

An ordinary meeting of Priston Parish Council was held on Monday 13 May 2002 immediately following the Annual General Meeting.

Mr Hughes presided, Mrs Bowyer, Mr Jones, Miss Nokes, Mr Perriton, the District Councillor and Parish Clerk were present.

1. **Apologies** received from Mr Hopwood who was in hospital.
2. **Minutes** The minutes of the previous meeting were read, confirmed and signed.
3. **Matters Arising:**
 - (a) **Audit** - Mr Hughes reported Mr A Harris had agreed to act as Internal Auditor at a charge of £50 per year.
The Clerk advised that Mr Harris had recommended the Parish Council should formally record that no objection had been made to the firm of auditors recommended by the Audit Commission (Mazars Neville Russell) being appointed as auditors.
The Clerk continued by reporting that just a few days after the last meeting she had received documentation from District Audit notifying her that the accounts for the two years 1999/2000 and 2000/2001 were to be audited under the "Triennial Audit System".
 - (b) **Water Trough** - Mr Hughes advised that the water was currently turned off whilst repairs were carried out.
 - (c) Noted that the "Summerlea" sign had been reinstated.
 - (d) Mr Hughes advised that he had not yet had the opportunity to speak to Mr Lippiatt regarding removal of built up verges.
4. **Financial Report** - The Clerk reported a balance at the bank of £929.70 following receipt of precept and a petty cash balance of £13.24p. Mrs Hunt requested the formal approval of Councillors to donate £100 to The Link and a grant of £75 to the Village Hall as in previous years and which had been included in the discussions at the meeting held on 18 February when the precept was set. Agreed.
5. **Priston Website** - No further information available.
6. **Queen's Golden Jubilee** - The Chairman advised that a meeting was scheduled for Wednesday 15 May to finalise arrangements. It was planned to distribute handbills to each residence advising of the programme and also requesting firewood for a beacon fire on Pensdown.
7. **Any other business** -
 - (a) Miss Nokes commented on the poor condition of the road at Englishcombe.
 - (b) Councillor Todd advised on several points as follows:
 - (i) she had provided a new Highways Manager with details of the problems experienced with the drain at Church Farm;
 - (ii) Mr William Steele had been engaged as Public Rights of Way Officer.
 - (iii) there had been an overwhelming response to the Local Plan which obviously entailed a considerable amount of collation by B&NES officers.
 - (iv) Mrs Todd advised of her new role in the cabinet which had been adopted by B&NES and which consisted of eight cabinet members and a leader, all of whom were Liberal Democrats.

(v) In her experience the Code of Conduct had been accepted by Parish Councillors as an extension of their normal practice but there had been some hesitation regarding the declaration of interests.

(c) Miss Nokes felt that the metre wide trim to hedges and verges had been carried out very well. Mrs Todd appreciated these comments which she would pass on as appropriate.

(d) Mr Perriton was requested to emphasise the footpaths on the map outside the Village Hall.

(e) Noted that building materials used as skateboard ramps by children were being left in the area around the Village Hall and Green. Mr Hughes commented that if anyone was injured due to these hazards the Parish Council would be liable. Agreed not to draw attention to this problem via the Link but to speak informally to the parents and children involved .

(f) Concern was expressed about the group of young men who had attended the village's May Day. This problem to be mentioned to the Village Hall committee prior to next year's May Day.

8. Date of next meeting Agreed the next meeting be held on Monday 22 July 2002 commencing 7.00pm. Meeting closed at 8.05 pm.