

***Priors Marston Parish Council Meeting
Tuesday 12th March 2019 at 7.30pm
The Priors Hall, Shuckburgh Road, Priors Marston***

DRAFT MINUTES

In attendance: Cllr Nick Fulford (Chair) Cllr Viv Nind, Cllr John Appleton, Cllr John Franklin, Cllr Laura Lucas, Cllr Bob Stevens and Emma Hooker (Clerk)

Members of Public Present: Mr. Simon Brown representing the Sports Club Committee

Apologies: Cllr Chris Williams District Councilor

1. Declarations of Interest

None Declared

2. Approval of the minutes of the last meeting held on Tuesday 15th January 2019

Minutes were approved by all present as a true record and signed by the Chair.

3. Questions from Residents

After giving the correct notice period to talk to the Council the Chair invited Simon Brown to talk on the matter of the current status of the Sports Club and their future plans.

Mr. Brown gave everyone present a document entitled Priors Sports and Social Club – The Vision and listed both the essential and desired refurbishment plans and estimated costs. It went on to outline the Clubs plans to sell some of the assets, namely the area of land currently used for the tennis courts and parking area for development.

The monies raised from the sale of this land would be reinvested into the Sports club and would be used to create new tennis courts and multisport court, floodlights for the courts and refurbishing the Clubhouse.

Mr. Brown reiterated to the Council that in his view without any funding available or an injection of capital the future of the Sports Club is in doubt.

The Chair thanked Mr. Brown and questions are invited.

Q: How many members does the Club have?

SB: 140 households are members and 50% are from either Marston or Hardwick.

Q: What amount of land and where and what size development?

SB: The tennis courts and parking is just under an acre and the plan is to relocate the courts to the far end of the field. The plot is large enough for 11 houses but looking for 8 or 9. Ultimately this would be down the developer.

Q: Who are the trustees and does the sport club own the land?

SB: Confirmed he was unable to find the trust documents but had been told that the Trustees are Mike Wilkes and Vince Stuchbury and believed the other trustees to be deceased. The Sportsclub own the land.

Q: What is your budget for the improvements you would like to make?

SB: £350,000 (Figure given by Mr. Brown for a sale without planning permission) would allow works on the tennis area and resurface of drive and the refurbishment of the clubhouse including kitchen and new changing rooms. If the full value of the land was realized (Figure given by Mr. Brown of £800-900,000 if sold with planning permission) this would go into trust and secure the future of the club.

Q: Have you considered gaining the thoughts of the community to gauge support?

SB: Wanted to speak to the Parish Council initially but plans for a meeting with the community as the next stage.

Q: The field next to the Sports Club – Is there any connection between the Sports Club plans and any future plans for this field?

SB: No connection,

Cllr Bob Stevens commented that Mr. Brown would need the support of the Parish Council and the Village. He also gave Mr. Brown information on possible funding grants available through the HS2 community grants that could be helpful.

Chair thanked Mr. Brown and will look at the information given tonight and if they had any queries would contact him.

Mr. Brown asked if it would be hard to convert the recent Parish Plan to a Neighbourhood Plan as this could identify parcels of land for potential development.

Chair: No it is not possible as it has been adopted by Stratford District Council with hard copies printed and ready for distribution.

Mr. Brown left at 7.50pm.

4. Matters Arising from previous meeting

1) Parish Plan Update

The Parish Plan has been approved and adopted by Stratford District Council. The printed version was made available for tonight's meeting. The 350 copies will be delivered next week and the previous volunteers will be tasked with distributing them to each household in the coming weeks.

A version will also be available for the website soon after delivery.

A big well done was offered by the Council to the Chair and all of the steering group members for their hard work.

2) Local Elections

Clerk stated that nomination papers to all who are either standing again or new applicants have been hand delivered this week. The deadline for return is the 26th March 2019 and all papers should be returned to Stratford by 4pm on the 3rd April 2019.

5. District Councilor Bob Stevens Update

General

After the excitement of the Budget debate February has been exceptionally quiet at the County council. The impending retirement of 5 senior Officers and the resultant departmental re-organisation has not been conducive to major decision making.

Add to this the uncertainties of BREXIT and the political Purdah as a result of the forthcoming District Council elections in 4 of the 5 Counties District Councils and keeping the ship steady is the order of the day.

The fire service

The County council is the Fire Authority for Warwickshire and the recent inspection report is being assessed an action plan will go to cabinet next week. Most of the areas of concern relate to administrative and HR areas. The fire prevention and operations are rated Good. A new chief fire officer joins next month and his first major task will be to sort these areas out. Over the past years there have been initiatives to link up our fire service provision with adjacent authorities. Any merger is complex and this one has proved difficult. We are presently looking at a form of collaboration with West Midlands fire service and as a result, the proposal to locate a fire training facility at Southam has been shelved. There is also a national debate regarding a combined blue light service which I think is some way off in Warwickshire.

Public health and adult care

The County Council held a public interest debate at the end of last month on the subject of combined working between health and Adult services . This topic has been on the national agenda since Public Health was transferred back to local government nearly 10 years ago. The debate was addressed by SWFT, 2 CCG's ,Hospice movement, Director of public health together with 10 interested "Public Speakers". It was clear that one of the major problems is communicating between authorities and the conflict between sharing information and breaching personal privacy (Human rights). Finance, although important, is manageable although transferring of costs between budgets could be controvertible. There are moves towards integrated working which will need support (and legislation) from the government. The Director of public Health retires next month and an interim appointment has been made until a permanent appointment has been made.

Finances

The county's Revenue finances are in a Healthy state with sufficient contingency reserves to cover any foreseen events. Future income streams are unknown as the movement away from government grants towards Business rates as a source of funding is continuing with pilot schemes in some authorities. Council Tax continues to be capped although ring-fenced increases are allowed to meet specific budgets. There are many risks on the horizon that the new Director of Finance will have to address once in post. There is an interim Director in post until a permanent replacement has been appointed. The capital budget is mainly allocated to Schools and Highway projects to meet the population increase

Schools

The County Councils responsibility with respect to education, has been diluted since the introduction of Academies and free schools. It is the counties responsibility to ensure there are sufficient school places to meet the needs, that pupils can access their local school and that there is sufficient provision of "Good" education for those with Special education needs. There are only 2 secondary Schools in the county that are not academies and members of MATs. primary schools are also converting especially faith Schools. The interface between Academies and state run schools will be at the top of the agenda for new Director of education once appointed.

Highways

We all have noticed the incredible number of road closures and traffic disruptions that are presently taking place. Not only are HS2 early works creating problems between Wormleighton to Long Itchington (as well as the rest of Warwickshire to the North) but the large number of housing developments, all requiring additional utility services and road improvements, are adding to the congestion. I drove around the division yesterday and as well as the chaos in long Itchington (Highways works to implement S106 agreements) and soon to be Bascote (Severn Trent) there is major disruption on the B4451 past the Bishop Bowls lakes works in Stockton, and around Bush heath lane in Harbury; not to mention the consequences on traffic flows of the major works around Europa way and Harbury lane. At the same time stagecoach are trying to produce a bus timetable that is both sustainable and realistic. I cannot see this situation improving before the end of the summer.

Overall

The County Council reverts to a chief executive model of management and a much streamlined chain of management responsibility. This is creating an unsettled staff as new directors delegate their responsibilities and officers move into their revised roles. I expect the position to be stabilised by the end of May this year.

6. County Councilor Chris Williams Update

I would like to thank the Parish Council and the residents of Priors Marston for their good wishes for my recovery. It is much appreciated and please feel free to contact me by email should there be any issues requiring my attention at any time.

Administration – The past few months have been quite busy at the District Council although not affecting the residents of Fenny Compton. Stratford District Council, like other authorities, is facing a problem with the growth of homeless people sleeping on the street. Steps have been taken to provide limited accommodation for these people and persuading them to take advantage of the help that is offered but this is not always an easy task. Stratford has also been plagued by travellers who have taken up residence at the Stratford Leisure Centre on two occasions. Investigations to find more permanent solutions in relation to the needs of the travellers is being undertaken. The problem of empty buildings is also being tackled and from the beginning of the New Year these buildings will be subjected to the doubling of the Council Tax. It is hoped that many empty buildings will be converted to use somewhat quicker than the present situation.

Budget – On Monday 25th February, there will be a full meeting of the District Council where the budget proposals will be debated. It is expected that This year the Localism Act has made significant changes to the Local Government Finance Act and now requires the Billing Authority to calculate a Council Tax requirement for the year and not its budget requirements as previously. It is expected that the District Council portion of an average Band D property will be 61.02p for the next year. This is equivalent to an increase of 1.5%. In addition to this sum will be individual parish council precepts which in the case of Fenny Compton for a Band D property equates to 71.42p per annum. For Warwickshire County Council the precept has already been set at £1,431.81 per annum for a Band D property. Finally, The Warwickshire Police and Crime Commissioner has increased his precept by 11.77% to £227.98. I will keep the Parish Council informed if there are any decisions that will have an affect on the Parish Council.

7. Planning Matters

New and Pending Decisions

19/002641/FUL – The Land adjacent to Plum Tree Cottage. Vicarage Lane – New 4 bedroom dwelling - Pending

18/03215/VARY – Noralle – The Land adjacent to The Hollybush – new dwelling from 3 to 4 bed - Objection – NEW COMMITTEE DATE 20th March 2019

Decisions

18/03424/FUL - Formation of habitable room, Sycamore Corner, Hellidon Rd – No Obj GRANTED 06/02

18/03373/FUL – Hollybush Inn, New external door and 2 roof windows – No Obj GRANTED 16/02

18/03456/FUL – Courtleet, Keys Lane – New gates (electronic) – No Obj GRANTED 22/01

18/03664/TREE The Holloways, Fell Birch and Ash tree – No Objection GRANTED 01/02

18/03654/TREE – Castle Folly, Hellidon rd – Laurel coppice – No Objection GRANTED 23/01

18/03446/FUL – The Old Vicarage – conversion of barn to one bed dwelling – No Obj GRANTED 27/02

19/00021/TREE – The Hollybush – Fell 3 ash trees – GRANTED 01/02

19/00138/TREE – Grassmere, Shuckburgh Rd – Move Magnolia tree to different location – GRANTED 13/02

WITHDRAWN APPLICATIONS

18/02803/FUL – 1 Jacks Orchard, Shuckburgh Rd – 5 new dwellings - WITHDRAWN 29/11/2018

18/03454/AGNOT – Land to north of Welsh Rd – erection new agric. building – No Obj WITHDRAWN 27/02

19/00100/AGNOT – Marston Farm – Proposed Hay barn WITHDRAWN 27/02

8. Finance

Bank Balance as of 1st March 2019 £13,989.61

Receipts Nil

DD

Campaign to protect Rural UK £36.00

1&1 Internet fee £71.86

Cheque Payments January/February £2176.65

GDPR Registration fee £40.00

Mowing P Brown (Jan, Feb) £400.00

Clerks Wages (Dec, Jan, Feb) £1432.09

Eon £134.56

WALC Training £30.00

Chris Allen £140.00

9. AOB

- 1) The bin in the far end of the church yard which is not used to be re situated at Keys Lane to catch the dog walkers before the enter the field to the footpath across the Church's land. Clerk to ask SDC if this is possible and request for it to be put on the emptying cycle.
- 2) The Council have been asked if we would like extra roads to be gritted, which are not currently in the gritting plans at an extra cost.
It was agreed that Hellidon Hill is a priority and School Lane too. Clerk to find out what costs would be involved.
ACTION CLERK
- 3) The Priors School have had their grant application for Gazebo approved and wish for it to go in the Parish field at the back of the School. Clerk will ask the head to provide a sketch plan of where they want to put it for approval by the Council.

As this is the final meeting for Cllr Viv Nind and Cllr John Appleton as they are not standing for election in May, the Chair on behalf of the Council thanked them for their service to the Parish over the years.

The Chair on behalf of the Council also thanked Councillor Williams for his 21 years of service to the Parish

The Meeting Closed at 8.50pm

The next meeting of the Parish Council is as follows:

Tuesday 14th May 2019