

The following are the DRAFT minutes of an ordinary meeting of Priston Parish Council held on Monday 18 September 2006 in the Village Hall, Priston. These have not yet been approved as an accurate record of proceedings.

Councillor Bowyer presided, Councillors Cross, Lippiatt, Nokes, Whybrow and Parish Clerk were present. The Chairman welcomed Councillor Peter Hopwood to his first meeting as Parish Councillor and District Councillor Mrs Rosemary Todd.

1. **Apologies** received from Councillor Hughes.
2. **The Minutes of the meeting** held on 3 July 2006 were read, confirmed as an accurate record of proceedings and signed by the Chairman.
3. **Matters Arising:**
 - The Granary** – The owners of the property have advised they will undertake the repair work recommended by the Buildings at Risk Officer.
 - High Street** – A single white line has been painted by the Highways Department and favourable comments received from road users.
 - Refuse Collections** – The collection day had recently been rescheduled to Friday.
 - Footbridge: Priston Mill** – Councillor Todd advised that repairs could prove to be costly and would not be carried out by the Public Rights of Way officers. The Highways Manager's return from holiday was awaited for a decision.
4. **Declaration of Acceptance** – Councillor Hopwood signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office which was witnessed by the Chairman, Councillor Bowyer. Information on the Code of Conduct and Register of Interests was passed to Councillor Hopwood with the request that he sign and return the standard forms to the Clerk.
5. **Correspondence** – The Clerk advised she had written a letter of welcome to Councillor Hopwood and also written to Mr H Jones as requested at the last meeting. The reply received was read and also the acknowledgement sent on behalf of the Parish Council. The matter of the tree is still under discussion.

A communication had been received from Avon and Somerset Constabulary advising of a Community Safety Exhibition and Seminar to be held at The Forum, Bath on Saturday 30 September. As entry to these was by ticket only, tickets had been requested for use by Councillors.

A letter and attached petition for signature had been received from Cam Valley Wildlife Group to oppose the Radstock Rail Land Planning Application. Councillors and residents who wished to read the letter in full and sign the petition were asked to contact the Clerk.
6. **Financial Report** - The Clerk reported the current balance at the bank was £918.57. Noted the annual accounts had been returned from the external auditors and certificate issued. The formal approval of the Parish Council was sought to enable her to settle account with Mazars for £50 plus VAT in respect of auditing fees and with Zurich for the annual Insurance Premium in the sum of £392.98. The Clerk also advised that she wished to claim her salary for the second quarter of the year (£375), reimbursement of three months Broadband charges (£44.97) and also £15 petty cash expenses. These latter three cheques would not be presented to the bank until advice received of second precept payment of £1,400 on 1st October.
7. **Donations** – After discussion it was agreed that a donation of £50 again be made towards the operational costs of The Link. Also agreed to again make a payment of £75 to the Village Hall although it was commented by Councillor Cross that this was not strictly a donation but should be classed as an annual expense of the Parish Council.

8. **Priston Website** – Favourable comments were again made on the usefulness and detail of the Website and Mr Bottle complimented.
9. **Footpaths and Bridleways** – Councillor Whybrow had nothing further to add to comments made under item 3 above.
10. **Planning Applications:**
 - Barns, Mill Lane – Change of use to class B8 storage.** Noted receipt of consent form.
 - Brook Cottage – two storey and single storey extensions.** Noted receipt of consent form.
 - Hill Farm – Reserved matters application for single dwelling** – Councillors were thanked for their prompt response to the request for comments on amended plans/information in respect of this planning application. Planning Services have been advised that the Parish Council objected unanimously to the amended plans noting that the dwelling had increased in size compared to the proposal received on 20th May.
 - Church Farm Cottage – First floor Extension** – The Parish Council objected in principle to this proposed extension on the grounds that it conflicted with policies HO19(i) and HO20(i) and (iii) of the Wansdyke Local Plan.
 - The Poppies – Single Storey Extension** – The Chairman reported that the applicant had visited the Clerk to enquire as to why the Parish Council had objected to this application. Planning Services had been advised that it was felt the proposed extension was too large and contravened policies HO19(i) and HO20(i) and (ii) of the Wansdyke Local Plan and Policy HG15(i) of the B&NES Local Plan.
11. **Date of Next Meeting** - Monday 4th December 2006 commencing 7.00pm.
12. **Any other business:**
 - (i) The Chairman reported that, together with the Clerk, she had presented Mr and Mrs Geake with a print of a painting of their home, paid for by Councillors and the Clerk, in acknowledgement of the donated computer. The note of thanks was read to the Council.
 - (ii) **Parishes’ Cluster Meeting** - The Chairman advised of matters discussed at a recent meeting which included information on changes made to the operation of Council Connect; the “Fare Car” service which commences operation in the Combe Hay, Shoscombe etc area on 18th September and “Ring-A-Ride” bus services which commence in the Norton Radstock area on 25th September. There had also been extensive discussion on the electronic issue of planning applications to parishes by the Planning Services and also the issue of grit bins in the B&NES area.
 - (iii) **Regional Spatial Strategy** – Councillor Todd advised on the 20-year plan for the South West of England. It is expected that more jobs will be coming to the area and that more homes will need to be built in the Bath and North East Somerset area.

There being no further business for consideration the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.25pm and thanked Councillors for their attendance and participation.