

Minutes of the Priston Parish Council Meeting

held at Priston Village Hall on Monday 16th March 2020 at 7.00 pm

Present: Cllrs Doug Pattison (Chair), Peter Hopwood, Vicky Pai, Fiona Hassard, John Lippiatt, Robert Davies, Bruce Clarke and Jocelyn Nichols (Clerk). Councillor Matt McCabe was welcomed to the meeting. Aylet Anderson, John Wilkinson, John Cameron and Richard Bottle also attended.

Villagers were asked if there was anything they wished to be raised at the meeting. No matters were raised.

1. **Apologies:** None
2. **Minutes of last meeting:** Agreed and signed as a correct record.
3. **Matters arising:** The clerk has investigated improvements to our banking systems. Nat West Bankline is too expensive for us, so the clerk will send the three bank signatories statements from the Nat West account when purchases are made.

B&NES have stated that the Marksbury road will not be gritted, the parish clerk will contact the council to complain when the school bus does not run.

The suspected water fountain leak was in fact excess water in the bank behind the wall leaking through.

The gritter which we wish to purchase is currently out of stock.

4. **Chair's Report:** The parish council will send a letter to all the village offering help and support to anyone affected by the Coronavirus, and also asking for help from others in the village. This could be help with shopping or setting up online banking. The content of the letter was discussed and the clerk will prepare it for circulation. Those not on email will be hand delivered. Newton Farm are offering home deliveries.
Action: Doug agreed to suggest to the pub it should consider providing takeaway meals, and we should support and advertise this service as government have advised we should not be socializing in pubs.

It was agreed that the Annual Parish Meeting would be postponed indefinitely due to government advice on avoiding unnecessary social contact.

John Cameron reported to councillors about the meeting held between him, Matt, Peter and the police and highways department at Marksbury junction about the lack of visibility when approaching the main road. This was following his survey of villagers, which received 37 responses who between them use the junction 240 times a week. The junction is also used by visitors to the car boot sales and Priston Mill. The highways department have agreed to change the signage on the road from 2 lanes to just one. We will monitor whether this improves safety.

The plaque has been added to the noticeboard in memory of Mike Taylor, and his daughter Imogen Robins is liaising with the village hall committee about providing a bench behind the hall also in his memory.

Aylet reported that debris had been cleared from the Conygre pre-screen, and a more robust screen would hopefully be installed this summer by Jim McEwen. The drains through the village had also been cleared. The sumps along Marksbury Lane are blocked. **Action: John Lippiatt will report this to Fix my Street.**

5. **Clerk's Report: Finances:** The bank balance stood at £4,210.90. The unusual items of expenditure on the financial report were discussed and a contribution of £300 towards the new noticeboard has been received from the village hall and church. Expected expenditure for the rest of the financial year is about £1,768. This includes a new gritter which will now cost around £1,100. The draft budget for 2020/21 has been updated to include our precept increase to £6,700.

Louise Callan had emailed the chair and clerk with two concerns which were discussed. The first concerned the large quantity of cans and bottles found by litter pickers. **Action: The clerk will ask the police to consider checking the lanes for drink driving when they patrol the area.** Louise also highlighted the

increase in bright floodlights outside some houses. **Action: The clerk will ask Louise to write an article for the Link reminding residents about the importance of Priston remaining a dark village.**

A new planning application has been received which Robert and Bruce are investigating. It is hoped that we will be able to finalise the parish comment by email to avoid another meeting.

6. **75 VE Day Celebration:** In the unlikely event that this goes ahead in May the parish council will finance payment to the band and purchase of port – about £250.
7. **Website Accessibility Regulations:** Richard will provide a proposal and accessibility statement for the next meeting.
8. **Emergency Plan and Community Resilience Day:** This has been postponed.
9. **Footpaths:** The new kissing gate in the field by the cricket pitch has been installed. Ramblers have installed mats and gravel by gates to reduce mud. A new design for the Watery Lane field gate is still being investigated.
10. **External Meetings:** Due to government advice these are cancelled.
11. **Any Other Business:** Vicky has discussed coronavirus with residents in Wilmington. There are 8 houses and a farm, and they have one vulnerable resident. Due to a recent medical incident they are keen to install a defibrillator, and if they require our help Vicky will liaise with John Wilkinson. They will be sent the email version of the Link.

Robert and Bruce have agreed to be our lead on the replacement for the failed Joint Spatial Plan.

John Wilkinson highlighted a change to the way he reports defibrillator operational readiness. Once a month (every 4th Friday) he advises the South Western Ambulance Service Financial Trust that AEDs are fully operational. AED training sessions are on hold until normal social contact is again possible.

12. **Date of meetings:** Annual Parish meeting on 28th March 2020 is now postponed indefinitely. May 11th will be our AGM, if we are able to hold it.

Signed

Date

JN 17 March 2020