

***Priors Marston Parish Council Meeting
Tuesday 7th July 2020 at 7.30pm
Via Zoom.***

DRAFT MINUTES

Present: Cllr Nick Fulford (Chair), Cllr. Pete Dunkley, Cllr. John Franklin, Cllr. Laura Lucas, County Cllr. Bob Stevens, District Cllr. Nigel Rock and Emma Hooker (Clerk)

Meeting was opened by Chair at 7.36pm

- 1. Apologies:** Cllr. David Evans
- 2. Declarations of Interest**
None Declared
- 3. Approval of the minutes of the last meeting held on Tuesday 12th March**
Minutes were approved by all present at the 12/3 meeting, as a true record. To be signed in due course.
- 4. Matters Arising / Outstanding Actions**

Sports Club (Community Asset)

The Parish Council was 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 forwarded the forms to the trustee for completion. Clerk to chase Trustee as not received this back to date. ACTION CLERK.

5. Accounts Year end 19/20/Audit

The Financial Year end accounts 19/20 were presented and accepted by the Council.

The internal audit has taken place. The AGAR forms were signed off by the Chair for submission to the auditors.

6. Planning Matters

New and Pending Applications

19/03075/FUL – Jacks Orchard – 2 new dwellings– PC voted to remove objection but adding conditions: use of Hornton stone as favored also by SDC. – PENDING DECISION FROM SDC

20/00285/FUL – Leet Cottage – rear dormer and loft conversion- PENDING – NO REPRESENTATION FROM PC

20/01050/FUL – Land off Shuckburgh Road – New detached dwelling – PENDING DECISION – OBJECTION FROM PC

20/01482/TREE – Underhill, Keys Lane – Fell 1 Poplar tree –PENDING DECISION - NO OBJECTION FROM PC

20/01446/TREE – Chapel Cottage, Hellidon Rd – Fell 1 Yew and 1 Conifer – PENDING DECISION – NO OBJECTION FROM PC

20/01422/FUL – The Doles Wharf – Convert current building to three new holiday lets with additional car parking. PENDING – PC TO ARRANGE TO VISIT SITE DUE TO NATURE OF APPLICATION.

Decisions

19/02137/FUL – Driftwood – new single storey dwelling – Committee Date 18th March 2020. Cllr Franklin to attend to object on behalf of PC. GRANTED BY COMMITTEE ON 7/5/20

20/00694/COUQ – Marston Meadows Farm – demolition of steel frame extension and revert to original barn. – GRANTED 16/5

20/00950/FUL – Beech Cottage, Hellidon Road – Erection of a garden store – GRANTED 01/06

20/01068/TREE – Fauna Cottage. Hardwick Rd – Fell Pine tree – GRANTED 03/06

8. County Cllr Bob Stevens –Update

The last 120 days have seen a County Council, whose Modus operandi has been on its head. All offices have been shut and staff are working from home. Meetings have been virtual and words like ZOOM, Teams and Webnair have become common language. The IT team have met most of the challenges unfortunately any “breakdowns” are more significant. Officers telephones have been transferred to their home. All meetings are virtual. There has been less staff sickness and most staff find homeworking does not interfere with their working. However communication between officers is much slower and they miss the office politics(Banter) which office working offers. Priorities since March have concentrated on the effects of Covid 19 and many lower priority tasks have been delayed. It is a credit to all concerned that this is now being rectified as the effects of the virus are now well controlled. It is envisaged that this situation will continue for some time and until government guidelines reduce social distancing restrictions.

Covid 19

As councillors we get updated regularly with statistics. The headlines are:

- 1) Warwickshire is following the national trend in the reduction in cases. There are spikes in Nuneaton and Bedworth and figures at George Elliot are slightly distorted by the Leicester outbreak. Coventry is under observation and could cause concern. Stratford District cases were high

but now reduced. None of these are far from Feldon so stay alert and obey the distancing.

- 2) There is no shortage of PPE in Warwickshire Testing continues to be easier to get and Coventry Warwickshire and Solihull have been selected as a beacon Authority for test and trace rollout once details re finalised
- 3) Assistance to those who are isolated is well under control and staff who were assigned to these centers are returning to their normal duties. Well done all the parishes who set up help lines and still help the vulnerable. The army assistance has been invaluable in this respect especially planning and distribution.
- 4) The one off cost to the County council after government grants is in the region of £28 million. This can be met from our reserves. However, extra cost in future will effect the budget calculations over the next years Especially with respect to care homes and children safeguarding.

The Way ahead

The county council have set up 4 Covid recovery groups to establish what the New Normal will look like as the council resumes its Role in the community. These groups will report in September to the Cabinet. As well as the front line workings for Adult services , other factors that will effect the outcome include: The government financial settlement for local government(expected before the end of the year);Changes to planning regulations, Devolution and local government reorganization (Unitary Authorities?). The effects of climate change have not gone away either!

HS2

During the lock down period and subsequently HS2 sub contractors and archeologists have been continuing work to meet their perceived dates. The first train is still scheduled for 2030 but The Prime Minister would like it sooner. There are protests and traffic disruption along the line as HS2 and their contractors push their interpretation of the hybrid Bill to its limits. Locally there is the preparation for the tunnel Boring machine (TBM) and the massive upheaval as the utility supplies are installed .The route the actual machine will take is still under discussion. I am informed that it has now been ordered from a German company and will be delivered in large pieces possible starting before the end of the year. My estimate is that we will see trials about this time next year watch this space. Then of course once one tunnel is complete it is planned to dismantle the TBM and move it back to do the return tunnel (more disruption for 2024). Other preparations include major works in and around Wormleighton and Ladbroke.as Plant Depots etc. are established and the bed for the track is prepared. Planning and communication continue to be HS2's achilles heal disrupted by staff reorganisations. Regular liaison meetings will continue including those with the MP and Southam Town council's Forum for all local parishes.

Highways

It wont have escaped your notice that there has been an enormous number of road closures, traffic lights and diversions, Despite signing (often confusing) drivers find their own rat runs and HGV's are relying on sat navs. Although the main culprits appear to be associated with HS2 there have been emergency repairs (Potholes and very bad verges), a

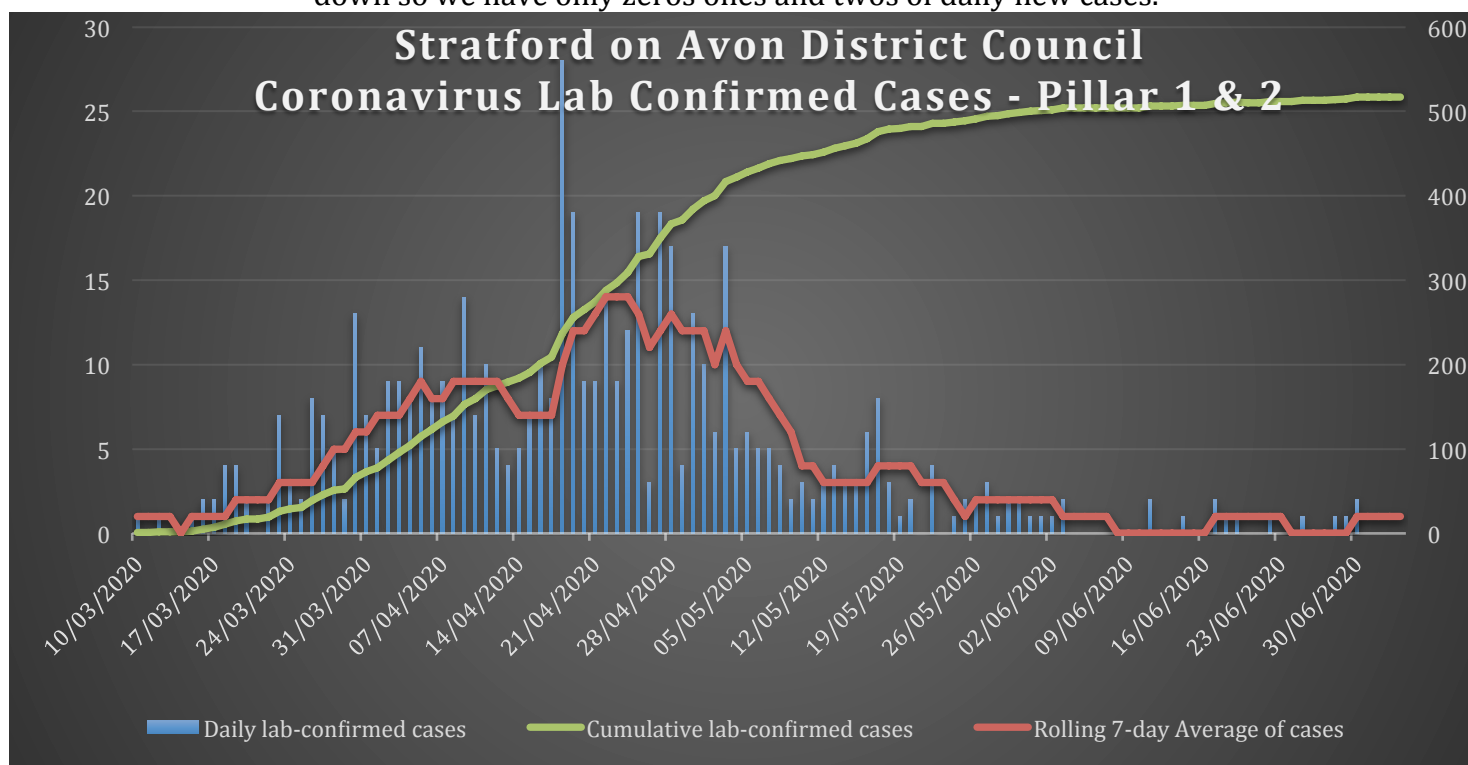
disrupted resurfacing programme, Severn Trent emergency repairs and some forestry work. During lock down there have been less cars but more speeding – the police handled over 3000 fines last month. 10 out of the 12 parishes in Feldon have asked for speed restrictions/measures and the requests are prioritised by the reduced staff and limited budget. Permanent signs entail a costly legal process and extensive consultation. During the lockdown there have been less accidents. Schemes along the Fosse are still being progressed and there is a call for cycle ways where Sustrans are taking the lead.

Cllr Stevens left the meeting at 8pm

9. **District Councilor Nigel Rock – Update**

The Council has had its first formal meeting by video conferencing, with reduced numbers, on 27 May and a full council with all 36 members is due on 13th of July. Two planning meetings have been held by video conferencing with public participation - the latter was on 1st July and for which I was a member of the Committee. It took four hours to hear two cases. I hope we will improve on timing in the future whilst still being thorough.

It has proved quite difficult to obtain Covid data on a local basis and I have been pressing chief Executive to get these numbers, which have now been coming through. The latest news suggests there has been some problem with accuracy because of the mix of private and public testing, in and out of care settings, which has increased the total number of reported cases from 372 to 516 across the district. However, the trend is still coming down so we have only zeros ones and twos of daily new cases.



10.

The site allocation plan, which you will remember sets an area of restraint around the Southam area has been put back by 20 months. The reasons for this are not totally clear, but relate to the county council forecast

secondary of school provision and whether more places can be produced. This has a knock effect across the whole District. I fear more uncertainty for a long time.

Stratford District Council is in talks with Warwick District Council about closer working. Who knows where this will lead but central government has signalled the desire for working with greater sized local authorities. Such closer working might be a step towards this. Stratford is already due to have a review of the boundaries.

11. Finances May/June 2020

Bank Balance as of 1st July 2020 £20,247.13

Receipts £710.39

Yearly rental for The Pound £250.00

Priors Hardwick VILF £460.39

DD £1913.30

1&1 Internet £37.20

Public works loan £1876.10

Cheque Payments £2879.27

Staff Wages £1294.80 (April /May/June)

Village Hall Hire £60.00

Village Maintenance £359.00

Grineaux Accountants (year end) £324.00

Amenities Mowing £200.00

Insurance £841.47

12.A.O.B

Playground

The Parish Council will keep the playground closed at the moment however will keep under review. Clerk to complete a risk assessment and get advice from Insurance Company within the next two weeks so this can be reviewed again.

Other local playgrounds have taken the same position. ACTION CLERK.

The meeting concluded at 9.00pm

The next meeting of the Parish Council is as follows:

Tuesday 8th September – 7:30pm via ZOOM