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 17 May 2022 at 7.30pm in Borwick & Priest Hutton Memorial Hall

The Chairman opened the meeting by thanking those present for their attendance. He explained that 2 meetings would be taking place this evening – firstly we would hold our Parish meeting, which would then be followed by an A.G.M.

1. Apologies for absence: - (5)- Mrs Diane Sunderland, Mr Richard Barker, Phil Horsefield, Ian Smith, and Sue Taylor.

People present: - (16) – Phillipa Williamson, Mr Leigh Astin, Mr Eric Rooney, Mr Ken Dunn, Lesley Fairclough, Mr Martin Shuttleworth, Mrs Jean Gudgeon, Mrs Lesley Southwart, Mrs June Prew, Mr Tony Johns, Mrs Jean Johns, Mrs Kath Moffatt, Mr Andrew Stoyle, Mrs Annalies Stoyle, Mr Nigel Adams and Diane Adams.

1. Approval of the Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 1st February 2022

The Minutes of the meeting held on the 1st February 2022 were distributed to those present, and were proposed to be a true record by Tony Johns and seconded by Jean Johns. Everyone in favour.

It was noted that in future an email copy of the minutes would be sent shortly after the date of any meeting and then again just before the next meeting.

1. Matters arising.

It was noted that there are still ongoing problems in the village with residents gaining access to and from their own drives, due to where cars were being parked. The Chairman mentioned he was happy to have a word with the owners of any vehicles which were persistently obstructing neighbours’ driveways, if needed.

There were no other matters arising.

4.1 Clerk’s Report

The annual litter pick took place on the 19th March, and the Clerk thanked those present.

LCC had completed their road sweep over a period of four half days during April.

The clerk reported multiple conversations with Lancaster City Council regarding the broken road signs in the village. She was assured this work would be carried out in April 2022 – but obviously this has not proven to be the case. The clerk has continued to chase LCC.

The damaged railings on the entrance to Whitebeck Lane have now been replaced.

The need to repaint the road markings at the road junction by the Longlands Hotel, was again reported to Lancashire County Council, and the Clerk was informed that the work would be carried out soon.

Regarding the potholes on Whitebeck Lane, small repairs were carried out on the 21st March. After complaining that these repairs had not addressed the main problems on the road, the Council returned to carry out further work, however the Clerk felt that further improvement to the road is still required.

The Clerk stated that the repainting of the Phone Box is on-going, but this will be referred to under the Treasurers Report.

The dog waste bin on Whitebeck Lane needed replacing and she had chased this with Lancaster City Council and was hopeful this would be caried out soon.

Since the date of the last meeting, planning application consultation letters had been received in relation to the following: -

Application number 22/00106/FUL- Low Greenlands Holiday Park (Erection of 3 holidays lodges)

Application number 22/0043/TCA – Gibson House (Trees)

Application number 22/00279/FUL – 3 Greenlands Cottages (Erection of outbuilding)

Details of which had been displayed on the village notice board.

4.2 Chairman’s Report

The Chairman reported that he had spoken with the main landowners around the Parish regarding hedge cutting, particularly hedges adjacent to the highways. All preferred to undertake hedge cutting during September.

The Chairman reminded the meeting that it is important to use the Report It system on the LCC website, if anyone was aware of any highways issues, however he noted that further chasing of District/County department was always needed which would be undertaken by the Clerk and himself. However, this may not always bring the desired outcome as evidenced by a letter received by the Clerk on the 27th April which states “Whilst Whitebeck Lane may appear unsightly in some places it is structurally sound. As such it is not currently being proposed for inclusion in our 2023/2024 capital works programmes.” The letter referred to “Quarterly highway inspections and the fact that they would continue to monitor the condition of Whitebeck Lane”.

The Chairman asked the meeting if he should challenge this conclusion. The meeting disagreed with the Council’s view on the road and therefore the Chairman said that he would seek the assistance of Phillipa Williamson and Stuart Morris to take the matter further.

1. Matters arising from the Clerk and Chairmans Reports.

It was mentioned by Ken Dunn that the sign for Whitebeck Lane and Back Lane was in the wrong place, and this needed to be moved.

1. Treasurers Report

As the Treasurer was not present the Chairman gave a report to the meeting.

The receipts and payments account for the year ending 31st March 2022 was distributed amongst those in attendance.

The closing cash balance was £4,870

The Chairman invited those present to consider how the Parish reserves could be utilised. He noted that the phone box, notice board and wooden benches needed maintenance and mentioned that the Clerk was in receipt of several quotes for this. It was agreed by everybody in the meeting that the Treasurer would have authority to spend up to £1,000 in this matter.

Ken Dunn proposed that the Accounts be approved, and this was seconded by Martin Shuttleworth and carried unanimously.

1. Highways

This has been referred to under the Chairmans Report.

1. Queen’s Platinum Jubilee Celebration Update

Eric Rooney outlined the schedule of events for the forthcoming Jubilee Weekend.

The Chairman thanked Eric for all his hard work in relation to this matter.

1. First Responders

Eric Rooney spoke about the vital work of the 1st Responders and was pleased to report that some villagers had expressed an interest in assisting with this. However, the groups numbers had not increased, and he therefore asked again if anyone is interested in active responding, to please speak with him.

Additional trustees for the Charity connected to this matter were needed and again if anyone is interested, they were to contact him.

An administrative role also needed to be filed – The next 1st Responders Meeting would be in the next 6 weeks or so and it will be an open meeting so anyone interested should please come along.

1. Update on the work of PH FLAG

Tony Johns provided a review of the work carried out recently: -

* He referred to the Jacobs’s survey of flood risk and recommendations and the work that had been carried out in relation to these.
* Five road grids on Upp Hall Lane and Whitebeck Lane had been uncovered.
* The road grids on Upp Hall Lane from Hutton View to the village green had been upgraded.
* A cctv survey of the culvert had been completed, with no problems reported.

The committee are not aware of any other significant areas of concern, although any water run off on Back Lane should be watched out for. Therefore, Tony informed the meeting that PH FLAG would now be mothballed although he noted that it could be reactivated in the event of a future flooding incident.

Kath Moffatt will still be monitoring all flood communications from LCC (District and County). If anyone had any concerns, they were asked to contact either himself or Nigel Adams.

He concluded by thanking all those who have supported PH FLAG over several years but especially Kath Moffatt and he further commented that the group were indebted to our County Councillor Phillipa Williamson for her continuous support.

1. Neighbourhood Watch

Tony Johns had nothing to report other than there were occasional incidents of cars speeding through the village.

Tony wished it to be known that he is resigning from his position of Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinator and welcomed anyone to come forward who would like to take on the role.

The Chairman thanked Tony for his hard work and said that he would assist in finding a replacement if nobody approached Tony directly.

1. Village Hall Update

Ken Dunn asked the meeting for volunteers to help lay down covers to protect the Village Hall Floor prior to the work commencing on the Village Hall Roof.

The AGM for the Village Hall was held the week prior, and Nigel had created a new accounts format, which reflected the changing legal situation of the village hall charity. The committee are now creating a more modern approach and the Hall will now become a Ltd Company. It was noted that they are in the process of changing the constitution of the Hall.

Ken also informed the meeting that local Committee Action Groups (CAG) can use the Village Hall Banking facilities for their own groups’ funds, which he felt would be very useful.

Ken also updated the meeting with information about the Parish Land, off Whitebeck Lane. £500 had been received from the Eric Wright Trust to buy some benches which would be placed on the land. He noted also that the hedges around the land’s Northern perimeter, would require laying. Thought was being given to establishing a footpath to run along Whitebeck Lane to the Parish Land, which would help people visit the Parish Land more easily, and Ken was to speak with landowners who may be able to assist with this.

1. Any Other Business

The Chairman said that he and the Clerk would like to use their term in office to develop collective arrangements which would be of benefit to those living in the Parish, he particularly mentioned collective heating oil purchasing, which would be of most benefit to those purchasing small quantities of oil from time to time. It was agreed that the Chairman and Ken Dunn would look further into this.

There was no other business.

1. Date and time of The Next Meeting will be Tuesday 27 September 2022, in the village hall at 7.30 P.M.

The meeting closed at 8.45 p.m.