**Priest Hutton Parish Meeting**

Chairman and Clerk to the Meeting

Mr N.D. Adams Mrs D Adams

Bank House, Priest Hutton Bank House, Priest Hutton

**Minutes of the Priest Hutton Parish Meeting held on Tuesday 21st May 2024 at 7.50pm in Borwick & Priest Hutton Memorial Hall**

This meeting followed the A.G.M which had been completed a few minutes earlier.

1. **Apologies for absence:** - 5- Mrs Diane Sunderland, Mr Eric Rooney, Mr Phil Horsfield, Susan Tyldsley and Lesley Southwart.

People present: - 17 – Mrs Phillipa Williamson, Mrs Analise Stoyle, Mr Andrew Stoyle, Mrs Jean Johns, Mr Tony Johns, Mrs Jean Gudgeon, Mr Richard Spencer, Mrs Susan Pickthall, Mrs Lesley Fairclough, Mrs June Prew, Mr Daivd Parker, Mr Ken Dunn, Mr Steve Vaughan, Olivia Barraclough, Mr Nigel Adams, and Mrs Diane Adams

1. **Approval of the Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 23rd January 2024**

The Minutes of the meeting held on the 23rd January 2024 were distributed to those present and were proposed to be a true record by Jean Gudgeon which was seconded by June Prew and then unanimously approved by everyone at the meeting.

1. **Chairman’s update on matters referred to in the Previous Minutes.**

**Chairs comments: -**

1. **Speeding Survey**

Nigel said that a speeding survey had recently been carried out by LCC Highways. This revealed that 85% of the cars driven passed the speed camera were travelling at less than 27 M.P.H. The average was 24 M.P.H. The speed of over 2,000 cars were recorded over a 7-day period.

The results were as follows

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Eastbound** | 1,037 cars | **Westbound** | 1,036 cars |
| Over 40 mph | 2 | Over 40 mph | 0 |
| 35 – 40 MPH | 3 | 35 – 40 MPH | 3 |
| 30 – 35 MPH | 35 | 30 – 35 MPH | 35 |
| Less than 25 MPH | 72 % | Less than 25 MPH | 70% |
| 85% were less than | 26.5 MPH | 85% were less than | 26.7 MPH |

Nigel commented that this speed camera was placed immediately prior to the sharp bend on Whitebeck lane just before the village green where cars would not be travelling at their fastest.

The highways department concluded that average speeds are low in the village and there is a low record of injury or collisions, therefore the road safety team will not be able to consider this location for road safety intervention, they believed there were other places far worse where funds should be applied first.

Nigel thanked Phillipa for organising the survey.

A comment was made, asking that hedges should be cut back so that road signs were not obscured.

**(b) Road Improvements**

Nigel explained that Diane had sent several emails to the highways department complaining about the potholes on Whitebeck Lane, Back Lane, and Borwick Lane.

Nigel had previously mentioned that it was hoped that Whitebeck Lane would be included in the 2024/2025 Capital programme for resurfacing/re-dressing. However, this is now not to be.

Diane had received a letter dated 27 March 2024, which explained that “roads are assessed on an annual basis in preparation for the drafting of capital programme for the following year.” Hazards, public complaints, gritting routes, public transport routes, emergency service routes, the locality of schools and the number of houses and businesses served by the roads are used to prioritise the work. Whereas it was thought before that re-dressing the road would be included in the 2024/2025, we are now informed that Whitebeck Lane has not been picked for inclusion in that re-surfacing programme, but the matter will be looked at again when writing the 2025/2026 budget.

Nigel said that there was a small local deterioration fund available to repair potholes, but the use of this fund was based on the number of reports made on Love Clean Streets. Nigel once again encouraged everybody to use that website to report any road faults.

Nigel raised the possibility of contacting a private contractor, but he had no idea of what cost could be involved but thought that it would be useful information.

There then followed a short discussion on this matter. It was noted that following the cancellation of HS2 considerable funds would become available to LCC to repair or re-surface roads. Phillipa also mentioned other pots of funding which could help.

**(c) Database**

Nigel reported that he continues his work to build a comprehensive database of residents within the Parish. He and the Clerk had hand delivered a letter to addresses where he had no contact details asking if they would provide their email addresses.

**Clerk’s Comments**

* A litter pick had been carried out on 23rd March which resulted in the collection of several bags of rubbish – Diane thanked everybody who had helped.
* The new company engaged to cut the grass in the village had now started their schedule of visits. Once the daffodils had died back, the results would be better seen. Diane commented that she thought that they were doing a good job.
* Some potholes had been filled/patched at the top of Upp Hall Lane and along Whitebeck Lane. Several more potholes had been reported to LCC

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

Diane was asked about the possible installation of grit bins in the village. She explained that she had walked around the village again looking at possible sites, bearing in mind the instructions received at the previous meeting. We were approaching summer now, but before winter, she would look at the possible purchase of 2-3 bins. She would also talk to Highways again.

1. **Chairman’s and Clerks Report**

**Chair’s comments**

1. Nigel informed the meeting that he had received notification that a section of Whitebeck Lane with its junction with Borwick Lane would be closed for 3 days, from 18 – 20 June, to allow for the re-building of a water meter chamber located below the road, details of this had been emailed to residents.
2. **Parish Facilities Questionnaire.**

Nigel reported that Lancaster City Council were examining new house building opportunities in all 76 communities around Lancaster of which this Parish was one. The first step was the completion of a facilities questionnaire. The questions asked were the same as those in a previous questionnaire he had completed a year earlier. The responses to that questionnaire were discussed at a previous Parish Meeting before submission. The replies to this questionnaire were therefore the same as the previous one. The conclusion to the responses given previously was that growth of the village was not sustainable. Of relevance, there are no shops, schools, or businesses in the village nor is the village on a bus route, nor does it have mains sewage, a gas supply and there are no footpaths.

There followed a short discussion on this matter in which it was commented that there maybe infill opportunities in the village and the boundaries of the conservation area were also queried. Nigel said that he would obtain a boundaries map prior to the next meeting.

**Clerk’s Comments**

Notice of 2 planning application consultations had been received since the date of the last meeting. The Notifications had been posted on the Notice Board and emailed to the database, both were made by Ken Dunn, Lorien, Back Lane, Priest Hutton.

1. Application No. 24/00279/FUL. 2 April 24 - Installation of solar panels to the south facing roof slope.
2. Application No. 24/00420/FUL. 11 April 24 – Installation of an air heat pump to the rear.

A notification of Amendment to an application was received on 9 May. This related to (1) Application No. 24/00279/FUL above and now reads:-

Installation of solar panels to east and west facing roof slopes of rear extension.

1. **Treasurer’s Report and Matters Arising.**

This item was included in the A.G.M held earlier in the evening.

1. **Village Hall Report - provided by Ken Dunn.**

At the recent Village Hall A.G.M the following officers were elected.

Chair : Ken Dunn

Vice Chair : : Keith Brady

Treasurer : Nigel Adams

Health & Safety : Eric Rooney

There is a vacancy for a Secretary.

As the hall is the place of refuge in an emergency, the village hall had received a grant from the Northwest Electricity for £4,500 to install a new oven and other catering equipment. The reason being that at such a time, residents may need warm food, and the hall needed the equipment to provide that.

Ken then went on to provide an update on the **Whitebeck Nature Reserve.**

£1,250 was needed to complete the installation of a wildlife pond and to be funded as follows. £250 was left over from previous years, £500 from the PH Parish contribution 12 months ago and then £500 had been provided for in the 24/25 PH Parish budget this year.

Ken had also spoken to an ecologist about how to approach the pond work.

Tony Johns thanked everybody involved in the laying of the hedges around the nature reserve.

1. **Community Action Plan (C.A.P)**

Nigel gave the meeting an update on the work which had been carried out since the last meeting in relation to the C.A.P.

He 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).

In our January meeting it was resolved that we establish a “sub-committee” (or Steering Group) to identify any needs in the village or desired improvements. Anybody would be welcome to join this working group. The steering Group could then report back to the Parish Meeting to seek guidance on their thoughts.

Nigel emphasised that he respected anybody’s view that change was not required, but if it was, the above approach seemed preferable. The January Parish meeting concluded that the Steering Group should meet again and try to develop the idea of a CAP for Priest Hutton.

He reported that a follow up meeting and discussion had taken place which was attended by himself, Andy Stoyle, Ken Dunn and Eric Rooney.

The group had spoken about the headings for a Community Plan and identified 4 Headings – all starting with the letter S. **“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.**

The meeting was asked to consider what may fall under each of the above. He said that this would take greater thought, but he was interested in initial observations.

The following was mentioned.

* The need for a “Welcome Pack” for people moving into the village.
* The need to understand what others had planned for our community (e.g LCC, Planning, Highways, Conservation, Utilities etc). Officers for the above could possibly attend a Parish Meeting.
* There was a conversation about the fact growth in the village was viewed as unsustainable (referred to earlier in these minutes).
* The need for a bus service was discussed, with timings which allowed people to leave the village and then allow someone to carry out their tasks, before returning by bus.
* There was a discussion about using the village green for Social occasions. e.g Informal gatherings on a Friday or Saturday evening if the weather was good for an hour or so.
* The subject of supporting residents when needed was also discussed.

At the next meeting, Nigel would provide some dates for the Steering Group to meet, which would then be circulated.

1. **Neighbourhood Watch**

Andy Stoyle reported that he had received various updates from Neighbourhood Watch and LCC which in the main concentrated on scamming.

He hoped that our Community Police Officer may attend a meeting of residents soon.

1. **Any other business**

There was a short discussion around the provision of a Christmas Tree on the village green. Nigel and Diane explained the difficulties which had been faced last Christmas with the weather – the reason why the tree had to be taken down early.

It was resolved that the tree should be put up in future by a professional firm and one may be sourced by talking to other villages, such as Over Kellet. Nigel referred to that the fact that the tree costs had been increased in the 24/25 Parish budget.

1. **Next Meeting**

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 17th September 2024 at 7:30pm in the village hall.

The meeting closed at 9:10 pm.