

**Minutes of the Priston Parish Council Meeting
Held at 7 pm on Monday 3rd July 2023 in the village hall.**

Present: Cllrs Peter Hopwood (Chair), John Lippiatt, Helen Burns, Nick Keppel-Palmer, Guy Davies, Farah Downing, Jocelyn Nichols (Clerk) and B&NES Cllr Matt McCabe

1. Matters raised by parish residents:

a. Aylet Anderson reported that an unknown vehicle had crashed into her gate and the wall which belongs to B&NES. She will contact gary_peacock@bathnes.gov.uk in Highways to obtain assistance with reinstating the wall.

b. A parishioner had asked if the parish council could chase progress on the cracked wall at the bottom of Priston Lane. **Action: Clerk to write to Highways and Steve Grant to hasten repair of the dangerous wall.**

c. John Wilkinson reminded parishioners about the 3 defibrillators in the village, details can be found on the Priston website, and also of the Priston Emergency Group (PEG) WhatsApp administered by Richard Bottle. He also reminded the meeting about the marquee, which is jointly owned by the Village Hall and Church and can be used for village events. It is administered by Doug Pattison.

d. Peter Brookes notified parishioners of his concerns over the health and safety of the villagers when demolition of the barns started a few weeks ago. The large roof is asbestos, but 3 men in a van turned up to dismantle it one weekend without a method statement, risk assessment, or the correct equipment. B&NES Planning Enforcement and Guy Davies (as a neighbour and architect) wrote to the owners reminding them of the planning conditions including demolition, and they have now appointed a professional contractor. **Action: Peter Hopwood will discuss our health and safety concerns with the landowners. Matt will discuss the project with Building Control.**

e. Following enquiry by Cllr Keppel-Palmer: The parish council agreed to pay reasonable costs for a Biodiversity awareness course.

f. Noted that there has been an increase in clay pigeon shooting in the valley, possibly due to bird flu restrictions.

2. Apologies:, B&NES Councillor Fiona Gourley and Councillor Bruce Clarke

3. Minutes: The Minutes of the Annual Meeting held on Monday 15th May 2023 were approved and signed.

4. Matters Arising:

a. A new auditor has been found for this financial year.

b. B&NES have installed signs warning Priston Lane is unsuitable for HGVs.

c. The pipe is still blocked 30-50 yards from Rockhill entrance. **Action: Clerk to remind B&NES.**

d. **Action Clerk:** Neils Cross to be invited to complete his Dome talk after the Saturday Café. Chair and clerk will organise.

5. **Chair's Report:**

a. Chairman requested than if any councillor is unable to attend Parish meeting they send apologies to our Clerk, together with a brief report on their area of responsibility (if necessary).

b. The tenants of Walnut Tree House had reported that they have been forced to leave the property early due to water ingress and black mould, leading to the landlord's insurers declaring it 'unfit for human habitation'. The council was invited to view the property by the tenants and agreed to do so to gain a better understanding of the issues. Cllr Guy Davies compiled some site observation notes which were discussed (attached). **Action: District Cllr Matt McCabe has agreed to meet the head of B&NES Building Control to discuss the following questions:**

I. **Why was tanking not installed to the rear retaining wall of the house?**

II. **Why was below-slab tanking not installed?**

III. **How were missing tanking membranes not observed during standard building regulation inspections?**

IV. **Why were water retention tanks not installed, when they were a planning condition?**

6. **Financial Report for the year ending 31st March 2024:** The Parish Council had £13,402.70 in the bank on 1 May and on 19 June there was £12,898.69. The expenditure was £504.01. The expected expenditure to the end of the financial year was discussed.

7. **Roads and Highways:** Potholes are getting worse, but repairs are done quickly if reported on 'Fix My Street' App. Councillors were shown the App, and reminded to report potholes, fly tipping etc when spotted.

8. **Planning:** Bruce had reported on Planning Application 23/02221/COND at New Farm, and his comments were agreed to be submitted as our response.

9. **Flooding:** The screen/grill on Watery Lane has still not been installed. Clerk has chased B&NES.

10. **To report on the Climate and Ecological Emergency:** Nick has been surprised by the amount of information provided by B&NES and is sorting it into a directory of available support.

11. **To report on footpaths:** Helen will contact Sheila Petheridge, B&NES footpaths officer for some public footpath signs.

12. **AED:** Roger Morrad is planning some defibrillator training in September.

13. **To report on external meetings and agree attendance at future meetings:** Bathavon Forum is on Wednesday 5 July at 6pm. Our issues for discussion will be put forward as: Planning and Building control, Transport issues, and knife crime and drugs affecting our young people, also working together to protect against the climate emergency.

D-Day 80 is on 6 June 2024. Farah will liaise with the village hall committee and we can discuss in January 2024.

Councillors were invited to attend the webinar or drop-ins about the Somer Valley links to A37/A362/A367, to feedback to the consultation.

B&NES community resilience day on 28 September will be offered to Richard Bottle as our PEG organiser.

The Parish Liaison committee is on 19 July 6-9pm.

The nominated sites for Local Green Space Review deadline is 14 July.

14. **Any other business:** Robin Anderson had written to Matt about paying for parking in Bath, and credit card payment machines are being re-instated so that it will be possible to pay by card, cash or App.

The Local Plan process has started and there will soon be a consultation on options for change.

15. **Date of next Meeting** –Monday 4th September 2023 7pm in the village hall.

Signed:Date:

JN 4/7/23