

***Priors Marston Parish Council Meeting
Tuesday 12th March 2020 at 7.30pm
The Priors Hall, Shuckburgh Road, Priors Marston***

DRAFT MINUTES

Present: Cllr. Pete Dunkley (Acting Chair), Cllr John Franklin, Cllr. Laura Lucas, Cllr. David Evans, County Cllr. Bob Stevens, Emma Hooker (Clerk)

In Attendance: Mr. P Revill

Meeting was opened by Chair at 7.30pm

- 1. Apologies:** Cllr Nick Fulford, District Cllr. Nigel Rock
- 2. Declarations of Interest**
None Declared
- 3. Approval of the minutes of the last meeting held on Tuesday 14th January**
Minutes were approved by all present as a true record bar one date error to be amended and signed by Chair at next meeting.
- 4. Matters Arising / Outstanding Actions**
 - 1) Highways
Parish Council is awaiting further information from WCC on the legalities of land transfer along the Byfield Road to make a footpath. WCC are investigating the possibility and the Parish Council remain in contact with them and the landowner.
 - 2) Sports Club
 - i. Community Asset. The Parish Council were asked to register the Sports Club as a village asset By the Trustees of the club, with Stratford District Council, as it has for the Holly bush some time ago. Clerk has forwarded the Nomination form to the trustees to complete and return to her to register it with SDC.
 - ii. Plans for Development. This agenda item was deferred.
 - 3) Village Character Assessment
Cllr Franklin and Cllr Evans are meeting with Roger Reed from Alveston PC next week to discuss how they created their plan and get ideas on the level of time and resources needed. They will report back to PC.
 - 4) Community Forum Update
The next meeting date is 24th March where the Annual Meeting will be discussed and planned. The Annual Meeting has been advertised in Aprils Parish Magazine and will be again the May edition alongside all usual communication methods.
 - 5) Amenities
Cllr Franklin and the Clerk met at SDC with Spatial Information Officer and produced a map, which shows the areas of the village that are highways and those that are village greens. This is a useful document that we have used

to agree with Mr. Brown that we are doing what we should. The precept we are given by SDC is to mow the highways verges only we then as a Parish pay for the Village greens to be mowed over and above this. The Amenity contract also includes litter picking and disposing of the litter, which currently happens.

SDC advised that a contract between the Parish Council and Mr. Brown is arranged and set for 3 years with a break clause for both parties. Clerk to arrange.

5. Speeding Survey Summary

Agenda item deferred until next meeting.

6. District Cllr Nigel Rock Update

Council Budget

The District Council determined its budget on 24 February resulting in an increase in Council Tax of 3.59%. For a band D property this means that the District Council element rises from £139.12 to £144.12.

Because Stratford also collects the council tax for Warwickshire Council (3.99% increase), the Police Commissioner 4.38% increase, these were reported as well. By the time these are added up the band D tax comes to £1870.99 to be paid annually.

At the debate I spoke in support of three particular elements, one of which was passed and two were not. I supported the 'ring fencing' of income from business rates from green energy schemes for expenditure on climate change related expenditure. I also wished to see a one-off grant to the Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB). Although this grant would nominally add 0.3% to this year's budget, evidence shows that CAB activities are often self-funding by helping vulnerable persons becoming less dependent on benefits. Both items were voted down by the ruling group. I also supported the inclusion of continued improvement in rural transport for those areas not well served by public transport, but requested the existing arrangements be reviewed to get better service for this area. This was agreed.

Introduction of Charges for Collecting Green Waste

At the Council meeting, I seconded a motion to defer the introduction of these charges because I felt neither the financial nor environmental case had been made. Since the previous council meeting, two windfalls have been received that exceeded expected income and the full (three year) 'settlement' from central government is not due until July. To me, it seems sensible to delay until the full financial picture is clear as the extra money that has come in is already much more than the projected savings for next year. It would also give time to look at more environmentally friendly alternatives. For a resident who has one bin, a £40 charge is equivalent to making the Stratford Council tax rise more than 30%. Our proposal to defer and review the introduction of charges was voted down by the ruling administration.

HS2

After receiving a complaint and concerns about the future potential for traffic through villages I have approached HS2 contractor Eiffage Kier (Chris James). I had spoken to them a few months ago about this and I am pleased to say he tells me they are presently trialing a system to track vehicles.

6. County Cllr Bob Stevens Update

General

This last month at the County Council was dominated by formation of the 5 year plan and next year's budget both of which were passed by the Council last month without significant opposition. Now that the governments cabinet reshuffle has taken place and ministers planning their portfolios we can expect some guidance on some of the major issues facing local government. The last piece of the jigsaw will be the new chancellor's budget later this month when we will hopefully learn the future policy of local government funding, Devolution and towards Adult health and social security.

The Budget

The sound financial management and the prudent approach to savings has left the County Council finances in a healthy state. Some of the perceived risks have not materialized and resources are being allocated to priority areas. The headlines are much as I indicated in last months report. The largest portion of the budget is spent on Adult and children services the remainder is allocated to the priorities in the 5 year plan namely climate change community's well-being and highways.

Longer term plans will depend on the longer term funding of local government. There is also a potential shortfall of school funding due to changes in the DSG (Direct schools grant) process. This will not directly affect you schools which are funded directly and are independent of WCC. Full details of the budget and 5 year plan are available on the County council agenda of 18/2 which can be found on the WCC Web site. Staff reorganization at the 3rd tier of management is still underway in all directorates. This is a redistribution of present responsibilities and redefining roles and titles of posts.

In order to meet inflation costs and the added pressure of the increase in minimum wage the county councils element of the Council tax will be increased by 1.99% additional to this will be the 2% ring-fenced for Adult care allowed by the government. That is a total of 3.99%.

Flooding

The recent exceptional weather has again highlighted the lack of attention that has been paid to the highway drainage system and the need to maintain existing waterways and ditches. Longer term flood alleviation schemes require resourcing from the environment agency (EA) and is the responsibility of many agencies all vying for EA resources. The county council are actively bidding for assistance, with villages in south Warwickshire a high priority. In the short term additional money has been approved from the councils own budget both this year and future years to increase the jetting and hence clearing of the highway drainage.

HS2

Now that the go ahead has finally been confirmed we can expect increased activity from the early works contractors preparing the ground along the route for the laying of the line. There will be an increase in road closures and lorry movements especially along the Fosseway and A 423. The works associated with the tunnel Boring machine at Ufton will also accelerate and further disruptions experienced I will keep your clerk informed of road closures etc. as I hear about them. HS2 are committed to improve communications with local communities and there are various meetings being arranged around Warwickshire. They will be attending the Feldon Community forum on 25th March in Southam).

Corona Virus

To date (Friday PM) there are no confirmed cases in Warwickshire. Up to date briefings from Warwickshire Director of Public health are available on the WCC web site and National Public Health advice should be followed. I will update the meeting on Tuesday if necessary

Community Grants

Once again there is a community grant scheme for community groups.. The rules will be similar and I will advise you of when the scheme opens. There is also a highway fund for minor improvements to highways .The rules for this are being revised but any scheme that improves safety may be considered. From time to time I hear of grants available for rural communities details of which I forward to your clerk.

7. Planning Matters

New and Pending Applications

19/03075/FUL – Jacks Orchard – 2 (amended from 3 originally) new dwellings –Pending – PC voted to remove objection but adding conditions: use of Horton stone as favored also by SDC.

19/02137/FUL – Driftwood – new single storey dwelling – Committee Date 18th March 2020. Cllr Franklin to attend to object on behalf of PC.

20/00285/FUL – Leet Cottage – rear dormer and loft conversion-
WITHDRAWN

Decisions

19/02031/FUL – The Letting Rooms – change of use from holiday let to dwelling – Granted

19/03448/TREE – Keys House – Prune Oak and Willow – Granted

19/03449/TREE – The Low House, Fell Larch x2 –Granted

19/00251/2/TREE – The Latch – fell Crab Apple other pruning- Granted

8. Finance

Bank Balance as of 1st March 2020 £17,040.92

Receipts £00.00

DD £142.86

Campaign to protect England Rural £36.00
1&1 Internet £71.86
ICO DATA fee £35.00

Cheque Payments £2005.85

Clerks Wages/expenses (Dec, Jan) £972.80
Chris Allen Village maintenance £271.00
Pete Brown Mowing (Dec, Jan) £400.00
Eon Electricity £166.13
WCC Byfield RD Street Light replacement £470.56
Priors Hardwick Amenities £635.74

9. A.O.B

- Corona Virus

Cllr Bob Stevens update included Corona Advice information. The Parish Council discussed the ways we would deal with an outbreak in the village. Clerk to look at ways to engage community and help those in need.

The meeting concluded at 8:25pm

The next meeting of the Parish Council is as follows:

Tuesday 12th May 2020

**The Annual Meeting of the Parish Council
Thursday 21st May – 6:30pm
ALL WELCOME**