt and agreed that Councillor Whybrow be appointed for the coming year.
10. **Appointment of Village Hall Representative** – Proposed Councillor Hopwood, seconded Councillor Whybrow and agreed that Councillor Cross be appointed for the coming year.
11. **Appointment of Representative to Priston AED Project** – Proposed Councillor Cross, seconded Councillor Lippiatt and agreed that John Wilkinson, who had indicated his willingness to carry on in this capacity, be appointed for the coming year.
12. **Representative to Priston Church of England Educational Charity** – Noted that subsequent to the Annual General Meeting held in 2011, Timothy Hughes had agreed to act as the Parish Council's representative to the Priston Church of England Educational Charity which had a four year tenure.
13. **Signing of Cheques** – Agreed the Chairman and Vice-Chairman together with Councillor Cross continue to be the three signatories for cheques and noted two of the three signatures were needed on all cheques.
14. 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.