

***Priors Marston Parish Council Meeting
Tuesday 14th January 2020 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, County Cllr. Bob Stevens, District Cllr. Nigel Rock & Emma Hooker (Clerk)

Also In Attendance: Emma Foster (Spitfire Homes) Julie Thomas (Framptons)

Meeting was opened by Chair at 7.30pm

Apologies: None

1. Declarations of Interest

None Declared

2. Approval of the minutes of the last meeting held on Tuesday 12th November 2019

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

3. Questions from Residents / Presentations

Emma Frampton (Spitfire Homes) and Julie Thomas (Framptons) discussed the land they have optioned on Shuckburgh Road. Current SDC planning policy means they have no current plans to submit an application. They wish to make the Parish Council aware of the land interest and they are challenging the current SDC policy to get this land put on the land reserve list.

They have assessed the land and looked at highways issues. The plan is for 23 homes to include a range of bedrooms including affordable homes.

Councillor asked if Spitfire homes owned the land?

EF: The land is not owned by Spitfire Homes, they have a current 10-year option on this land.

Councillor asked if this was the only land interest in the village?

EF: Confirmed it was – land to the south of the village has been assessed and dismissed due to highway access and drainage.

Councillors thanked Emma and Julie for informing the Parish Council of its intentions, they left them meeting at 7.45pm

Cllr Rock informed the Council that he had spoken to the Planning Policy team at SDC and they are aware of Spitfire homes. SDC currently have a 5 ½ year housing supply and it unlikely to make this site a reserved site.

4. Matters Arising / Outstanding Actions

1) Highways

Parish Council is awaiting a response from landowner regarding the gifting of land along the Byfield Road for a footpath. Chair will chase David Adams.

2) Website

Website provider has confirmed as a Parish Council we do not hold data so do not need to have a cookie banner. It has been decided to keep current provider for the time being.

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. A summary of the results will be gathered and reported to the village via the Parish Magazine.

4) Community Forum Meetings

Since the last Parish Council meeting two Community Meetings have taken place (20/11 and 8/1) All groups were represented and there has been a very enthusiastic approach.

A Calendar of events has been set up to enable all groups to register any events and to help plan for the year ahead and avoid any clashes. Thank you to Simon Brown for setting this up.

The Hollybush are looking at setting up “ A hub in a pub” for people who work from home

The Annual Parish Council Meeting will be on the 21st May and will take a new approach to involve the community groups and will be advertised to the Village in the near future.

5) Mowing Areas

Clerk and Cllr Franklin are meeting at SDC to finalise a map showing highways and greens to enable us to create a contract for the areas within the village we need to mow.

5) Communication

Clerk has created emails for the Cllrs @priorsmarston.org

5. County Councillor Bob Stevens Update

As we enter the new decade we wait with baited breath to learn the implications of last month's General Election. Clearly the newly elected government is going to concentrate its efforts on finally getting out of Europe. Detail over citizenship, immigration and rules regarding foreign citizens are slowly emerging. Trade agreements, particularly relevant to this area concern the motor industry. are being negotiated

In particular the effect on all levels of Local Government will lead to fundamental changes. Devolution appears high on the agenda and a further push towards unitary authorities can be expected.

The integration of Health and Social security will continue to absorb more of local government costs. In education, academisation will continue to be encouraged at both Primary and secondary levels as Multi Academy trusts become more responsible in the way our schools are run.

The budget figures for this year have now been finalised and the governments financial settlement agreed. I anticipate significant changes for the following years especially with respect to whether funding comes from business rates. I also expect to see alterations to the planning regulations as the government drives to achieve more housing land.

The county Council will continue to encourage more business to locate to Warwickshire and maintain the high level of employment and training, especially apprenticeships. .

The counties highways continue to be rated as one of the best authorities in the country and government grants on Potholes and deteriorating roads is efficiently spent. Warwickshire continues to be a popular county to live in which is reflected in the higher than average house prices experienced in many areas. The future of HS2 is still in the balance and the decision on the latest feasibility report is expected soon.

6) District Councillor – Nigel Rock Update

Green Waste. At the last Council meeting of 2019, a controversial move to introduce a £40 annual charge for the continued collection of green waste was voted through by 17 to 13 votes. There had been a rather poorly advertised public consultation on this proposal, portraying this as a necessary fundraising measure, which I am afraid did not stand up to scrutiny. A number of councillors, of which I was one, found the stated claim that 'There has been a 60% reduction in central government grant funding' to be misleading. Investigation shows there has actually been a significant overall increase in government funding to the District Council in recent years. Furthermore we felt the change is premature because the government stated last March that they intend to have free garden waste collections in place from 2023. I could not see a net environmental benefit from the proposed new charging system. Accordingly, I voted against this change. However, despite the opposition, details will be published in coming months explaining how the scheme will be implemented next summer.

Since the meeting, three of my colleagues have made formal complaint about the process leading to this decision and asked for it to be set aside. Firstly, because the information given in the public consultation and to Councillors was inaccurate and misleading, particularly around the finances and funding of the District Council, and secondly because the County Council appears not to have had the chance to properly consider the effect of more traffic, as people take their green waste to recycling centres such as the Stockton one, which serves the area around Southam. That site is already at capacity at weekends and is located on a dangerous stretch of road. We will see what the response might be.

Budget. The council will be looking at the budget during the coming session.

The announcement by the government on 20th December of its Provisional Local Government Settlement for councils for the coming year has delivered a bonus to Stratford District Council. This 'settlement' provides £9.33million from central government to Stratford - £2.47million more

than the £6.86million more than was forecast in last year's medium term financial plan.

This is a very welcome bonus for the District Council but one wonders why the Council should now continue with £40 charge for green waste which was put forward as a fund raising exercise, especially since the Council's reserves are predicted to remain at over £9 million for the next two years, against the minimum requirement of £3 million.

Climate Emergency The new planning guidance document to respond to climate change is now open for consultation. Comments must be received by 5pm on Friday 21 February 2020.

The document can be viewed at www.stratford.gov.uk/climatechangespd. (or at public libraries). The Council is also hosting a public drop-in session when officers will be available to answer questions and provide more information. This is at the Council offices in Stratford on Tuesday 4 February from 3-7pm. (At the moment no information session is planned more locally, but if enough people request one, I would make enquiries.)

6. Planning Matters

New and Pending Decisions

19/03075/FUL – Jacks Orchard, Shuckburgh Road – 3 new dwellings – Objection by PPC - Pending Decision (04/12)

19/02031/FUL – The Letting Rooms – change of use from holiday let to dwelling – No Objection – Pending Decision (19/12)

19/02137/FUL – Driftwood – new single storey dwelling – After Amendments PPC comments made – FEB. Committee Date – Pending

Contact has been made to the PC by applicant – Chair to respond.

Trenching for an archaeological report begins next week on site.

Decisions

19/01844/VARY – Little Pinum Shuckburgh Rd – Erection of 3 holiday chalets..4th to be permanent. Residence – REFUSED BY SDC 28/11

19/02658/FUL- land behind Bicknell – new dwelling – Granted 28/11

19/02872/TREE – Jasmine Cottage – Willow crown and 2 Ash trees – Granted 13/11

19/02982/TREE – Brooke Furlong – Fell Holly and Conifer – Granted 18/11

19/03085/TREE – The Priors Hall – Pollard Willow tree- Granted 11/12

8. Finance

Bank Balance as of 1st January 2020 £20,010.01

Receipts £460.39

Priors Hardwick Village Contribution

DD £1894.06

1&1 Internet £17.96

Public Works Loan £1876.10

Cheque Payments £2005.85

Clerks Wages/expenses (Oct, Nov) £859.42

Chris Allen Maintenance £105.00

Poppy Wreath £17.50

Pete Brown Mowing (Oct ,Nov) £400.00

Radar Survey WCC £623.93

Precept 20/21 agreed to remain the same as 19/20 at £18,560.00

9. A.O.B

- Village Character Assessment / Design Statement

Cllr Rock is aware that SDC have recently granted a number of planning applications despite objections from the Parish Council and that the character of the village doesn't seem to be taken into account. He advised that we should look into the development of a Village Character Assessment as it seems that some other Parishes have found this to be a useful tool.

Discussion took place and it was agreed to do further research into this and report back. Action Clerk.

- Priors School

The Priors School is consulting with Parents about the possibility of joining the Stowe Valley Multi Academy Trust, headed up by Southam College. Clerk will approach the Head to be kept in the loop and attend any open meetings.

The meeting concluded at 9.05pm

The next meeting of the Parish Council is as follows:

Tuesday 12th March 2020

**The Annual Meeting of the Parish Council
Thursday 21st May – details to be announced**