

The following are the DRAFT minutes of an ordinary meeting of Priston Parish Council held on Monday 31 March 2008 in the Village Hall, Priston. These have not yet been approved by the Parish Council as an accurate record of proceedings.

Councillor Hughes presided, Councillors Cross, Hopwood, Whybrow, Wilkinson and Parish Clerk were present. The Chairman welcomed village residents Mrs Anderson, Mr and Mrs Broomfield, Mrs Grimshaw, Mr Hunt and Ms Rogers.

1. **Apologies** received from Councillor Lippiatt and Mr Bottle.
2. **Minutes of the meeting** held on 11 February 2008 were read, confirmed as an accurate record of proceedings and signed by the Chairman.
3. **Matters Arising:**
 - Walnut Tree** – The Chairman advised he had removed lower branches, which had become a hazard, and thanked Mr Hunt for his support.
 - Surface Dressing, Priston Hill** – Commented that some repairs had been carried out in recent weeks.
 - Slow signs** – The slow signs had recently been repainted.
 - Footbridge near Priston Mill** – Councillor Whybrow referring to a letter received from Environmental Services, advised that as finances were now available, a replacement bridge had been ordered and was due for installation in May.
 - Lower Village Green** – No information available on this item.
4. **Declaration of Acceptance of Office/Register of Interest** - Noted the apologies of the newly elected Councillor, Douglas Pattison, who was unable to attend the meeting due to family illness. Proposed by the Chairman, and agreed, the formal Acceptance of Office be signed at the next meeting.
5. **Correspondence – (i) Dog Fouling** - Email letter received from a resident drawing attention to the numerous incidents of dog excrement on the grass verges of private properties in Church Lane. The Chairman reminded the Council and attending residents that the failure of dog owners to clear away after their pets is a criminal offence. The attending editor of The Link was requested to place a general notice in the next edition drawing attention to this.
(ii) Letter received from the Priston Millennium Committee requesting the Parish Council's agreement to the committee's intentions to erect a roof over the drinking fountain and well and also to form a trap in the grid on the well to allow the well to be cleared of rubbish. Noted that, as with the well, fountain and horse trough, the roof would become the responsibility of the Parish Council. The Millennium Committee was thanked for its proposal and formal acceptance was proposed by Councillor Cross, seconded Councillor Hopwood and agreed unanimously.
6. **Financial Report** - The Clerk advised an end of year balance at the bank of £413.49. A full report would be given at the Annual General Meeting.
7. **Emergency Guidance** – Councillor Cross advised of the current situation with regard to the amendments to the document and of the support from Mrs Seymour. A map of the parish has been amended to indicate the position of fire hydrants. A draft letter to be sent to B&NES, when the document is returned, had been prepared by Councillor Wilkinson, was read to the Council and approved.
8. **Regional Spatial Strategy** – Councillor Cross advised that Councillors, with support from Mrs Seymour and other village residents, are currently conducting a survey of the parish to be sent to B&NES, and the government should it prove necessary. The offer of assistance by Mrs Grimshaw in the distribution of handbills and questionnaires was accepted with thanks.

9. **Priston Website** – Mr Bottle’s report on the current contents of the website, including recent additions to the photogallery and new web pages created to support the Village Hall, the Church and the PAGE Environmental Group was read. Mr Bottle was again thanked for his upkeep of the website and his support of village organisations.
10. **Footpaths and Bridleways** – Covered under item 3 above.
11. **Planning Applications:**
 - Hill Farm** – Erection of Implement Shed (Retrospective) – No response yet received from the Planning Inspectorate.
 - Ring O’Bells** – Erection of new external staircase following removal of existing – Consent form received from Planning Services.
 - Priestbarrow House** – Conversion of existing outbuildings – Application documentation returned to Planning Services with no objections raised by the Parish Council.
12. **Date of Annual General Meeting** – Monday 12th May 2008 commencing 7.00pm.
13. **Date of next meeting** - Monday 12th May immediately following the Annual General Meeting.
14. **Any other business:**
 - (i) Ms Rogers gave a very interesting report on the activities of the Priston Action Group for the Environment (**PAGE**) advising on the bulk oil-buying system and also mentioning the Priston website which has information on energy saving, local shopping etc.
 - (ii) Councillor Wilkinson informed the Council he had been contacted by a resident who had taken exception to the wording of a letter written by the Parish Council to the Planning Services of Bath and North East Somerset Council.

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 7.50pm before proceeding with the Annual Parish Meeting.