**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 17th January 2023 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: - (7) Lesley Southwart, Dave Moffatt, Kath Moffatt, Martin Shuttleworth, Jean Johns, Andy and Analise Stoyle and Phillipa Williamson

People present: - (15) – Diane Sunderland, Eric Rooney, Ken Dunn, Jean Gudgeon, June Prue, Lesley Fairclough, Tony Johns, Richard Spencer, Phil Horsfield, Nigel Adams, and Diane Adams.

1. Approval of the Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 27 September 2022

The Minutes of the meeting held on the 27 September 2022 were distributed to those present and were proposed to be a true record by Diane Sunderland and seconded by Eric Rooney. Everyone in favour.

1. Matters arising.

There were no matters arising, however both the Clerk and Chairman commented that they would provide updates within their reports.

4.1 Clerk’s Report

(a) The Clerk reported the entrance sign to Whitbeck Lane had been replaced.

(b) Lancashire County Council had inspected the directional sign for Priest Hutton on 26 July 2022 and stated it did not need repair.

(c) Lancashire County Council are still investigating the road markings near the Longlands Hotel.

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

(d) Two further signage issues,:- the damaged Whitebeck Lane sign near the phone box and the Whitebeck Lane/Back Lane are ongong.

(e) Highways Department had been contacted about the worsening state of Whitebeck Lane due to the potholes.

(f) The re painting of the bench on the village green had been carried out and the notice board and phone box will be carried out when the weather permits.

(g) The clerk reported that there had been two successful collective deliveries of oil into the two villages, and more were planned, several residents reported significant savings using the collective system.

(h) The Clerk reported that she hoped there could be a group of villagers willing to assist with the erection the Christmas tree and running the Christmas lights.

(i) The Clerk reported that Phil and Fiona Horsfield had mentioned the need for village grit bins, which had reported this to LCC, with the proposed sites being by the bench on the village green, by the dog waste bin at the entrance to Kirkgate and at the village hall.

(j) The Clerk put forward Saturday 4th March 2023 as the date for the annual village litter pick.

(k) The Clerk reported there had been one planning application which was Application Number 22/01467/FUL re demolition of an existing timber garage and erection of a two-storey side extension at Coach House, Whitebeck Lane.

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

 5. Chairman’s Report

The Chairman reported he had received the new signage for above the defibrillator and would arrange for it to be mounted on the wall.

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 17 January 2023 together with a forecast to the year ending 31st March 2023 were distributed amongst those in attendance.

The forecast (to 31.3.23) showed a closing cash balance of £3,517.00. This balance had been calculated after the planned expenditure of £1,000 for the refurbishment of the Village notice board, the bench on the village green and the phone box, together with £150 of other expenditure.

There were no matters arising from the Treasurers Report.

1. Annual Precept and Parish budget.

The Chairman informed the meeting that there was a requirement to set the 2023/2024 Parish precept which he proposed to do at this meeting.

Firstly, the Treasurer had produced a budget for the coming financial year which was distributed to all those attending the meeting. This budget identified planned annual expenditure of £2,700. The Chairman asked the meeting if there were any other items of expenditure which they felt should be included in the budget.

It was mentioned that Simon Smith had done a particularly good job with the Priest Hutton website but would be assisted further with some software improvement – (£150)

If we were to improve the access to the Whitebeck Nature Reserve, it may require the purchase of styles which could cost around £500. (The budget presented by the Treasurer included provision of £500 to be spent on Whitebeck Nature Reserve.

It was mentioned that maybe £200 would be needed to help celebrate the Kings Coronation in May 2023.

It was established that PHLAG would not require any further funding.

Grit bins could cost around £400.

Finally, the Chairman mentioned that at some point it would be good to have electrical power brought to the village green, which would hopefully increase its usage.

The Chairman sought formal approval for the budget which included £2,700 of expenditure. This was proposed by Ken Dunn and seconded by Tony Johns and the budget was unanimously approved.

Having approved the annual expenditure budget, The Chairman expressed his opinion that the 2023 precept should equate with this annual budgeted expenditure, given that the reserves currently stood at £3,517.00. It was commented upon the fact that the precept (currently £3,000) had not been raised for the last 4 years.

It was proposed by Ken Dunn and seconded by Tony Johns that the precept remain at £3,000 and this was approved unanimously.

1. **Ken Dunn - Whitebeck Nature Reserve Update.**

Ken Dunn mentioned he had located the benches for Whitebeck Nature Reserve, and these would be secured into the ground.

It was mentioned that Eddie Hodgson had planted many bulbs.

Ken was looking into having a beehive on the Whitebeck Nature Reserve.

Tony Johns requested that there be a new sign for the Whitebeck Nature Reserve.

Ken stated that the hedge laying had been successful.

**Village Hall**

Ken stated the economic situation was very solid.

1. Neighbourhood Watch

As Andy Stoyle was unable to attend the meeting, he provided a written report which detailed warnings around junk mail, spam and fraudulent emails and the increase in burglaries in the South Lakeland Area.

Neighbourhood watch stickers were handed out to those present, and a supply were to be left in the village noticeboard.

Andy also reported that he had requested two Neighbourhood watch signs one for Whitebeck Lane and one for Borwick Lane.

1. Any other business

There was no other business.

The meeting closed at 8.40 p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 16th May 2023. There will also be an Annual General Meeting on the Tuesday 16th May 2023.