

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Priston Parish Council

Held at 7pm on Monday 6th July 2026 in the village hall

Present: Cllrs Bruce Clarke (Chair), Peter Hopwood, Helen Burns, Guy Davies, Robert Davies, and Nick Keppel-Palmer, Rebecca Landon (Clerk) and 5 Parishioners

1. **Matters raised by parish residents:** All were welcomed to the meeting. Planning and ecological issues to be discussed under items 8 and 10.
2. **Apologies:** B&NES Cllr Matt McCabe and Cllr John Lippiatt
3. **Minutes:** The minutes of the ordinary meeting on 11th May 2026 and the extraordinary meeting on 1st June 2026 were approved and signed.
4. **Actions from previous meetings:** a) Regarding the hedge at Mead Cottage, Cllr Burns is liaising with the parishioners involved. **Action remains: Cllr Burns to continue to liaise with relevant parishioners regarding the hedge next to Mead Cottage, the Parish Council will source hedging and arrange volunteers to plant the hedge in the Autumn.** b) Waiting for response from Gamekeeper. **Action remains: Cllr Lippiatt has asked the Gamekeeper to check with the Landowner that he can clear the ditch at the bend on Priston Lane and at the double dipper, and is chasing a response.** c) SLOW signs are now visible on Watery Lane. **Action: Cllr Burns to contact 'Fix My Street' for painted 20mph roundels for Watery Lane.** d) The Emergency Provision Checklist was circulated at the meeting and is on the website. **Action: Cllr Hopwood to circulate one Emergency Provision Checklist per residence.** e) Clerk has contacted B&NES Highways regarding speed pillows and is waiting for a response. **Action: Clerk to chase B&NES Highways about the installation of speed pillows in the village.** f) The potential for increasing parking availability in the Village Hall car park was discussed with the Village Hall Committee who rejected the suggestion. Currently the Village Hall Committee know who any cars parked belong to, making it easy for them to moved if needed, and there is also enthusiasm in the Village Hall Committee for the area to be used as a village hub instead of a car park. g) Cllr Keppel-Palmer has received many suggestions regarding parking and has summarised some of these – to be discussed under item 7. h) Cllrs Clarke, R Davies and G Davies attended the Planning training.
5. **Chair's Report:** As a point of interest, the planning application at Beech Tree Farm in Marksbury for an on-site café and new direct access from the A39 may help to alleviate traffic problems on a Sunday.
6. **Financial Report for 1st May 2026 to 1st July 2026:** The Parish Council had £8,032.79 in the bank on 1st July. The expenditure included crossover between the outgoing Clerk and the new Clerk, and the usual audit payment. If we spend in line with our budget, we should carry forward £5,914.82 to next year excluding CIL.
7. **Roads and Highways:** Regarding the Parking Survey, the Parish Council are keen to explore what the village can do, and have looked to other villages with similar issues. Ideas include: a voluntary charter for Airbnb owners including a badge hosts can add to their profiles; a voluntary parking restriction for stretched areas, e.g. Hill View, encouraged by slips put on cars of those who do not live there asking kindly if they could park elsewhere; the installation of moveable planters to act as

chicanes to address speeding; the creation of a Priston Traffic Action Group to address speeding through means such as cameras, smiley faces and/or parking slips asking car owners to park elsewhere and/or to not park on pavements; or dropped kerb enforcement. **Action: Cllr Keppel-Palmer to draft an article regarding the parking and speeding suggestions to be discussed at next meeting for inclusion in the Link.** Sunday parking at the Cricket Club can put strain on the village. **Action: Chair and Clerk to draft a letter to the owner of the Cricket Club to ask about creation of parking on-site – will need to include ‘park at own risk’ signs.**

8. **Planning:**

Local Plan and Green Belt – Publication of the Draft Local Plan has been delayed from June to September. Priston Parish Council can comment again once it is published. A Green Belt review is also upcoming, and some areas may be changed to Grey Belt. Priston may need to consolidate the case about sustainability e.g. sewage works. **Action: Cllr R Davies to research other parts of the country facing similar issues and will produce a written report to take forward.**

4 Hill View – An application for a Certificate of Lawful Existing Use has been received by B&NES. The resident provided comments prior to the meeting stating that an existing external building at the side of the property was converted into a studio room and bathroom in 2021, and they have submitted photos of it in use as an office and spare bedroom, with intention to continue using it as such. It was discussed that the Parish Council viewed the work in 2021 and had no objections, and no objections have been raised since. The size of the building is larger than the original footprint but does not seem unreasonable, and it seems like a reasonable use of existing space. It was raised that it can be difficult to establish length of use, and that it is difficult to comment without drawings, however it is for B&NES to decide if everything needed has been received. **Decision: Cllrs agreed unanimously to take no action.**

9. **Flooding:** A heavy storm on Monday 22nd June 2026 resulted in a significant amount of debris from Upper Priston travelling into the village, largely garden trimmings. The idea of forming a group of Parishioners to clear gullies and drains was discussed, and for the Parish Council to ask residents to look after drains outside their own properties. An idea was proposed for a list of volunteering tasks in the village, such as litter picking and gully clearing, to be created for students working towards DofE awards to carry out as part of their volunteering hours. **Action: Cllr Burns to produce documentation regarding DofE volunteering in the village.** It was also discussed that the B&NES-owned wall by the stream needs fixing, particularly as it is at risk of being taken out in another storm. **Action: Cllr Clarke to contact Fix My Street to ask for the wall to be repaired.**

Cllr Hopwood needed to leave the meeting at this point.

10. **To report on the Climate and Ecological Emergency:** A parishioner is arranging for the ‘National Emergency Briefing’ documentary to be screened in the Village Hall.
11. **To report on footpaths:** There have been concerns just outside the Parish boundary, in Englishcombe, about a path that has collapsed. B&NES are involved. There has been discontent in the village about signs by the footpath by the sewage works. Cllr Burns has had conversations with the landowner. Cllr Clarke has been emptying the dog waste bins, and it is felt that the dog waste situation is improving.

12. **To report on external meetings and agree attendance at future meetings:** There is an online meeting through WECA about bus routes on 14th July, open for anyone to attend. Cllr R Davies will attend the Parish Liaison Meeting on 22nd July with either the Clerk or the Chair.
13. **AOB:** A number of parishioners have raised concerns about aggressive driving through the village, often by one particular driver. It was felt that there is not much the Parish Council can do, as it is more of a police matter. **Action: Cllr Keppel-Palmer to discuss aggressive driving in the village with the local Police Officer.**

Date of next Meeting – Monday 7th September 2026 at 7pm in the Village Hall.

Signed: Date:

RL 07/07/2026