

Minutes of the Priston Parish Council Meeting

Held on Zoom on Monday 18th January 2021 at 7.00 pm

Present: Cllrs Doug Pattison (Chair), Peter Hopwood, Vicky Pai, Robert Davies, Bruce Clarke, John Lippiatt, Fiona Hassard, and Jocelyn Nichols (Clerk), together with Richard Bottle, John Wilkinson, Niels Cross, Robin and Aylet Anderson, David Worskett (CPRE).

Parishoners were asked if there was anything they wished to be raised at the meeting:

At Robert Davies' request, David Worskett reported on the work done by the Campaign for the Protection of Rural England (CPRE) to protect the countryside, and promote understanding of countryside issues and more sustainable local communities. Recently the WECA strategic plan and Bristol airport expansion proposals have been rejected following campaigns by CPRE. Upcoming issues include the threat of multiple houses at Sulis Down, the partial revised local plan and Bath sustainable transport. Nationally CPRE are opposing the government planning reforms which erode local democracy. The council was asked to consider increasing our contribution to CPRE from £36 a year – which is the current individual membership – to £100. It was stressed that CPRE is not a political organisation.

- 1. Apologies:** Matt McCabe, Neil Butters
- 2. Minutes of last meeting:** Agreed and signed as a correct record.
- 3. Matters arising:** The digitising of parish records will be reconsidered when Covid restrictions allow. ALCA has confirmed that all minutes must be kept indefinitely.
Thanks were expressed to Vicky for organising the Father Christmas procession and lighting competition. Gifts were bought for the prize winners and Father Christmas, and £25 was given to the local food bank in Peasedown.
The gritter has been ordered and will arrive soon.
- 4. Chair's Report:** Vicky reported for CATP that all the ITU beds at the RUH were full at the moment. The Chair has asked Charlie Samler to remove the dead and low branches on the walnut tree on the green. One of the posts on the triangle was recently flattened and replaced with a spare post.
An article in the Somerset Guardian promoting a walk around the Priston valley was discussed, as it is very busy at weekends, and the lockdown guidance recommends we should all refrain from driving to walk. However, this was not felt to be a parish council matter.
- 5. Clerk's Report: Finances:** The bank balance stood at £7,899.66 on 3 January. We have received £906.38 Community Infrastructure Levy. The items of expenditure on the financial report were noted, and if we spend as per the approved budget, and forecast expenditure, we would end the financial year on 31 March with £4,540.
The **draft budget** for 2021/22 was discussed in detail, and it was agreed to put a provisional £500 expenditure item in for climate impact reduction works. Councillors agreed to increase our CPRE contribution to £100, and the village hall rental costs were estimated at £250. It was agreed that as this has been such a difficult year for residents, we would not apply for an increase to the precept. We will again ask for £6,700. The budget was agreed at £7,457 expenditure.

Councillors were reminded about the current consultations:

- Bath Transport Delivery Action Plan – webinar on 1 February at 5.30pm and consultation ends on 1 March.
- Bath City Centre Security consultation is extended to 31 January.
- The Local Plan Partial Update consultation ends on 18 February. We will work with CPRE to respond.

ALCA is offering training for councillors:

- The Essential Councillor 28/01/21
- Planning in Plain English 15/03/21
- Finance for Councillors 08/06/21, 10/06/21, 15/06/21, 22/06/21

B&NES are reporting on their climate and ecological emergency progress on 21/01/21. This is available to watch on Youtube.

6. **Roads and Highways:** Marksbury lane potholes have been reported and fixed. There is a blocked drain which will be reported again. Fix my Street is working well, and all were reminded to report any road issues on the App.
7. **Planning:**
 - a) **Church Farm housing development** – extra plans and papers have been requested and the decision date is projected to be 15 February.
 - b) **4 Hill View** – The application has been withdrawn.
 - c) **Fonthill Cottage** – The Chair wrote to B&NES Planning Department about the decision delay, and this was immediately rectified, which was much appreciated by the new owners.
8. **Footpaths:** We await a final footpath decision from B&NES by the sewage works.
9. **Declaration of a climate and ecological emergency:** Priston Parish Council resolves to recognise the existence of a climate and ecological emergency. The PC fully supports the B&NES declaration on the climate emergency. The PC will work with the Priston community and organisations, B&NES and other parish councils to establish specific local initiatives that will contribute to and enhance all aspects of our parish including transport, the built environment, ecology and renewable energy.

Action: The Chair will ask Priston Action Group for the Environment (PAGE) organisers if they wish to act as lead officers on climate and ecological issues for the council.
One suggestion which we will investigate is the installation of electric car charging points by the village hall. Grants are available to help with this.
10. **External Meetings:** Parish Council Climate Emergency Workshop 26 November 9.30 – 4.30 was attended by the clerk, and notes have been circulated.
11. **Any other Business:** Our new defibrillator will be installed and running within a week hopefully. The parish council's grateful thanks will be conveyed to our anonymous donor.
12. **Date of next meeting:** Monday 15th March 2021 on Zoom.

Signed

Date

JN 19 January 2021