

Minutes of the Priston Parish Council Meeting

held at Priston Village Hall on Monday 18th November 2019 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 Neil Butters was welcomed to the meeting. John Wilkinson and Richard Bottle also attended.

Villagers were asked if there was anything they wished to be raised at the meeting.

- 1. Apologies:** Councillor Matt McCabe.
- 2. Minutes of last meeting:** Agreed and signed as a correct record.
- 3. Matters arising:** The uneven surface of the road outside Pressbarrow Farm on the way to Farmborough needs fixing. John Lippiatt has liaised with Highways and awaits details of a possible trial of a new material to smooth the road surface. It would be inappropriate for the parish council to assist a councillor with the cost of drain improvement on his land. The Chairman apologised for this suggestion noted in the previous minutes.
- 4. Chair's Report:** We have been informed by a tree surgeon that we are wasting our time placing pheromones on the conker tree, so it was agreed we will cease this treatment.

Fix My Street has worked really well recently with reporting blocked drains and potholes in the area. **Action: Fiona will report the Watery Lane pothole to Fix My Street.** Neil will help where he can if we let him know any issues.

The Highways Act 1980 says that the landowner is responsible for clearing debris from hedge cutting away from the roadside. Unfortunately, this has not happened a few times on Priston Hill and Watery Lane. Recently members of cricket club – Paul, Dennis and Plug, cleared the debris from Priston Hill, and we thank them for their hard work. In future we will write to the landowners on Priston Hill and Watery Lane in September reminding them that it is their responsibility to clear the debris from the roads. It was agreed that £60 would be donated to the Christmas procession as in previous years.

- 5. Clerk's Report: Finances:** The bank balance stood at £7,918.12. The unusual items of expenditure on the financial report were discussed and the second precept payment of £3,200 has been received. £1024 has been spent on the new seat around the walnut tree.

The clerk reported back on items discussed at the Cam Valley Forum, mainly addressing the climate emergency. The 179 bus has been saved until next August. Training received by the clerk has highlighted a possible issue with the way we pay by BACs at present. **Action: Clerk will investigate Bankline and other methods of ensuring dual accountability with payments.**

The clerk had attended the Parish Liaison meeting and reported that the clean air zone consultation was now finished, B&NES medium term financial strategy has been improved, the mobile library and electronic service are now working. We also discussed the 9 new gritting lorries and the fact that the school bus route to Marksbury does not get gritted. **Action: Vicky will write to Neil about this issue, as he is meeting Steve Doel who is responsible for school transport.**

Correspondence has been circulated about the national community energy campaign, councillors decided we cannot sign up to this with no land or property to manage. Councillors wish to support the B&NES tree and woodland plan, and we are investigating ways to encourage tree planting in the parish. The Nutragreen treatment of the green by Green Thumb on 2 December was noted. In the spring we will ask Green Thumb to include the triangle in their treatment schedule.

- 6. 75 VE Day Celebrations:** John Wilkinson kindly agreed to look into the parish celebrations on 8 May 2020.
- 7. Website Accessibility Regulations:** The Chair has consulted Richard Bottle who has circulated a paper 'Accessibility regulations and the Priston web'. By 23 September 2020 we need to have checked that our

website is compliant. Councillors agreed that a detailed check is not viable, as it would cost £5,000 to £10,000, and our precept is only £6,400, half of which pays the clerk's salary. Richard has very kindly agreed to carry out the basic check, liaising with the Clerk to ensure all documents comply by the end of June 2020.

8. **Priston Lane Triangle:** The Chair has received permission from Stefan Chivers in B&NES to plant a rowan tree.
9. **Village Green Seat Renewal:** The seat is now installed, two invoices paid with one outstanding, and a £400 donation towards the cost has been received.
10. **Village Hall Notice Board:** This will be installed on 2 December.
11. **Emergency Plan:** The meeting on 19 October was a great success, with a large turnout from the village. Our emergency WhatsApp group has already been used resulting in a speedy response to an unfortunate accident. There will be another public meeting on 2 February 2020, 12.30pm in the Village Hall. John Wilkinson was thanked for his report, and his time on this worthwhile project.
12. **Footpaths:** Cllr Davies reported that new horse gates are planned for Watery Lane and by the cricket pitch. There is a grant available for footpath improvement works. **Action: Cllr Davies to liaise with the Clerk to apply for possible improvements to the diverted path by the sewage works which is steep and slippery.**
13. **External Meetings:** Councillors noted the meetings – a) West of England Rural Network AGM 21 November 4pm – 5pm Compton Martin Village Hall b) Council Priorities and Key Financial Plans 17 December 6.30-8.30 Banqueting Hall, Guildhall, Bath
14. **Any Other Business:** Vicky receives medical related emails from the Clerk. The WECA joint special plan was discussed. The joint transport plan and local plan will be issued soon. It was agreed that the two AEDs should display the cabinet code numbers on the underside, and that the faulty keypad light be repaired. John Wilkinson was thanked for his report, and maintenance of the AEDs.
15. **Date of next meeting:** Monday 20th January 2020 in the Village Hall.

Signed

Date

JN 20 November 2019