**Priest Hutton Parish Meeting**

Chair and Clerk to the Meeting

Mr N.D. Adams

Bank House, Priest Hutton

**Minutes of the Priest Hutton Parish Meeting held on Tuesday 26th September 2023 at 7.30pm in Borwick & Priest Hutton Memorial Hall**

The Chairman opened the meeting by thanking those present for their attendance and introduced Sue Tyldesley, our new local councillor (Lancaster City Council Warton Ward).

1. Apologies for absence: - (8) Diane Adams, Kath Moffatt, June Prew, Lesley Fairclough, Richard Spencer, Leigh Astin, Diane Sunderland and Annalise Stoyle.

People present: - (13) – Eric Rooney, Ken Dunn, Jean Gudgeon, Lesley Southwart, Tony Johns, Jean Johns, Olivia Barraclough, Steve Vaughen, Sue Tyldesley, Andy Stoyle, David Parker, Phil Horsfield, Nigel Adams.

1. Approval of the Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 16th May 2023

The Minutes of the meeting held on the 16th May 2023 were distributed to those present and were proposed to be a true record by Eric Rooney which was seconded by Andy Stoyle and then unanimously approved by everyone at the meeting.

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

The previous minutes noted that the Chairman and Clerk would contact Phillipa Williamson in relation to the improvements needed to Whitebeck and Borwick Lanes. (4.1 (f) and 5).

The Chairman reported that Phillipa had been very helpful and had organised a meeting at the end of July, in the village with the L.C.C Highways Department which she had then attended with the Clerk and Chairman. The Group walked from the village hall, through Priest Hutton and then the length of Whitebeck Lane.

The following Issues were identified:

* the narrowness of the road in several places due to grass margins being overgrown
* various potholes which required repair.
* and the poor state of a number of road markings (eg SLOW sign on Borwick Lane).

The Highways representatives said that the potholes would be repaired soon, and the overgrowth removed where needed. They would check the road markings at the Longlands and noted the SLOW sign referred to above.

In the next financial year (April 24 – April 25), a decision would be made, whether to include within their budget, the cost of re-surfacing work on Borwick and Whitebeck Lanes.

4 (b) The roads had been swept

4 (g) The phone box had been repainted, and the renovation of the notice board and the bench on the green was complete.

4 (h) the consortium oil deliveries were running fine

6. Diane had cleared the road grids on Upp Hall Lane and had continued t0 report road defects and provide photographic evidence including the potholes on the upper part of Upp Hall Lane.

8. An invitation had been extended to our neighbourhood police officer to attend a future meeting.

The findings of an investigation (as reported in a previous meeting) into the existence of a bridal path between Greenlands, and Cinderbarrow Lane and behind Buckstone House, had been accepted.

1. Matters arising from those attending the meeting.

Other than a short discussion regarding the road markings outside the Longlands hotel, there were no other matters arising.

1. Clerk’s and The Chairman’s Report.

The Chairman provided a consolidated report. He reported he had received correspondence relating to the following:

(a) A Notice of Confirmation of a Modification Order S53 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 – L.C.C – The definitive Map and Statement of Public Rights of Way - in relation to a Bridleway from Borwick Hall to the Packhorse Bridge, Capernwray. The effect of the Order was read to the meeting. The Chairman briefly provided explanations about the Definitive Map and how modifications are made to it.

(b) A notice had been placed on the village notice board in relation to a Definitive Map Modification Order made by L.C.C on 5th July 2023 in relation to a footpath from Back Lane to Starrack’s Wood.

The Chairman read the Order which stated:

i.e “by recording a footpath from a junction with Back Lane along a compacted stone surfaced track for a distance of 10 metres to where the track splits then continuing in an easterly direction crossing Hall Beck via a concrete slab and then more north easterly direction ascending the hillside along a substantial bounded track for a further 920 metres to the junction with Footpath FP0126012.”

Any response was required by 19th October 2023.

A Short discussion followed identifying the path referred to in this Order.

(c) The Chairman reported that various emails had been received regarding several local road closures and where relevant, these had been circulated.

(d) The Chairman reported that he had been contacted by 2 village residents regarding work being carried out to land at the far end of Back Lane. As this land was part of the Borwick Parish, he had referred the matter to David Scott in Borwick.

(e) The dog bin on Kirkgate had been severely damaged, probably by a vehicle, and was being replaced.

(f) 2 Planning applications had been received since the date of the last meeting. The Notifications had both been posted on the Notice Board and both related to tree works.

1. Mrs Lisa Clarke, West View, Whitebeck Lane, Priest Hutton. - Tree Application No. 23/0150/TCA.

2. Mr Kenneth Dunn, Lorien, Back Lane, Priest Hutton, - Tree Application No. 23/0154/TCA

1. Treasurers Report

The receipts and payments account for the period from 1st April 23 to 26th September 23 was provided to the meeting by the Treasurer. This showed that the cash reserves stood at £5,597. Payments for the year to date had reached £1,944 which included the planned expenditure of £1,000 for the refurbishment of the Village notice board, the bench on the village green and the phone box, (which had been approved at a previous meeting).

There were no matters arising from the Treasurers Report.

It was proposed by Eric Rooney that the accounts be accepted which was unanimously agreed by the meeting.

1. Neighbourhood Watch

Andy Stoyle stated that there was nothing to report to the meeting. Various notifications had been received, but nothing was relevant to this Parish. Andy re-confirmed his contact details to the meeting.

The possibility of Neighbourhood watch signs - one for Whitebeck Lane and one for Borwick Lane were discussed and where they would be positioned. We had hoped that they may be provided by the central Neighbourhood Watch Group, but nothing was forthcoming at the moment.

There was a short discussion as to whether the signs were necessary, but there was no conclusion to this.

Andy would investigate this further and obtain some costings, if the Parish were to fund the costs of these. Further thought would be given to where the signs could be placed. The Police may also be able to assist in this matter also (?).

1. Any other business
2. The Chairman brought up 2 other subjects.
3. He expressed a desire to build a new Parish database which could be used for a number of purposes (subject to GDPR – data protection legislation). It would then be up to residents, who were permitted to use the database for a specific purpose, whether they used the new database or continue to use the new shared database.

Approval would need to be sought from all residents and their contact details be collected, as well as confirmation of the purpose their contact details were being used and stored (eg to receive Neighbourhood Watch information, first responders information, or to receive notifications from the Parish Clerk etc).

In general discussion, this was felt to be a good idea and the Chairman would investigate what database system may be used to store contacts and how data would best be collected.

1. The Chairman talked about the purpose of the Parish Meetings and how this could grow and develop if that’s what was desired. He emphasised that many residents may be happy with the village exactly as it was, but noted that the Parish Meetings provided an opportunity to discuss any potential improvement in the village if any matters were identified. He asked should the Meetings be about routine matters alone, or could they include much wider discussions about village improvements.

He felt that it was important to identify potential matters and then bring them back to the next meeting to discuss. A process for identifying any potential matters of improvement would be needed. The Chairman said that in his view, it would be inappropriate for him alone to bring these to the meeting. He therefore proposed forming a “sub-committee” who could meet to discuss any relevant matters which they thought should be presented to the Meeting. He felt anybody who wanted could be a member of the sub-committee – any resident was welcome. He asked for residents who would like to join a sub-committee to make themselves known to him, and he would then arrange an initial informal meeting. The sub-committee could also be responsible for implementing any decisions made at the Parish Meeting. This approach should also lead to greater co-ordination of village resources and between village groups.

No objections were raised to this approach.

1. Ken Dunn provided an update on the Whitebeck Nature Reserve

* 300 species of wildflower had been planted which were doing well.
* A garden bench was ready to install.
* The hedge laying was complete.
* The cherry trees were well established.
* Thoughts were being given to a pond and the wildlife associated with that.

Ken also mentioned a presentation which was due to be given on 24th October at the village hall about land management on the Borwick Estate.

1. There was a general discussion about car & road problems in the village. Andy Stoyle mentioned cars speeding through the village, and poor standards of driving, which had safety implications.

Cars parking outside the School House close to the right hand bend were mentioned which were also a problem to cars exiting Upp Hall Lane and being forced onto the wrong side of the road. It was suggested a mirror may be useful, but a location for the mirror would need to be found.

It was suggested that extending the 30mph to the top of Whitebeck Lane would be helpful as well as installing other speed warning signs.

The Chairman said that as a result of this discussion he would investigate other speed calming methods and try to establish what may be possible.

1. Ken Dunn mentioned a new website maintenance contract the cost of which would be shared with the village hall. The cost to the Parish would be £40.
2. Eric Rooney mentioned that the First Responders AGM would be on 28th November and the Sports and Social Group had organised a wine and cheese evening on 17th December.

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 16th January 2024 at 7:30pm in the village hall.

(this date was subsequently changed to 23rd January).

The meeting closed.