

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

DRAFT MINUTES

Present: Cllr. Nick Fulford (Chair), Cllr. Laura Lucas, Cllr. David Evans, Cllr. Pete Dunkley, County Cllr. Bob Stevens, District Cllr. Nigel Rock & Emma Hooker (Clerk)

Also In Attendance: Mr. Mark Hayward

Apologies: Cllr John Franklin

1. Declarations of Interest

None Declared

2. Approval of the minutes of the last meeting held on Tuesday 10th September 2019

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

3. Questions from Residents / Presentations

Prior notice given to the Clerk by Mr. Hayward to speak to the Council on the Matter of the Planning Application (19/03075/FUL)

Mr. Hayward is the developer of the proposed application and presented the plans to the Council.

At the date of this meeting the application had not been validated by SDC so the Councillors had no paperwork or information prior to the meeting. The Previous application 18/02803/FUL was withdrawn in November 2018.

The new application has reduced the development from 5 new dwellings to 3, to include a 3-bed house, a 2-bed bungalow and a 2 bed self-build for a bungalow for the landowner. The new dwellings would be subject to a section 106 Agreement, limiting the sale of the houses to local people.

The Councillors bought up their concerns regarding the previous drainage issues around the site and the consequences of poor drainage and flooding in the area especially towards the Holloway. Mr Hayward is aware of the drainage issues and has done a lot of work to appease this issue on the site. He was also keen to look at a way to prevent further flooding into the village and discussed options with the Council.

The Councillors thanked Mr Hayward and will comment accordingly once the full plans are seen.

4. Matters Arising / Outstanding Actions

1) Highways

Parish Council has been approached by a landowner offering to gift land along the Byfield Road to use as a footpath. WCC have been approached for further advice and way forward.

Hedges along Keys Lane – landowner approached and asked to cut back

2) Website

To comply with up to date legislation (GDPR, Cookies etc.) we will be looking at our current website and looking to get a new website. Quotes will be gained and discussed at a future meeting

3) Radar Survey

The Speeding Radar Survey has now been completed. Data has been compiled and the Parish Council is in the process of working through the data. No significant speeding issues have been identified however the information will be useful. Cllr. Lucas will further analyse the data and report back.

4) Community Forum Meetings

The first community forum meeting will take place on the 20th November and will have representatives from the Church, The Village Hall, School, Sports Club, Tennis Club and Pub.

5. County Councillor Bob Stevens Update

Subject to the outcome of the General Election next month, it looks as though the Brexit deadlock could be resolved and central government reverts to “Normal”. Government policies, whoever is in power. These will become clearer and local government finance sorted out once and for all. Next years settlement will be a one-year settlement and I understand WCC share of the cake will be marginally higher. The much awaited Social care and health act should take shape and a policy on devolution to regions, including unitary authorities may become clearer. The future of HS2 will also be high on the agenda! We can also expect a new planning policy to meet the national demand for extra housing. Those involved with education can expect more disruption to management of schools.

Locally however HS2 will be continuing essential work to avoid delay in their programme particularly the removal of woodlands and preparation of work yards. Their report was expected any day now but don't hold your breath. I attended a meeting at Southam, Various dates were clarified for works in this area particularly the Heave trials at Wormleighton, County highways will be concluding their road maintenance programme and roads will still be disrupted to meet developer requirements for provision of utilities .In particular various schemes along the Fosse way. Next months community forum is cancelled (Purdah)

6) District Councillor – Nigel Rock Update

An announcement was made about an investigation into allegations of sexist behaviour at the Council.

It had been found that two Councillors had breached the Code of Conduct relating to respect and bringing the role of Councillor into disrepute. Both Councillors have accepted the findings and agreed to take certain actions to remedy the breach, including a full and unreserved written apology.

An independent panel had been appointed to look at the expenses and allowances paid to councillors. Personally I'm not comfortable with the idea with anyone setting their own income level so someone independent coming up with figures is a good idea, and overall they seemed to have used a rational approach based on the activity required of councillors. Where this related to the lack of

adjustment over a number of years and the much larger area to be represented, I was content to go along with the recommendations, but I, and colleagues in my Group were not happy with some of the more extreme increases proposed. There was a long debate about reducing those increases but those amendments were defeated, so my colleagues and I voted against the package in its entirety, but it was still passed by a majority. One thing I did not think right was backdating of increased allowances, and I intend to refuse this payment.

The Council meeting then moved onto HS2. The Conservative leadership proposed that the Council should have a new policy of supporting the delivery of HS2. This would have reversed the Council's long-standing policy of opposition to HS2. There was a passionate debate, where Councillor Louis Adam and I from Long Itchington argued that the Council should keep its existing policy stance, as the line passed through our Wards. Other councillors supported us. It all came up because the Coventry and Warwickshire Local Enterprise Partnership are minded to express support for the project to the 'Oakervee review'. The review has been tasked by central government with rigorously examining the whole HS2 project.

After a series of close votes, with my Group voting en-block to maintain the current position of objection, and other groupings split, all proposals were defeated, meaning that the Council's policy position of objection is unchanged. I feel that just as the whole project is under review and nothing has changed, apart from seeing how much the cost has increased, there is no justification for the Council changing its stance now. There are better ways to achieve capacity improvements, economic benefits and value for money. The outcome of national 'Oakervee review' was due to be known 'late autumn', but the general election may well affect this timing. Meanwhile no removal of ancient woodland should be taking place.

Having been talking about HS2 at a long and difficult council meeting, I have since been to visit the site of the 'heave trial' cutting, along with representatives of the Parishes of Wormleighton and Priors Hardwick. A section of cutting near Stoneton has been excavated, almost to the full depth of the line and ground conditions are being monitored. Even though a short section, this is a considerable amount of earthworks 16-18m deep. Separately, between Wormleighton and Ladbroke some archaeological trenching will be starting shortly. I have also learnt there will be an office block for 250 people on the main road between Ladbroke and Southam.

7. Planning Matters

New and Pending Decisions

19/01564/REM – Land rear of Japonica reserved matters re Outlined Planning permission – 08/7 – **WITHDRAWN NOV 19**

19/01844/VARY – Little Pinum Shuckburgh Rd – Erection of 3 holiday chalets the 4th to be permanent residence – **No Objection – Pending Decision**

19/02137/FUL – Driftwood – new single Storey dwelling – **No Objection - Pending Decision**

19/02658/FUL- land behind Bicknell – new dwelling – **Object – Pending Decision**

19/02872/TREE – Jasmine Cottage – Willow crown and 2 Ash trees –**No Objection – Pending Decision**
19/02982/TREE – Brooke Furlong – Fell Holly and Conifer – **No Objection – Pending Decision**
19/03085/TREE – The Priors Hall – Pollard Willow tree- **No Objection – Pending Decision**

Decisions

19/01635/FUL – Land adjacent to Grassmere – New 4 bed dwelling 28/6-**GRANTED at Committee 17/10**
19/02579/TREE – Driftwood – Fell 1 Cypress Tree – **Granted 23/10**
19/02556/TREE – Oakhurst – Reduce Robina Tree – **Granted 21/10**
19/025276/TREE – Oakdene – Fell Leylandi – **Granted 24/10**
19/02461/FUL – Priors School – new entrance – **Granted 25/10**

Planning Policy

The Parish Council have written to the Head of Planning at SDC to outline the frustrations of the Council over the continuing granting of new applications where the new dwellings are over 4 bedrooms. The Housing Needs Survey and Parish Plan sets out the requirement for small developments and 2 and 3 bed houses.

When the Parish Council object on these guidelines they objection is often ignored. Cllr Rock suggested the Parish Council consider doing another survey (Housing) to make it clear as possible what the village will accept in regards to new developments and add this as an addendum to the Parish Plan.

The Parish Council has decided that due to policy changes within the National Planning Framework it is willing to engage with developers.

The publication of the new planning applications are currently on line at SDC planning site, in the Parish Council minutes and also local residents are advised by letter and site notifications. Discussion took place as to whether the PC should also include them in the Parish News. It was agreed to advertise how people can look at local planning on the SDC website in the Parish News rather than include each one separately.

8. Finance

Bank Balance as of 1st November 2019 - £23,449.53

Receipts £9289.00

SDC Precept £9,280.00 26/09

DD £17.96

1&1 Internet £17.96 06/09

Cheque Payments £1415.73

Pete Brown – Amenity £400 (Sep & Oct.)

Chris Allen village maintenance £178.00 (Sep)

Clerk's wages £431.60 (Sep)

Village Hall Hire £140.00 (Nov18-Sep19)

Post Office Annual fee £100. (Oct)

Eon streetlights £166.13 (July-Sept)

The meeting concluded at 9.15pm

