

Minutes of the Priston Parish Council Meeting

held at Priston Village Hall on Monday 9th September 2019 at 7.00 pm

Present: Cllrs Doug Pattison (Chair), Peter Hopwood, Vicky Pai, Fiona Hassard, John Lippiatt and Jocelyn Nichols (Clerk). Councillor Matt McCabe was welcomed to the meeting.

Villagers were asked if there was anything they wished to be raised at the meeting. The uneven surface of the road outside Pressbarrow Farm on the way to Farmborough needs fixing. **Action: John Lippiatt will liaise with Highways again and obtain quotes for the drainage work he needs to complete. He will report back to the next meeting.** The Parish Council would be able to help with the costs of this.

Wessex Water have been to investigate a leak to the sewer pipe by the triangle at Priston Lane. They think a joint has failed and will be sending a team to fix it.

Vicky Pai has a friend in Wessex Water who is going to give her a copy of all water and sewer plans for the village.

- 1. Apologies:** Robert Davies, Bruce Clarke.
- 2. Minutes of last meeting:** Agreed and signed as a correct record.
- 3. Matters arising:** The Clerk has again been in contact with BANES to have the 20 mph sign that has gone missing replaced and the Highways Department has agreed to do this. The sign has not yet been replaced. **Action: Clerk to check that the sign is restored.** Defibrillator training will be provided and paid for once a year by the parish council.
- 4. Chair's Report:** The seat around the tree has been temporarily repaired to make it safe until the new seat is installed.
- 5. Clerk's Report: Finances:** The bank balance stood at £6,822.83. The unusual items of expenditure on the financial report were discussed and the VAT claim of £245 has been received. Mike Taylor's legacy of £1,000 has also now been received. It was agreed that it would be used to purchase noticeboards for the village hall, as a memorial to Mike. Items of expenditure which are still expected include Triangle works at £750, a gritter at £680 to £800, ditch clearing £150, seat renewal £350, fingerposts £335.
- 6. Village Hall:** The contractor will hand the village hall back on Wednesday with a few minor jobs outstanding – e.g. the windows in the toilets and guttering. Fiona Hassard has agreed to liaise with the Village Hall Committee and the Church about the noticeboards. The committee has enough funds to complete the project, with a possibility of also replacing some items, so the Parish Council will not be asked for financial assistance. The Village Hall Committee are open to suggestions from anyone about improvements. Niels Cross was thanked by the Parish Council and the whole village for all the work he had put into the project.
- 7. Flooding: To report on proposed work to Priston Lane:** This is possibly being done on Friday 13th September.
- 8. Priston Lane Triangle:** Email from a villager was read out: I applaud the desire and determination of the council to improve the appearance of the lower triangle Priston but have some reservations regarding the specific proposals. I think you should first consider the reasons why larger vehicles have created problems on the triangle before coming to a considered conclusion.

Consider the approach from the village into Priston Lane. The right hand access is, more often than not, obstructed by parked cars. I have no objection to individuals parking in this spot but it does restrict the width of the carriageway and therefore can cause vehicles to ride the kerb or intrude into the triangle.

The approach from the left hand side presents a different problem. The hedge on the near side overhangs into the carriageway by one and a half metres and therefore pushes vehicles toward the kerb of the triangle. Vehicles attempt to turn around the triangle and with the restricted carriageway incursion into the triangle is likely.

I believe the planting of a tree in the centre of the triangle, even if it is small to begin with, will exacerbate all of the above problems, indeed further restrict the carriageway as growth occurs. Please bear in mind a large builders merchant HGV, or indeed a Fire Tender measures 2.5 metres wide and 12.5 metres long, unlike a tractor and trailer neither vehicle is articulated to aid manoeuvrability. Could not a low level planting scheme be considered together with suitable bollards will meet all of the objections.

The Chair has asked neighbours to trim back overhanging shrubs which restrict the road access, and they have immediately complied.

Other villagers have suggested that a rowan tree would be suitable and the Parish Council agreed this would be preferred provided it did not interfere with drainage pipes on the triangle. **Action: Vicky Pai to find out from her contact in Wessex Water where the drain goes, how deep it is and what it is.**

9. Village Green Seat Renewal: A design has been drawn up, and quote received. **Action: Cllr Davies to go ahead with installation.**

10. Emergency Plan: There is a meeting on 19 October in the village hall at noon to discuss the 'golden hour' and our emergency Whatsapp group. This does not replace the old plan, but means once 999 has been called in an emergency, the villagers can be contacted to assist.

11. Footpaths: Cllr Davies has nothing to report.

12. External Meetings: The Cam Valley forum on 18 September at 6pm in Freshford Village Hall is about how councils can fight climate change. **Clerk and possibly Chair to attend.** ALCA AGM is on 5 October in Flax Bourton at 10am. **Action: Clerk to email councillors not at the meeting to see if they wish to attend.**

13. Any Other Business: None

14. Date of next meeting: Monday 18th November 2019 in the Village Hall.

Signed

Date

JN 10 July 2019