

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Priston Parish Council Held at 7pm on Monday 9th March 2026 in the village hall

Present: Banes Cllr Matt McCabe, Cllrs Peter Hopwood, Bruce Clarke, Helen Burns, Guy Davies, Robert Davies, John Lippiatt and Nick Keppel-Palmer, Jocelyn Nichols (Clerk) and 6 Parishioners

1. **Matters raised by parish residents:** A parishioner felt that vehicles parked along the High Street reduced speeding by forcing all to drive slower. Another parishioner was concerned about the status of the current bus service, and wished for an increase in service. A parishioner, who resides on Priston Lane, supported the introduction of the double yellow lines up to 10m from the junction of Priston Lane & Hill View in accordance with the Highway Code Rule 243
2. **Apologies:** B&NES Councillor Fiona Gourley
3. **Minutes:** The minutes of the ordinary meeting on 19th January 2026 were approved and signed.
4. **Matters Arising:**
 - a) The dog bin on the bridleway is being well used. **Action: Clerk to purchase another bin and Helen will investigate which area would benefit most from it.**
 - b) The War memorial plaque is likely to be delivered 19 March, and Martin Blewett will do a dedication on 21 March at noon. **Action: To advertise at the Annual Parish Meeting at Saturday cafes.**
 - c) **Action: John will ask the Gamekeeper to check with the Landowner that he can clear the ditch at the bend on Priston Lane, also at the double dipper.**
5. **Chair's Report:**
 - a) The clerk has resigned, the post has been advertised and one person has shown an interest. The clerk is meeting them Wednesday 11 March to discuss the role.
 - b) ALCA have discussed provision of bleed kits and also what happened to WECA financing EV Chargers. At present we do not wish to encourage more vehicles to come to the village, but will keep an eye on available grants.
 - c) Dunkerton and Tunley Parish Council have written to ask our support for their bus proposals to reintroduce a revised 179 route from 6am to 10pm, and also increase the frequency of the 768 minibus to 7am to 7pm 7 days a week. It was agreed we would support these proposals provided the 768 route is given priority. **Action: Clerk to write to Dunkerton and Tunley council stating our qualified support, and also directly to WECA and B&NES as suggested.**
 - d) The National Planning Policy Framework consultation closes Tuesday 10 March. It includes definitions of green and grey belts, and also shows that the Government are centralising decision making on planning issues.
 - e) ALCA training courses would be useful for Councillors to attend if they have not done so before. **Action: Clerk to circulate the training leaflet, and also links to the Good Councillor's guide.**
 - f) Anna Sabine has written a well crafted letter about communities. **Action: Clerk to write in support of the letter from Priston Parish Council.**
 - g) It was agreed that our Annual Parish Meeting on Saturday will launch the parking survey and introduce the Emergency Provision Checklist. . **Action: Clerk to amend agenda and circulate.**
 - h) The Hill View sign has been re-installed by B&NES.
 - i) The sign at the top of Mill Lane is missing, Bruce has reported it on 'Fix My Street' by getting round the gremlin in the system which claimed it was outside B&NES.
 - j) We were all very saddened to learn of the death of our Village Agent – Chantal Young. She had been very helpful to a number of parishioners in organising the assistance they required. . **Action: Matt will try to establish who is our new agent.**

k) It was agreed by all to recycle the old clerk's computer and write it off the asset register.

6. **Financial Report for the financial year 1st April 2025 to 31st March 2026:** The Parish Council had £6,182.94 in the bank on 1st March including £1,310.70 CIL money. The expenditure from 1st January to 1st March was £1,160.50. If we spend in line with our budget, we should carry forward £4,878 to next year excluding CIL. Our precept of £9,820 for next year has been agreed. Robert agreed to fertilise the green, and we may need to replace the bench on the green soon. We discussed the possible CIL money from dismantling the Church barns and building new houses.
7. **Roads and Highways:** a) Bags of sand and garden waste had again been left on the road in 2 locations. **Action: Bruce agreed to visit Swallowdale to ask for the sand to be moved, and also Rozel about the garden waste. If the situation does not improve by next meeting we may need to elevate the matter to Highways.**
- b) The proposed double yellow lines and removal of 2 parking spaces at the junction of Priston Lane and High Street was discussed. Access and visibility issues had been discussed at our meeting on 1 September, which resulted in a visit from Stefan Chiffers from BANES highways on 27 October who recommended that double yellow lines up to the disabled bay would guarantee access and visibility. Councillors agreed to support this proposal at the meeting on 10 November. Since then Bruce has asked the resident on the corner about cutting back her hedge, but they felt this would reduce the security for their dog in the garden.
All agreed that the safety of the junction was the main concern, **Action: Bruce will chase for the painted 20mph roundels and SLOW signs along the village roads to be re-instated following Guy's google trawl, and photos from a parishioner showing they were present previously.**
The double yellow line TRO is being initiated by B&NES Highways in June, and all can comment on it then. Councillors voted to continue to support the proposed double yellow lines up to the disabled bay as recommended by Stefan Chiffers.
- c) The large and deep potholes on Marksbury Lane will be filled in as soon as the weather becomes dry enough.
- d) The Parking survey was introduced by Nick.
Action: Councillors to suggest any changes to the Parking Survey document to Nick, it will be introduced at the Annual Parish meeting. Results of the Parking Survey will be discussed at the May meeting.
8. **Planning:**
Dog Agility Lights – This is still an issue because the original approved application stated that a light solution should be found.
Glamping Pods Permission denied
2 Church Farm Houses – Permission granted
9. **Flooding:** No new issues
10. **To report on the Climate and Ecological Emergency** No new issues
11. **To report on footpaths:** Helen has met Simon Barnes and Eddie Proctor (B&NES) to correct the route and signs on the sloping footpath near the sewage works, and will move the plastic mesh with volunteers to make the correct path less slippery. Simon has agreed to move hinges to the other side of the gate to the sewage works to stop it being locked by mistake.

12. **AOB – Emergency Provision Checklist**

Peter presented the Emergency Provision Checklist for review. Guy agreed to print them for distribution.

Action: Councillors to suggest any changes (including an introduction explaining the list and that the Village Hall is a safe space) to Peter, before they are printed by Guy. It will be introduced at the Annual Parish Meeting

13. **To report on external meetings and agree attendance at future meetings:** Robert and the Clerk will attend the Parish Liaison on 18th March.

14. **Date of next Meeting** – AGM Monday 11th May 2026 7pm in the village hall.

Signed:Date:

JN 11/3/26