Priest Hutton Parish Meeting

Chairman Clerk to the Parish Meeting

Mr N.D. Adams Mrs D.M. Adams

Bank House, Priest Hutton Bank House, Priest Hutton

Minutes of the Priest Hutton Parish Meeting held on Tuesday 19th October 2021 at 7.30pm in Borwick & Priest Hutton Memorial Hall

People present: - 14 – Mrs Phillipa Williamson, Mr Martin Shuttleworth, Mrs Jean Gudgeon, Mrs Lesley Southwart, Mrs Lesley Fairclough, Mr Leigh Astin, Mr Tony Johns, Mrs Jean Johns, Mrs Kath Moffatt, Mr Phil Horsfield, Mr Nigel Adams and Diane Adams.

1. The Chairman opened the meeting by thanking everybody for their attendance. He asked if those attending the meeting could encourage other residents to attend future meetings, as he felt the meetings were a valued form of both communication and neighbourhood democracy and certainly worth supporting. He commented that this was his first meeting in the role of Chairman and the same was true for Diane (the new Clerk). He felt his and Diane’s role would include representing the Parish where appropriate, providing information to residents and helping wherever possible to improve the lives and environment of residents.
2. Apologies for absence: - 13 -

Mrs Diane Sunderland, Mr Ken Dunn, Mr Graham Brady, Mrs Kate Brady, Mr E Rooney, Mrs Hilary Rooney, Mr Keith Robinson, Mrs Kath Robinson, Mrs Sue Taylor, Mr Ian Smith, Mr Andrew Stoyle, Mr David Moffatt, and Mrs June Prew.

1. Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 21 January 2020

The Chairman explained that due to Covid this was the first meeting since January 2020. An earlier meeting on 20th July 2021 was an AGM. Therefore, the last set of minutes which required approval were from the January 2020 meeting. These minutes were made available to all at the meeting and were proposed to be a true record by Tony Johns and seconded by Phil Horsfield. Everyone was in favour.

1. Matters arising.

The chairman suggested as this was his first meeting as chairman he would combine his chairman’s’ reports (item 5 of the agenda) with a review of the minutes of the previous meeting, providing updates where he had them.

* Martin Shuttleworth confirmed that the two benches will be moved to Bank House, and advice will be taken on what procedure will give the best result, either oil/varnish/paint for refurbishment
* Jean Johns and Tony Johns confirmed that the white lines outside the Longlands Pub, (indicating right of way), have still not been re-painted, having first been reported on 7.01.2019. Nigel Adams said he would report the matter again.
* Leigh Astin had spoken with the landowner regarding the hedge cutting/pruning along the footpath down the side of Low Greenlands Farm and is hopeful once the landowner has cut back the hedging, Leigh would be able to maintain this area with regular pruning. Leigh felt this footpath would be hugely beneficial to pedestrians as currently you have to walk on the road.
* Nigel Adams mentioned that he would like to have a specific conversation with NFU to discuss hedge cutting in general, and then to follow up with all the main landowners around the village.
* Martin Shuttleworth mentioned he had cut much of his hedging.
* Jean Johns will take photos of the War Memorial and write a paragraph to be sent to the Lancaster Guardian.
* The Chairman reported that as of that date he had not received any new planning applications since his appointment in July.
* Tony Johns spoke about matters relating to Neighbourhood Watch.

There have been many sightings of vehicles speeding through the village, and noise disturbance from vehicles doing “donuts” on the Village Hall Car Park. Tony has reported this matter in person to the Police Station in Lancaster. Any further information or incidents should be provided to Tony. Drivers should not be approached.

There was a general discussion about the possibility of having a 20-mph speed limit through the village, the Chairman said he would look into this; however, it was felt such a limit was only applicable in very selected areas such as outside Schools etc.

Lesley Fairclough mentioned unfortunately there had been a break in at Fernlands, Tewitfield, whilst the owners were away, and the police are investigating.

* The Chairman stated any notifications regarding road closures would be circulated to the Parish via email but would also appear in the notice board
* Lesley Fairclough and Kath Moffatt raised the subject of parking in the village, as at present, a number of vehicles are parked on the road. It was asked, where possible it would be helpful if residents could keep their cars in their garages or on their drives to enable easy access through the village. It was noted that a carer attending a parish resident unfortunately found her car blocked and Kath Moffatt was unable to access her own drive. The Chairman said he would investigate these matters with Highways.

1. Clerk’s Report

The Clerk also brought the following matters to the attention of the meeting in her report.

* The Clerk and Chairman had met with Roger Mason to discuss the damaged railings at the top of Whitbeck Lane and were informed that the matter is currently with his insurers.
* Damage to a road sign and a number of potholes had been reported to the council, but the matters are still outstanding.
* It was mentioned that quotations would be obtained for repair work to the telephone box and the notice board, with a view to this work being carried out in Spring. The Clerk will clean the telephone box inside and out when the weather permitted.
* As we have not had a litter pick for a couple of years, it was agreed that we should have one in March 2022, and Jean and Tony Johns mentioned they would hand over all litter picking equipment to the Chairman.

1. There were no matters arising
2. Treasure’s Report

Phil Horsfield provided the Treasurers Report to the meeting. A receipts and payments statement had been provided to all at the meeting.

As at 19th October, the Parish held reserves of £5700.

It was agreed unanimously by the meeting that the Parish would contribute £500 to the Borwick and Priest Hutton Memorial Village Hall Fund.

1. Matters Arising from the Treasurer’s Report.

There was a short discussion as to how these funds would be utilised. The Chairman noted that the reserves were being partly built up to provide funds for PHFLAG projects when arising.

1. Update on the work of PHFLAG

Tony Johns spoke about the work PHFLAG were currently involved in.

* He particularly referred to conversations with LCC and the recent highways work which had been carried out in the village (new drainage and the new kerbing on Upp Hall Lane).
* He referred to how some recent improvements has made a significant difference to certain properties.
* The NFU are happy to liaise with landowners to assist with possibly obtaining available grants, although this could however be a lengthy process.
* Video footage within the drain on Upp Hall Lane from the culvert has been seen and is reassuring in that there does not appear to be any blockages in either direction from the village green.

Kath Moffatt mentioned that she had reported the partially blocked culvert to LCC. In this context and with earlier references to road damage, Phillippa Williamson mentioned that if more people reported a matter the better the result would be, for either potholes, or flood risks etc, and it was always helpful to have photographic evidence.

Kath Moffatt wanted to record her thanks to Jean and Tony Johns for all their very hard work over the last few years within PHFLAG.

1. Any other business

Leigh Astin spoke to the meeting about the possibility of community funding for renewable projects. He felt the information he had may be of interest to residents and be relevant to any future community projects including the village hall. In short landowners could benefit from grants to develop renewable energy which could be made available to residents or community buildings. Ground source heat pumps was provided as an example.

While outlining some of the funding opportunities which may be available from LCC Leigh also mentioned that this had come to light whilst considering his own planning application for Low Greenlands, under which he was keen to use a renewable energy source (probably solar).

The Chairman thanked Leigh for the information. He also referred to the fact that it’s very helpful to receive advance notification of planning applications, if the applicant wishes to provide such information.

The Chairman suggested that it would be nice to have a Christmas tree on the village green, providing there were no objections from those living around the green. The meeting agreed with this sentiment.

Addition to these minutes made on 1st February 2022.

At the Parish Meeting following this meeting, on 1st February 2022, it was requested that the following paragraph be inserted in these minutes.

Kath Moffatt brought to the attention of the meeting, her own planning application, specifically an application made in April 2021 for the reduction in size to two trees, in her garden. Kath provided paperwork to the Chair which showed planning permission had been properly sought and granted. Kath further asked that this point be recorded in these minutes,

1. Date of Next Meeting.

The date of the next meeting was set for 18th January 2022. Post Script - this has later been changed to Tuesday 1st February 2022 at 7:30 pm.

The meeting closed at 8:45 pm.