

***Priors Marston Parish Council Meeting
Tuesday 10th September 2019 at 7.30pm
The Priors Hall, Shuckburgh Road, Priors Marston***

DRAFT MINUTES

Present: Cllr Nick Fulford (Chair), Cllr John Franklin, Cllr Laura Lucas, Cllr David Evans, Cllr Pete Dunkley, District Cllr Nigel Rock and Emma Hooker (Clerk)

Also In Attendance: Mr. P. Revill

Apologies: County Cllr Bob Stevens

1. Declarations of Interest

None Declared

2. Approval of the minutes of the last meeting held on Tuesday 9th July 2019

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

3. Questions from Residents

Mr. Revil wished to raise his concern regarding the site on School Lane (Planning ref 17/03075/FUL). Waste from another of the developer's sites has been taken to this site and he believed this to be a breach of the site management conditions. Clerk was aware of this situation and had spoken to Planning Enforcement at SDC who stated this was a temporary situation and the spoil would be removed in a few days, therefore no action was going to be taken.

Planning Enforcement did state that they would remain vigilant and should anyone have cause for concern going forward to contact them. Both Cllr Franklin and Cllr Rock had also been in touch with the developer to discuss the situation on site.

The Parish Council have discussed with the developer that the site is currently not safe and hedges needs trimming. It was also requested that when building begins on site that they communicate with the PC and neighbouring properties when any disruption is unavoidable.

Clerk will contact developer to request all disruption is kept to a minimum and all accesses to neighbouring properties should be clear. Ideally loading and unloading should be from Hollybush Lane and not School Lane and this will be discussed with developer. A Request to avoid deliveries during school pick up and drop off times will be made.

4. Matters Arising / Outstanding Actions

1) Highways/Hedges/ Village Maintenance

* Ongoing maintenance of the village footpaths are in progress currently with many of the footpaths being cleared and tidied up. Rights of way are also being cleared where necessary.

Parish Council will be including a request in the Parish News to ask people to keep their hedges tidy and not let them overhang public footpaths. The PC should be informed if anyone is concerned about any overhanging vegetation.

Clerk has discussed a couple areas in Keys Lane that are a concern and had spoken to Highways regarding this. The landowners will be approached by the Parish Council.

* Highways (WCC) at the Parish Council's request are communicating with a landowner on Byfield Road regarding the ditch in their field. They have requested that they clear this ditch out urgently as it feeds the carrier drain into Byfield Road, which has previously flooded.

2) Website

Outstanding action and will be looked at in the near future.

3) Sports Club

David Adams updated the Parish Council via email on the Sports Club's future. The Sports Club Committee are open to having a village meeting to discuss these matters in the future and the Parish Council fully support this action.

4) Community Speeding Action Group

Ongoing. Clerk to liaise with Cllr Rock on whom to contact.

5) Community Forum Meetings

Clerk reported a positive response regarding the meetings most of the groups within the village. Clerk to be arrange first get together for early November.

5. County Councillor Bob Stevens Update

Finances

The financial clock does not stop ticking. WCC are already planning next years (2020/21) Budget and although the councils finances (including reserves) are healthy, pressures in the pipeline especially Adults and children, continue to exist. Despite further dedicated funding these will suck funds from other services. The rise in crime, especially in rural areas, continues to cause concern. More police cover is promised but how this will materialise is still to be decided. Council tax rises are presently capped and other sources of funding are limited. S106 money continues to be received across the county and major infrastructure schemes being progressed. The process is slow and a schemes design work does not start until receipt of the money.

HS2

Early works progress and disruption will continue on the roads between Bascote Heath and Welsh road West as the pipeline and electrical infrastructure is progressed. Works involving major hedge and tree clearing have commenced especially in the vicinity of the proposed works compounds and along the route of the track. The main work is still scheduled for next summer and despite the overall viability being subject to an enquiry expected to report later this autumn, HS2 are still aiming to meet that date. At the time of writing the drilling rig has yet to be ordered although preparations for the tunnel under Long Itchington wood is progressing apace.

Last week's announcement that HS2 was behind schedule and massively over budget has not halted DfT's instructions to contractors to continue as normal. A formal decision, as to the future way ahead for the project, is expected later this year.

Highways

The routine annual resurfacing programme is well underway and the final grass verge cut is nearing completion. Coordination of all the utilities works associated with the new housing is causing concern as many developments are over running their planned schedule. HS2 works are adding to the problems. We are fortunate in Feldon to have a hard working and dedicated Highways maintenance engineer. Patch Byrne investigates all complaints honestly and realistically and will reply eventually. He is equally frustrated by the time his colleagues take to respond; but now the Highways department re-organisation is almost complete, and individual responsibilities clarified, this should improve.

Care for the elderly

This topic covers a large area of local government spending. It ranges from care at home as opposed to care home provision, Pressures on the health services and Hospital discharge criteria to ensuring a safe return from hospital to full involvement in the community. We are all living longer and generally enjoy good health as we grow old. However Anno domine catches up with us all and the body weakens at the same time our brain deteriorates in particular Dementia sets in. The county Council still run care homes together with the NHS rehabilitation homes to assist return home after a period of hospitalisation. Private care homes are well used and generally popular but are costly and not always affordable. Locally Galanos House is expanding and 10 more dementia rooms are expected to be completed by the end of this year. They are also expanding their facilities for carers and dementia patients to improve counselling and respite care. 24 hour Warden cover is also being introduced to new Social housing premises (EG Tithe Lodge in Southam). All cost money to Local Government and hence the council tax payer. This will be an ongoing financial and human pressure for years to come

Children in care and at school

Warwickshire is not immune from the national crises of foster children and associated problems of child behaviour in many families. This is exacerbated by the increasing numbers of children with special education needs. Although education(schools) is no longer the responsibility of the local authority as more and more schools become Academies ,free schools and part of a multi academy trust. There are only 2 Warwickshire secondary schools that are not academies; the provision of "good, suitable schools" is. Locally the large number of new housing is putting pressure on this provision and new primary schools are being included in some of these developments. A new secondary will be necessary soon and its location is under discussion – Wellesbourne or Kineton are possible locations but another secondary school in Southam is not out of the question. Any new school is automatically a free school or Academy. Southam College once again is oversubscribed and the recent exam results continue to be excellent

Climate Change

Is this the elephant in the room or as president Trump insists just a figment of the imagination? WCC in common with other local councils nationally have declared that climate change should be treated as an emergency state of affairs and will take action to reduce the counties carbon footprint. The possible cause is an international issue and although leading by example is to be encouraged, the rest of the world must follow. Is there anything Priors Marston can do to make a difference?

Grants

From time to time I am advised of organisations that are offering "Community Grants". These mostly require to address a degree of local deprivation and a prerequisite is often to aid ethnic minorities. I pass these onto the parish clerks where relevant to your community. The county councillor community grant opens again later this month for a short period (1 month) as payment is to be made this year. HS2 and Cemex also have funds for community projects

6) District Councillor – Nigel Rock Update

Climate Change

The Council has passed a Climate Change Emergency Motion. Around 170 other local authorities have declared a 'Climate Emergency'. Our motion calls on the Group to report back to Cabinet/Council in January. This means completing the bulk of the work by the end of the year (2019). Which will be tackled in workstreams:

Workstream 1 - What can SDC do about SDC?

Workstream 2 - What can SDC do as a partner and community leader?

Workstream 3 - What should SDC be saying to Central Government?

Workstream 4 – What can SDC do on adaptation?

Brexit

Government has contacted SDC to ask for details of the SDC contingency plan for a 'No Deal' Brexit, and told to appoint a Brexit Lead Officer. A recent (and leaked) report 'Operation Yellow Hammer' has revealed the seriousness of the UK leaving without a deal. It is clear that public services will be affected and that the impacts will be serious. SDC has been given the princely sum of £17,500 to do their contingency planning!

Rural Crime Meeting

This took place on 4 September and answered some, not all questions. Much 'work in progress' was the message. Increasing resources were to be deployed. The supported villages and smart water marking scheme was promoted (Prior Marston and Hardwick specifically mentioned as in progress). Regrettably, my own questions submitted well in advance of the deadline were not dealt with, being gazumped by unlisted spontaneous questions at the meeting. I have, and will, take these up privately with the Police and with the Commissioner who under questioning from me will come to my ward to speak to parishes if we think it would help. My summary of my questions was:

1. I believe that we need more analysis of crimes, better follow up, detection and therefore information. This would enable improved, intelligence led policing. Having said that, it seems to me our rural areas are under resourced compared with others. Data seems to suggest that our rural areas are within a statistical scatter of the urban areas. We know we only have one officer in the Southam beat. What is the cover ratio of warranted officers in the relative police beats? A random sample from this information source shows more evidence of follow up in urban areas than rural. This gives credence to the 'no point involving the police' feeling in our area, where there is little feedback of investigation or success. Even if there were some hints of offenders being taken out of the game this would be some assurance. What can be done? NOT YET ANSWERED
2. What is the effect of Barn Hill M40 services on policing resources in our area? MUCH BETTER - LESS PRESSURE ON THE SOUTHAM BEAT
3. The ambulance service uses an expert system to place ambulances at locations to minimise response time to incidents. Do/could the police use a similar system? NOT APPLICABLE – KEY DIFFERENCES
4. Local residents, particularly farmers, are of the opinion that many metal, equipment and caravan thefts are attributable to individuals within traveller's sites locally and these are known to the police. Would the police comment please? RUMOUR RATHER THAN FACT - WILL ALWAYS FOLLOW UP IF KNOWN
5. Reported case where there was a burglary stopped in this ward by a parish councillor, who took good photographs, close up, of the offender and chased him off. That crime seems to be written off as 'offender could not be identified'. Is this not surprising? NR TO FOLLOW UP WITH INSPECTOR

7. Planning Matters

New and Pending Decisions

19/01473/TREE – The Willows Shuckburgh Rd – Willow Fell 28/5 – No Object.
 19/01635/FUL – Land adj. Grassmere – New 4 bed dwelling 28/6- Objection
 19/01564/REM – Land rear of Japonica reserved matters re Outlined Planning permission – 08/7 - Objection
 19/01844/VARY – Little Pinum Shuckburgh Rd – Erection of 3 holiday chalets..4th to be permanent residence – No Objection

Decisions

19/01047/FUL – Jasmine Cottage, Hardwick Rd – 2 storey extension, new porch, new garage and extension of driveway. Granted 22/8
 19/01701/COUQ – The Meadows, Southam Road – change of use Ag. Barns to 4 new dwellings – Objection 13/8
 19/01908/TREE Oakdene, Hollybush Lane, Fell Pine and Ash (10) 09/7 – Granted 20/8
 19/01907/FUL – Castle Folly Hellidon Rd. Demolition of Existing porch and erect new – Granted 24/08

Cllr Franklin reported he attended the Site Allocation Briefing this week. Priors Marston isn't affected with any reserved planning sites. The BUAB (Built up area boundary) has been completed to our satisfactory.

(Cllr Evans left at 8.40pm)

8. Finance

Bank Balance as of 1st September 2019 - £15,603.22

Receipts (August)

SDC Precept £1820.85

Cheque Payments £2351.45

Southam Council Transport Scheme £134.00

Chris Allen (Village Maintenance) £225 July and £568.00 August

Eon Electricity June £ 161.25

Pete Brown - Mowing/Amenity- £400. (June and July)

Clerks Wages £863.20 (July and August)

9. AOB

Clerk and Cllr Franklin will be completing the asset audit this month and will also be identifying the areas of village greens and highways that we require mowing to ensure that all areas are being covered.

The Meeting Closed at 9.pm

The next meeting of the Parish Council is as follows:

Tuesday 12th November – All Welcome.