**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 27th September 2022 at 7.30pm in Borwick & Priest Hutton Memorial Hall**

The Chairman opened the meeting by thanking those present for their attendance.

1. Apologies for absence: - (8) Ian Smith, Sue Taylor, Leigh Astin, Dave Moffatt, Kath Moffatt, Lesley Fairclough, June Prew and Phillipa Williamson.

People present: - (15) – Diane Sunderland, Eric Rooney, Ken Dunn, Martin Shuttleworth, Jean Gudgeon, Lesley Southwart, Tony Johns, Jean Johns, Andrew Stoyle, Annalies Stoyle, Richard Spencer, Miles Tatham, Phil Horsfield, Nigel Adams and Diane Adams.

1. Approval of the Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 17th May 2022

The Minutes of the meeting held on the 17th May 2022 were distributed to those present, and were proposed to be a true record by Ken Dunn and seconded by Andy Stoyle. Everyone in favour.

1. Matters arising.

There were no matters arising which had not otherwise been included within the Minutes for this meeting, however the Chair had two comments.

1. On more than one occasion cars had been seen parked, up against the defibrillator box, preventing access to it. He proposed installing some warning signage and would speak with Ian Smith / Sue Taylor to ask permission to mount the sign on their barn wall.
2. The Chair thanked all those who were involved in the organisation for the Jubilee celebrations.

4.1 Clerk’s Report

(a) The Clerk reported several further conversations with Lancaster City Council regarding the broken road signs on Whitebeck Lane and Upp Hall Lane and the directional sign on Back Lane. Phillipa Williams was providing assistance, as the matters remain outstanding.

(b) Some work had been carried out on the road markings at the road junction by the Longlands Hotel. Although it was commented upon that the work had not been fully completed.

(c) Further work had been carried out to repair the potholes on Whitebeck Lane. This had improved the state of the road quite significantly, although faults to the road were still evident

(d) An instruction had been given to carry out the repainting of the phone box and varnishing the notice board and village bench. The cost was within the budget given to the Clerk in the previous meeting of 17th May.

(e) The dog waste bin on Whitebeck Lane has been replaced.

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

1. Application number 22/00592/FUL – Amendment - Change of use of land to residential garden and erection of outbuilding to the rear to be used in association with 3 Greenlands Cottages, Burton Road.
2. Tree Application number 22/0131/TPO - Intention to carry out tree work - Buckstone House, Whitebeck Lane.

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

(g) The Clerk thanked Terry Hallhead for the work he had done recently in cutting back his hedges. The Clerk had spoken to Roger Mason, who would also be attending to hedges in the near future.

4.2 Chairman’s Report

The Chair to the meeting had just one matter report.

He had received several complaints from residents regarding the noise made by a helicopter operating pleasure flights on a few summer days over the summer from a field adjacent to Greenlands farm. He was aware of similar complaints made from residents in neighbouring villages.

He had therefore spoken with the Planning Authorities and Environmental Health at L.C.C as well as the Civil Aviation Authority (C.A.A) to gain a better understanding of the regulations and what was permissible. The following information was provided to the meeting.

* The helicopter and ancillary equipment is allowed on site for 28 days without planning permission. The flying schedule in 2022 was of course for fewer days than this.
* Aircraft noise is not classified as a statutory nuisance. Local authorities have no legal powers to prevent these occasional flight schedules on environmental grounds.
* For information, the aircraft must maintain a minimum flying height of 500ft above the countryside and 1,000 feet above urban areas. There is no suggestion at all this rule has been breached and of course most of the noise locally is made on landing and take-off.
* As this is an “unlicenced aerodrome” the landing pad does not need to be a set distance from buildings.

The Chairman would speak with the landowner and if possible, establish their plans for 2023.

1. Matters arising from the Clerk and Chairman’s Reports.

There were no matters arising from either report.

1. Treasurers Report

The receipts and payments account for the period to 27th September 2022 was distributed amongst those in attendance.

The closing cash balance was £6,336

The Treasure noted that £1,000 would be spent on restoring the phone box, village notice board and the bench on the green. Up to £700 would need to be spent on repairing fencing adjacent to the Parish land.

1. Parish Land

Ken Dunn was invited to speak to the meeting about plans to improve the Parish land. Ken and the Chair had recently met to discuss their thoughts as to the best use of the land. The main aims were to.

* Develop the current nature reserve. An area had recently been ploughed, fenced and planted, creating a wild meadow (with 1,500 plugs). It was hoped attractive signage would be installed describing the flowers/plants to be found there. A wildlife pond was being considered as well as nesting boxes and park seating.
* Improve access from the village to the reserve. Ken explained there was no desirable access to the site – you must walk along Whitebeck Lane itself. He explained the vision was to establish a circular off road walk incorporating the village and the Parish land. This required the involvement of at least 3 landowners. Ken would commence conversations with them in the New Year.

Ken lastly explained that we had created a C.A.G (a Community Action Group). This would make it easier to raise funds/grants for the project. The land would be given the name of Whitebeck Lane Nature Reserve.

A funding application for £500 has been made to the Parish for consideration at this meeting. The application was proposed by Jean Johns and seconded by Tony Johns. This was approved unanimously.

1. Collective buying of heating oil.

The Chair explained that establishing a village purchasing consortium was one of his and the Clerks objectives when they were re-elected at the previous A.G.M. He Explained the potential benefits of such a scheme eg cost savings achieved from bulk orders, less environmental damage than separate household deliveries and it creates social cohesion.

An email would be sent to residents shortly, explaining the scheme which would then be tested in November. There was an agreement in principle from the meeting to setup such a purchasing scheme.

1. Other Collective buying arrangements.

Similar schemes could be looked at for other heating supplies (wood/LPG etc) but there were far greater commercial hurdles to clear with regard to these (eg annual contracts for LPG).

Points arising from the discussion included a suggestion to create a village hall car charging point and a car sharing scheme.

1. Neighbourhood Watch

The meeting was informed that Andy Stoyle had agreed to takeover the role of co-ordinator. The Chair thanked him for his involvement. There was nothing to bring to the attention of the meeting, except that a new email account was to be created through which he could be contacted by any resident.

There was a general discussion about cars, on occasions, speeding through the village at night. Speed advisory signs may be of benefit but were thought to be quite expensive (a few thousand pounds).

1. Any Other Business
* The Chair and Clerk said that they would make the arrangements for a Christmas tree to be placed on the village green during December. There was a general discussion about making more of an occasion of the “switch on”
* The Chair had received a suggestion that the open garden visits arranged last, many years ago (perhaps last in 2003) should be re-introduced. It was agreed the idea be included in the next Newsletter to gauge response.

There was no other business.

1. Date and time of The Next Meeting will be Tuesday 17th January 2023, in the village hall at 7.30 P.M.

The meeting closed at 8.45 p.m.