

The following are the DRAFT minutes of an ordinary meeting of Priston Parish Council which was held on Monday 15 March 2004 in the Village Hall, Priston. These have not yet been approved by the Parish Council.

Councillor Hughes presided, Councillors Bowyer, Cross, Geake, Nokes, Whybrow and Parish Clerk were present.

The Chairman welcomed Mr John Lippiatt who had been successful at the recent election, village residents Mr and Mrs Kettley and Mr Wilkinson and Councillor Mrs Todd.

1. **The minutes** of the meeting held on 9 February were read, agreed and signed by the Chairman.
2. **Matters Arising: Telephone Box** - The Clerk advised that British Telecom had confirmed that the box was cleaned weekly. It was however commented that it still does not look clean.
3. **Declaration of Acceptance of Office** - The Declaration of Acceptance of Office form was signed by Mr Lippiatt and witnessed by the Clerk. The Chairman formally welcomed the newly elected Councillor to the Parish Council, expressing the hope that he would enjoy his term in office.
4. **Correspondence** -
 - (i) Acknowledgement from **Avon and Somerset Police** in response to letter advising that the Parish Council does not have sufficient funds to provide financial support.
 - (ii) **Former Skittle Alley** - The meeting was reminded that the Clerk had been requested to write to Planning Services to request an explanation of what is considered to be a "minor amendment" as promised in their letter of 10 October 2003. The letter which had been received in reply was read to the Council. One of the main comments in the letter is that the Planning Services have admitted they were wrong in allowing an increase of the roof height as a minor amendment and that it should have been subject to a further planning application. Also, in future, all new builds will have ground levels checked.
 - (iii) A lengthy letter received from Mr and Mrs Rowbottom regarding the decisions made by Planning Services in respect of the former Skittle Alley was read. The whole question of the way Planning Services dealt with the construction of the building is at this moment being investigated by the local government ombudsman. Councillor Hughes and Councillor Todd both spoke on the content of this letter. A further letter to the Planning Services was being prepared requesting them to be more specific in their advice of the action which should have been taken.
Requesting permission to address the Council, Mrs Kettley advised that the minutes of the February meeting as recorded in The Link have been construed by some villagers to indicate that her husband had incorrectly built their new home. Councillor Hughes replied that the Parish Council have never blamed Mr and Mrs Kettley for the problems experienced. The Parish Council is aware and accepts that the build was carried out with the full approval of the Planning Services. It was pointed out again, however, that investigations are being carried out.
5. **Financial Report** - The Clerk reported a balance at the bank of £286.20 after writing cheques for the second half of her salary and £5 petty cash. She was currently holding a cash balance of £4.26p. An end of year balance would be prepared for the annual general meeting.
6. **Annual Parish Meeting** - Councillor Hughes advised that a notice would be placed in the April edition of The Link to invite residents to the meeting and a letter would be sent to all local organisations and groups.
7. **Memorial to J Nokes and C Fry** - No further information available.
8. **The Batch, Tunley** - The Clerk read a letter from the landowner in which he declined to give permission for The Batch to be designated as a site Nature Conservation Importance.
9. **Priston Website** - The value of the Website was commented upon.

- 10. Footpaths and Bridleways** - The archaeological report on the culvert was still awaited.
- 11. Planning Applications:**
Greystones, 31 Priston - Planning application had been withdrawn in respect of change of access.
2 Wilmington - Planning application for a two-storey side extension had been considered by Councillors. No objections raised but it was assumed that the neighbours had been consulted.
- 12. Any other business :**
(a) Councillor Mrs Todd advised of matters of interest to the Parish of Priston -
(i) Referring to the signposting to Wilmington as reported at the previous meeting advised that there were problems with the route to be indicated as the roads could not take wide vehicles. Signposting to be via Marksbury when funds become available.
(ii) The budget for Bath and North East Somerset Council had been set and discussions are taking place as to where money should be allocated.
(iii) The collection of garden waste and cardboard would continue.
(iv) In response to a question at the conclusion of her report, Mrs Todd was informed that problems are experienced with off-road vehicles on the Old Mill Lane, Priston Mill to Inglesbatch.
(b) Chinook Helicopters - Following further comments regarding low flying Chinook Helicopters, the Clerk was requested to again write to the RAF Police.
- 13. Date of next meeting** Agreed the Annual General Meeting be held on Monday 17 May 2004 commencing 7.00pm and followed by an ordinary meeting.

There being no further business for consideration the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.00pm and thanked Councillors and village residents for their attendance and participation.