

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 21st January 2025 at 7.30pm in Borwick & Priest Hutton Memorial Hall

People present: (12) – Mrs Jean Gudgeon, Mrs Lesley Southwart, Mr Eric Rooney, Ian Fairclough, Lesley Fairclough, Martin Shuttleworth, Mr Ken Dunn, Mrs Phillipa Williamson, Sue Tyldsley, Emma Stevenson, Nigel Adams, and Diane Adams.

1. **Apologies for absence:** (11) – Annalies Stoye, Andrew Stoye, June Prew, Keith Brady, Jean Johns, Tony Johns, Andrew Iveson, Mel Iveson, Phil Horsfield, Leigh Astin, Diane Sunderland.

2. **Approval of the Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 17th September 2024**

The Minutes of the meeting held on the 17th September 2024 were distributed to those present and were proposed to be a true record by Diane Adams which was seconded by Eric Rooney and then unanimously approved by everyone at the meeting.

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

Chairs comments: -

Item 5 (b) - Nigel updated the Parish meeting, on a planning policy meeting he had attended on 25th September in Lancaster. In particular, information was provided to those at the planning meeting in the following areas.

- National Planning Policy
- The local planning review.
- A call for sites

As regards a National picture, the planning process would be speeded up, there would be reforms to the system, there would be a presumption in favour of sustainable development and there would be changes to development in Green Belt areas.

He reported that the Lancaster District had been targeted on building over 10,000 new homes in the next 15 years (a greater number than expected). Therefore, LCC were identifying areas which could be developed to meet future housing needs. Potential sites would exclude areas at risk of flooding and areas of conservation and protection. The areas identified should be available, suitable and could realistically be developed in the next 5 years.

LCC have asked for help identifying potential sites (Call for Sites) and have provided a website (accessed via the Lancaster City Council website), showing which sites have been submitted. The nearest location to Priest Hutton which had been proposed was an area, adjacent to the A6 between the roundabout leading to the M6 and Borwick Lane, leading to Warton. Such sites would then be reviewed by the planners and evidence gathered for each eg needs, sustainability, highways, flood risks etc.

There was a short discussion about land around Priest Hutton in which it was noted that the Parish had been identified as unsustainable for growth and development.

Item 7 (a) - Nigel reported that he had investigated the purchase of a vehicle Speed Indication Device but the cost would be around £3,000 which he thought the Parish could not afford. There was a brief discussion about this after which it was agreed that this was too much to pay. The Council will not fund these.

Item 7 (b) - Nigel reported that he had spoken with the Highways Department, who had confirmed that the re-surfacing of Whitebeck Lane would be looked at again within their 2025/26 budget. However, details of this capital expenditure programme would not be known until March 2025. **follow up.**

Item 7 (c) - Nigel put in a request for two new grit bins, one at the bottom of Back Lane and one at the top of Upp Hall Lane. They had not been supplied and the request had been removed from lovecleanstreets. **follow up.** Nigel and Diane had set up a grit bin in the telephone box.

Item 7 (d) - There then followed a discussion about the difficulty caused by parked cars in certain parts of the village. (Outside the Old School House and between the 2 Greens were

mentioned) Nigel thought we could investigate the possibility of the Council painting white “H” lines in any area necessary. He would bring this back to a future meeting. follow up.

Item 7 (e) - Nigel informed the meeting that he had submitted an online request to the Lancashire Road Safety Partnership, (ref 12199) seeking to lower the speed limit on the A6070. The request included all the reasons suggested at the previous meeting. However, the case was closed by the Safety Partnership. The matter was discussed, from which 2 points arose.

- It would help the case if any hazards or incidents were on the A6070 were reported to: speed Concern - Lancashire Road Safety Partnership.
- Phillippa Williamson said that she could request a vehicle speed survey. Nigel asked if she could go ahead and do this. It was agreed this data would be needed to advance this matter. update. Phillippa explained such changes will take time.

Item 9 - There followed a discussion about the need to at least restore a limited bus service through the village. Nigel suggested that he would

- Seek the views of residents via email and the village WhatsApp group.
- Contact Stagecoach to discuss the matter with them.

The meeting felt a request should be put to Stagecoach. update.

There was general discussion about the introduction of a car sharing scheme – it was resolved to include this topic at a future Community Action Plan meeting scheduled for 4th February.

4. Matters Arising from the Previous Minutes

There were no matters arising.

5. Chairman’s and Clerks Report

Chair’s comments

7 letters from Lancaster City Council regarding planning application consultations and been received since the date of the last meeting - these are listed on the attached schedule.

There was a brief discussion about item 6 (the barn on the A6070 near to The Longlands). This was with reference to the earlier point regarding highway safety issues on this stretch of road.

A litter pick was to be held on Saturday 5th April with refreshments available afterwards at Bank House.

There were no further matters arising from the above.

The meeting then moved to item 8 on the agenda.

8. Village Hall Report

Ken Dunn spoke to the meeting about the village Hall. The hall was now 40 years old and the heating system was showing its age and would need to be de-commissioned in the future as we move away from fossil fuels by 2030 and the current boiler reached its economic life.

Ken had commissioned a report into changing the system to a Green option. (A Green Pathway). This would involve the use of air to air heat pumps and solar panels, which it was planned would be attached to the roof facing away from the road.

Ken said that the project was expected to cost a little over £65,000 and he was seeking funding for 80% of this cost. He would be asking for a contribution of £500 for the year commencing 2025 and the year commencing 2026 from the Priest Hutton Parish, the Borwick Parish and from the lottery fund. This amounts to around 5% which would aid finding grant funding.

Regarding the Nature Reserve, there should be no further funding requirements in the immediate future.

Ken had to leave the meeting at this point.

6. Treasurer's Report and Matters Arising.

Phil Horsfield was unable to attend the meeting but had prepared a set of receipts and payments accounts to 16th January 2025. Nigel distributed these accounts to the meeting and provided a brief commentary.

The cash held at bank amounted to £5,413. Expenditure to date amounted to £2,206 with income of £3,000 arising from the Precept. Nigel was happy that expenditure in the full year would not exceed the Precept.

The single largest item of expenditure was £975 (v £576 in 23/24) for grass cutting, (budgeted at £1,000), but there had been more cuts, and the work had been carried out well.

Overall, expenditure was in line with budget.

There were no matters arising from the above.

7. 2025 / 2026 Budget and Precept

Nigel explained that this meeting needed to set the Precept for the forthcoming financial year. In order to do that, the meeting needed first to agree a budget for the same year.

Phil had drafted a proposed budget, which Nigel distributed to the meeting along with a brief commentary.

The budget allowed for expenditure of £2,750 including £500 for the village hall as referred to above. The meeting approved unanimously the village hall donation.

£1,000 was again allowed for, for grass cutting. Nigel reported that he had spoken to the firm responsible for cutting the grass and they were happy to keep their rates the same in 2025. The meeting agreed unanimously that the same company be retained.

(it's practice to individually approve any item of expense of £500 or more).

It was proposed by Diane Adams and Seconded by Lesley Fairclough that the budget be accepted. This was agreed unanimously.

Nigel said that he felt once again that the Precept should match expenditure which would be achieved by maintaining the Precept at its current level of £3,000. Lesley Fairclough proposed that the Precept be set at £3,000 and this was seconded by Martin Shuttleworth. The proposal was agreed unanimously.

9. Neighbourhood Watch

Andy Stoye was not able to attend the meeting to provide his usual report. Nigel said that he was not aware of any matters relating to Neighbourhood watch.

10. Enlargement of Parish boundaries ?

Nigel expressed his concern regarding the sustainability of these Parish Meetings and briefly outlined a few reasons for saying this.

He talked about the work of the Parish and noted that the Borwick Parish dealt with the same matters. He commented that Priest Hutton and Borwick were two communities sharing many of the same things, for example the village hall, the church and the one road which connected both villages with the A6070. Officers of both Parishes would have the same conversation with say Highways, Planners, the elected officers in the area and the village hall committee.

Nigel therefore suggested that thought be given to combining the parishes of Priest Hutton and Borwick. If this matter was to be examined, he felt that the starting point would be for both Parishes to approve their officers to investigate only, the implications of such a move. This he envisaged would produce a schedule of pro's and cons which he would then bring

back to a future Parish Meeting for further discussion. These thoughts had been shared with the officers of Borwick Parish.

Sue Tyldsley mentioned that Yealand Conyers and Yealand Redmayne had recently merged and the feeling had been there were benefits, although it had entailed a lot of work.

The meeting unanimously approved the proposal that Nigel be allowed to investigate the implications of merging the two Parishes. **Update**

Nigel then informed the meeting that a similar proposal had been put to those attending the last Borwick Parish Meeting and the officers in Borwick had been given approval to carry out a similar investigation. Nigel would therefore meet with the new Chair of the Borwick Parish Meetings to discuss how best to advance this work.

11. Any other business

Martin Shuttleworth asked if Phillippa would kindly ask the relevant department to investigate the road flooding situation on the A6070 adjacent to Twin Lakes – which Phillippa agreed to do. **Update**

12. Next Meeting

The meeting date had already been set as 13th May 2025 (includes AGM).

The meeting closed at 8:55 pm.

No	Application For	Ref No	Date
1	Ken Dunn	24/00279/FUL	26 Sept 24
2	Chris Heginbotham	24/0179/TCA	01 Oct 24
3	Fiona Horsfield	24/0192/TCA	10 Oct 24
4	Mr And Mrs Oldfield	24/01121/LB	16 Oct 24
5	Tim Nikrooz	24/01218/FUL	7 Nov 24
6	F Brakewell	24/01383/PAC	17 Dec 24
7	Christopher Broadbent	24/01404/FUL	20 Dec 24