

Minutes of the Priston Parish Council Meeting

Held on Zoom on Monday 15 March 2021 at 7.00 pm

Present: Cllrs Doug Pattison (Chair), Peter Hopwood, Vicky Pai, Robert Davies, Bruce Clarke, Fiona Hassard, B&NES councillor Neil Butters and Jocelyn Nichols (Clerk), together with Richard Bottle, John Whybrow, Robin and Aylet Anderson, Louise Callan and Simon Barnes

Parishioners were asked if there was anything they wished to be raised at the meeting:

Aylet, as flood warden, has been discussing with Jim McEwen, Drainage Engineer, Highways Maintenance & Drainage, Environmental Services from Bath & North East Somerset Council, the concrete culvert pipe that runs through Priston Lane which may be damaged and may also be blocked. The suggestion is to install a 'trash screen' at the head of this system to avoid risk of blockage. B&NES could fund the construction costs and Doug agreed to ask the landowner if he is willing to have this installed and we would keep an eye on it and clear periodically. **Action: Doug to contact the Jones family.**

The exceedingly large pothole by the pipe was also discussed as being very dangerous. **Action: Fiona will contact 'Fix My Street' again.**

1. **Apologies:** B&NES councillor Matt McCabe, Cllr John Lippiatt.
2. **Minutes of last meeting:** Agreed and signed as a correct record.
3. **Matters arising:** The gritter has been ordered and will arrive soon.
4. **Chair's Report:** The Annual Parish Meeting will be held on Monday 29 March at 7pm. Doug has invited Gillian Sanders, Planning Liaison Manager, Wessex Water, to discuss the Priston sewage system. We await a response to his letter to Jacob Rees-Mogg to ask that the authorisation to hold parish meetings on Zoom continues beyond 6 May, as we will still be unable to hold physical meetings.
5. **Clerk's Report: Finances:** The bank balance stood at £6904.07 on 1 March. We have submitted a claim for the VAT paid throughout the year of £588. The items of expenditure on the financial report were noted, and if we spend as per the approved budget, and forecast expenditure, we would end the financial year on 31 March with at least £4,800.

The clerk is attending the ALCA Clerks' Network meeting on Wednesday 17 March at 2pm.

The chair and clerk will attend the Parish Liaison on Wednesday 24 March at 6.30pm.

The clerk is attending end of year training on Thursday 25 March at 11am.

6. **Roads and Highways:** John will report to the next meeting.
7. **Planning:**
 - a) **Bramble Barn** – The application to install an air source heat pump was strongly supported.
 - b) **Church Farm housing development** – More documents have been received containing objections by Bath Conservation Trust and Historic England as the houses are near to listed buildings, particularly the church.

Our response to the BANES Local Plan partial update consultation was discussed. We have expressed concerns and objected to the housing development boundary being reduced or abolished and asked that it be retained. We strongly recommend that the proposed Policy be adapted to control applications for change of use of agricultural land to other categories from which it would be possible to claim previously developed status. However we are pleased that we may have more control over infill building than previously.

8. **Footpaths:** A new horse gate has been installed by the cricket field and riders are happy now it has been moved to improve access.

The gate by the ford at Priston Mill is loose and could fall. **Action: Peter will check that the gate is fixed as part of ongoing works to the area.**

B&NES are consulting on rerouting the footpath which skirts the sewage works. The deadline for responses is 6 April. The original route of the public footpath was not changed correctly when the sewage works were built in the 1950s. Some parishioners were concerned that the proposed route is more sloping and slippery than the path by the stream, and the plastic matting to make it safer was not environmentally friendly. However, there were others who felt that the proposed route was acceptable. The parish councillors agreed to support the proposed new route.

9. Climate and ecological emergency: PAGE held a meeting on 3 March to plan our response to the emergency. Various parishioners have agreed to lead research and investigation into specific projects, and we will hold an event in the summer to advertise our plans and encourage parishioner involvement.

10. Any other Business: Our new defibrillator is now installed and running. The parish council's grateful thanks have been conveyed to our anonymous donor.

11. Date of next meeting: Monday 10th May 2021 on Zoom.

Signed

Date

JN 16 March 2021