

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting which was held on Monday 28th March 2011 in the Village Hall, Priston.

1. Attendance and Apologies –

Councillor Hughes, as Chairman of the Parish Council, presided with the Parish Clerk in attendance. Parish Councillors and the large number of electors of the parish attending the meeting were welcomed and a Register of Attendance circulated for signature. There were no apologies.

2. Minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting held on Monday 29th March 2010 were read by the Clerk. These were accepted, agreed as a true record of proceedings and signed by the Chairman.

3. Matters Arising: The Chairman advised that (a) £400 had been requested on the precept to purchase grit bins for the village and there is a possibility that the District Council will consider supplying bags of sand and (b) a new version of the Core Strategy document for 2010 had been received.

4. Chairman's Report:

The Chairman gave a resumé of Parish Council business in the past year advising that signs have been provided by the Highways Department in an attempt to reduce the speed of vehicles through the village; the telephone kiosk is currently in working order; the code to access the defibrillator has been distributed to all householders and thanks extended to Councillor Wilkinson for his regular checks of the equipment. The Chairman continued by thanking Councillor Cross for all her work on the Parish Online and also Richard Bottle for his support in keeping the Priston Website updated and interesting. The Traffic Regulation Order had been completed on the BOAT at Mill Lane. Grit Bins are to be ordered for the village, bought by the Parish Council. The improvements to the village green have been completed and the Chairman again thanked District Councillor Clarke, Robert Davies and Bob Hunt for their contributions to the project.

Several planning applications had been considered during the year: 4 Wilmington, 2 Wilmington, 9 High Street, Applecot, The Old Coach House, Milking Parlour, 1 Woodlands, The Old Rectory, The Old Dog Inn, Rozel, Staddlestones and 36-37 Priston.

The Chairman continued by reminding the meeting that local elections were to be held early in May and a new Council elected to serve the Parish. The next eighteen months may well prove very challenging for the Parish Council with the possibility of a Solar PV Farm and housing development in the village.

Concluding his report, Councillor Hughes thanked District Councillor Clarke for his help in the last four years and commented that he was sorry he was not standing for re-election at the forthcoming elections. Thanks also expressed to Parish Councillors for their help and support but commenting that this has been one of the first years that he could remember that all councillors have not agreed with regard to planning issues. Special thanks to Councillor Wilkinson for checking the defibrillator on a fortnightly basis and, although not standing for re-election, offering to continue to check the equipment.

Finally, thanks to Vice Chairman Councillor Hopwood, for his support through the past year and to Mrs Hunt the Parish Clerk.

A copy of Councillor Hughes' original report would be placed on file for future reference.

5. Financial Report of the Parish Council: The Clerk reported briefly on the Parish Council's finances advising the year had commenced with an opening balance of £1,790.76, which included £1,000 from the Ward Councillor's Initiative Fund which had been earmarked for the renovation of the Village Green. A precept of £3,200 had been received and VAT of £35.88 reclaimed in respect of transactions on behalf of the Parish Council. There was a balance at the bank at 31st March 2011 of £3,036.84, which included the previously mentioned £1,000 and £1,257.96 in the defibrillator account. A full typed version of this report has been placed on file and a detailed financial report would be available at the Annual General Meeting.

6. Financial Report of Village Hall: Councillor Clare Cross, as Secretary of the Village Hall Committee, advised that income in the financial year which ended 31st December 2010 had been £6,704, expenditure had totalled £5,376 and there was a total of cash and bank balances of £5,811.

7. Any Other Business:

- (i) Mr Perriton spoke of the condition of the small village green, the surface of which had been damaged by vehicles. Agreed this be an agenda item at the next ordinary meeting on 16 May.
- (ii) Comments made that the Woodlands/Priston Lane is unsuitable for large vehicles. Agreed this also be an item for discussion at the next ordinary meeting.
- (iii) Mr Bottle asked that consideration be given to the Priston Festival's activities when a grit bin is placed near the village green.
- (iv) Mrs Broomfield asked if the Highways Department could be requested to rectify the uneven surface of the tarmac outside her property. The Clerk to contact the Highways Inspector.
- (v) Mrs Anderson advised of a new scheme operating within the B&NES' Area, Rural Watch, and incorporates Farm Watch and Horse Watch and working in a similar way to Neighbourhood Watch.

After closing the formal business of the meeting, the Chairman welcomed village resident Mr W Collett who gave a very interesting audio visual display.