**NEWSPAPER REPORT from PRIEST HUTTON PARISH**

**At the AGM of Priest Hutton Parish the current officers were elected en bloc to serve for one more year :–**

**Chair – Martin Shuttleworth, Clerk – Jean Johns and Treasurer – Phil Horsfield. The attendance was good but the meeting was sad to hear about the illness of CC Michael Mumford. The treasurer reported that our finances are in good shape and it was agreed to keep the Precept as it is now for at least the next year.**

**Much had been achieved during the year and generally the village was looking nice. However, uncut hedges and the re-emergence of pot holes was beginning to cause problems.**

**The most interesting project for 2020 is the re-modelling of the Parish Lands on Whitebeck Lane. The threebenches will be removed, re-furbished and re-sited in other parts of the village. In their place, on the largest section of Parish land we hope to plant some cherry trees from the Sakura Cherry Tree project, overseen by Ken Dunn.**

**Ken explained that the Sakura Cherry Tree project is an initiative of the Japan-British Society, whereby, as a gesture of friendship between the two countries, Japanese business will donate over 1000 trees to selected sites across the UK over the course of 2020 and 2021. We hope to receive about 30 trees.**

**Priest Hutton Parish Meeting gave its unanimous approval to our application to participate in the scheme and also its approval to establish the trees on our Parish lands on Whitebeck Lane. This will be a long term project but**

**we hope that we, and many others, will be able to enjoy the springtime blossom a few years from now.**