

Priest Hutton Parish Meeting

Chairman and Clerk to the Meeting

Mr Nigel Adams

Bank House, Priest Hutton

Minutes of the Priest Hutton Parish Meeting held on Tuesday 17th September 2024 at 7.30pm in Borwick & Priest Hutton Memorial Hall

People present: (15) – Mrs Jean Johns, Mr Tony Johns, Mrs Jean Gudgeon, Mr Richard Spencer, Mrs Lesley Southwart, Mr Steve Vaughan, Olivia Barraclough, Mr Eric Rooney, Leigh Astin, Martin Shuttleworth, Mr Andrew Iveson, Mrs Mel Iveson, Mr Phil Horsfield, Mr Nigel Adams, and Mrs Diane Adams.

1. **Apologies for absence:** (7) – Susan Tyldsley, Mrs Phillipa Williamson, Mrs Analise Stoye, Mr Andrew Stoye, Mrs Lesley Fairclough, Mrs June Prew, Mr Ken Dunn

2. **Approval of the Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 21st May 2024**

The Minutes of the meeting held on the 21st May 2024 were distributed to those present and were proposed to be a true record by Diane Adams which was seconded by Tony Johns and then unanimously approved by everyone at the meeting.

3. **Chairman's update on matters referred to in the Previous Minutes.**

Chairs comments: -

The topics of Highways and the Community Action Plan would be brought up later in the meeting.

The new contractor had cut the grass in the village throughout the season and seemed to be carrying out a good job.

4. **Matters Arising from the Previous Minutes**

There were no matters arising.

5. Chairman's and Clerks Report

Chair's comments

(a) 4 letters from Lancaster City Council regarding planning application consultations.

No	Application For	No	Date	Proposal	Site
1	Thomas and Sandra Blades	24/00487/FUL	05-Jun-24	Erection of agricultural workers dwelling in association with Hill Top Farm	Land Adjacent to Starricks Farm, Keer Holme Lane
2	Mr and Mrs Neil Oldfield	24/00907/LB	20-Aug-24	Installation of vehicular and pedestrian driveway gates	Rockery cottage, Whitebeck Lane
3	Mr and Mrs Neil Oldfield	24/00908/LB	20-Aug-24	Listed Building application for the installation of vehicular and pedestrian driveway gates	Rockery cottage, Whitebeck Lane
4	Mr Ian Fairclough	24/0102/TCA	25-Jun-24	Tree Works - Fell 1 Ash Tree	Orchard Barn, Back Lane

There were 2 further pieces of correspondence.

- 23rd May 24 re Lorien, Back Lane. Solar Panels. The Highways Department reports they have no objections to a planning application for the installation of solar panels to the East and West facing roof slopes, subject to 1 condition being stated on the approval, namely "any source of glare from the solar panels shall be effectively screened from the view of drivers & pedestrians on the adjoining highway"
- 6th September 24 – re Rockery Cottage, Drive gateways. The Highways Department reports they have no objections to the principle of the application. However, there is

a concern that vehicles should not wait on the road whilst the gates open. This would be solved by moving the gates 5m back from the edge of the road. The gates should open away from the highway. There was a further point regarding visibility splays.

- (b) Nigel explained that he had been invited to a Lancaster City Council planning forum. There was to be a presentation regarding National and local planning and Housing Strategy.

Nigel would provide details from this forum, at the next Parish meeting in January 2025, unless there was anything of an urgent nature. That being the case, he would email residents detailing any relevant matters. Action NDA.

- (c) Nigel reported that he had received a notification of a road closure at the end of Borwick Lane with its junction with the roundabout adjacent to South Lakeland Leisure Village.

There were no matters arising from the above.

6. Treasurer's Report and Matters Arising.

Phil Horsfield provided the treasurer's report and distributed a receipts and payments account for the current financial year running up to 17th September 2024.

The cash held at bank amounted to £6,430, however much of the year's expenditure arose in the second half of the year. Expenditure to date amounted to £1,188 against an expenditure budget of £3,445. A brief explanation of the items already expended was provided. Items of expenditure planned for the second half of the year amounted to around £1,900, so overall, expenditure was in line with budget.

There were no matters arising from the above.

7. Highways.

- (a) Nigel reported that speed display boards may be available through the Council and he asked the meeting, if that were the case, were they desirable? The meeting felt that they may be useful and therefore Nigel would approach LCC for further information Action NDA

- (b) Nigel reminded the meeting of a commitment made by LCC whereby they would consider including the cost of dressing/resurfacing and widening (with vegetation removal) Whitebeck Lane in their 25/26 budget. Nigel said that he would contact LCC to remind them of this. Any reply would be brought to the next meeting.

Action NDA.

- (c) Grit bins - As winter approaches, the question of requesting one or more grit bins was considered, particularly around the village green. It had been previously decided a bin should not be placed on the green itself. Nigel thought that if a bin was to be placed on the lower part of Upp Hall Lane or around the green, the nearest residents should be contacted to seek their approval, which he undertook to do. Action NDA.

It was commented that, if necessary, we could buy our own bins. Positioning a grit bin on Back Lane was also mentioned, as was around the hill on Upp Hall Lane. There was no need for one on Whitebeck Lane, as this was gritted by the Council.

- (d) There was a discussion about cars parking in certain places in the village which either blocked people's driveways or caused an obstruction to the highway, which could be dangerous. The meeting felt that double yellow lines would be inappropriate. Nigel said that he would take away the comments made and discuss the matter with the Highways department/or police to see what they may suggest.

Action NDA.

Where cars obstructed road bends, there was a suggestion that the Parish could install kerbside mirrors to improve visibility, although there was a concern about a potential liability in doing so.

- (e) Prior to the meeting, a Parish resident had contacted Nigel to express his concerns about the speed of traffic along the A6070. It was suggested that the road should have a lower speed limit (currently the National Speed limit applies). This point was then discussed by the meeting.

The meeting thought that this was a valid proposal and agreed with approaching the appropriate authorities to raise the matter. The reasons for such a proposal were discussed, and specifically - there is no footpath on the road, pedestrians use the road to walk to bus stops, the Longlands pub as well as to and from the local leisure parks. The road is a part of the Lancashire cycleway. Traffic turns in and out of Greenlands, the leisure parks and the Longlands.

Various accidents and other events on the A6070 were referred to by a number of residents. Reference was made also to the condition of the road.

Nigel said that he would start by contacting the Highways Department and the Police and explain to them the views of the meeting. He would refer to the section of road from the A6 roundabout to a point North of the junction with Whitebeck Lane (around the bend – possibly to the Cumbria border) **Action NDA**.

There was a short discussion about speed enforcement, if such a reduction was made and how that may be accomplished.

8. Village Hall Report

Ken Dunn was unable to attend the meeting. Nigel referred to a conversation which had taken place at a previous trustee meeting whereby the committee were trying to encourage more residents to become involved with running the hall. Additional help was required !

9. Community Action Plan (C.A.P)

Nigel started by repeating some of the points from the last meeting and explaining what he thought a C.A.P plan was. (a vision for the community with an accompanying set of actions).

He spoke about “The 4 S’s ”

- Structural - i.e physical things such as the use of the village green, if any.
- Social - i.e events, sports or land use
- Services – e.g transport, footpaths
- Supporting – e.g communication.

As one example Nigel mentioned the possibility of restoring a bus service to the village and asked if this would be desirable. There was concern as to how many residents would use the service.

Nigel suggested he e-mail the Parish residents and ask about the likelihood of them using any future service. **Action NDA**. This discussion lead to a further discussion about the desirability of a community car journey sharing scheme - shared lifts.

At the previous meeting, it was asked where the boundaries to the conservation lay. A map showing the boundaries had been downloaded from the LCC website and was distributed to those at the meeting.

The previous minutes refer to a steering group to identify any needs in the Parish or desired improvements. The following dates were proposed as meeting dates of the steering group :-

8th October 2024 / 4th February 2025 / 27th May 2025

10. Neighbourhood Watch

Andy Stoye was not able to attend the meeting to provide his usual report. Phillippa Williamson had emailed some recent policing news from Lancaster police. Offenders in recent weeks had focussed on isolated premises to steal tools and farming equipment. There had also been attempts to steal firearms from secure cabinets in rural areas.

11. Any other business

There was a short discussion around the provision of a Christmas Tree on the village green. It was suggested that a professional service be used (to save Diane and Nigel taking on the task) – It was explained that £350 had been allocated in the Parish budget for this.

12. Next Meeting

Nigel thought it would be best to schedule the next 3 meetings. He proposed the following dates which were accepted by the meeting.

21st January 2025 / 13th May 2025 (includes AGM) / 23rd September 2025

The meeting closed at 8:40 pm.