

***Priors Marston Parish Council Meeting
Tuesday 4th May 2021 at 7.30pm
Via Zoom.***

DRAFT MINUTES

Present: Cllr Laura Lucas (Chair) Cllr. Pete Dunkley, Cllr. John Franklin,
Cllr Nigel Rock, Cllr Andy Crump (7.50pm-8.05pm)

In Attendance: Emma Hooker (Clerk)

Meeting was opened by Chair at 7.30pm

1. Apologies: Cllr. David Evans

2. Declarations of Interest
None Declared

3. Election of Chair
Following on from the Resignation of Cllr Nick Fulford (Chair) in April, Cllr John Franklin proposed Cllr Laura Lucas as Chair and was seconded by Cllr Pete Dunkley.

4. Approval of the minutes of the last meeting held on Tuesday 9th March.
Minutes were approved by all present at the meeting, as a true record. Signed by the Chair.

4. Matters Arising / Outstanding Actions

Potential Footpath Byfield Road

Position remains the same as last meetings minutes reported. The letters of support and documents will be sent to our newly elected County Cllr after this month's elections.

Playground Maintenance Schedule

Clerk reported that the playground works have been completed.

Amenity Cleaning

This matter is now resolved and Stratford District Council have taken back this contract and will provide litter picking to the Parish every 8 weeks.

It was resolved to organise Community litter picking events maybe a couple of times a year and will promote this within the Parish Magasine and other usual communication channels.

ACTION: Clerk to request from SDC the amenity cleaning schedule for the Parish.

Bridge on public footpath (Millennium Way)

Clerk has chased WCC Rights of Way Team a couple of times regarding the bridge repair but to date no action has been taken. Clerk to chase again and send information to Cllr Rock for him to investigate further. Please continue to take care of using this bridge until the work has been completed.

Village Maintenance

Thank you to Chris Allen for all his work over the years helping us keep the village in good repair and a Happy retirement is well deserved. The Parish Council will advertise this vacancy in due course.

Consultation on Remote Meetings

Clerk reminded the Cllrs to complete the Consultation on remote Meetings for the Government with a view to be able to hold virtual meetings, or hybrid meetings in the future. As of 7th May it is illegal to hold virtual meetings so as of July all Parish Council meetings will be held back in the village hall.

6. Highways

Bollard Policy

The following policy was agreed by everyone present and has been accepted by WCC Highways.

“In Keeping with the Parish Plan and the overwhelming wish to retain the rural/village atmosphere the use of bollards is discouraged and should only be used in exceptional circumstances with the prior agreement from the parish Council in writing who will liaise with WCC Highways before permission is given”

7. District Cllr Nigel Rock Update

Elections

You should have had your polling card from the returning officer at Stratford for local elections on 6th May. There are two ballots, one for the County Councillor Feldon Division and one for Police and Crime Commissioner for Warwickshire.

A reminder that there will an emergency ‘Covid proxy’ available on the day, so positive Covid positive electors do not have to go to the polling station. Ring the elections office 01789 260236 for this and any other enquiries.

Covid

From Monday 12 April there was a easing further easing of Covid restrictions which will allow for a number of sectors to open, including:

- Hairdressers, nail salons, libraries and community centres, indoor leisure facilities and gyms
- Outdoor attractions including outdoor hospitality venues, zoos, theme parks and drive in cinemas
- Self-contained accommodation such as campsites and holiday lets

The District has been working closely with colleagues across the county to enable these to reopen safely and a number of on line information sessions have been provided to local businesses to help assist with compliance with regulations.

The Council’s Leisure Centre in Southam has reopened. In Stratford, the Council offices will be open to the public between 10am to 2pm and the Shopmobility Service in Stratford upon Avon has also resumed service

The Council's officers have been working hard distributing payments to businesses under the Government's Restart Grants initiative. As before, the task for local staff has not been helped by the late approval of the Government's software to administer the scheme and the team had to work across the weekend to get things working.

As of the middle of April, Stratford district had the highest rollout of vaccinations in the country. Both in Stratford District and locally, the number of cases has levelled out at a lower level of around 30 per 100,000.

I wish those businesses and residents badly affect by the restrictions a return to prosperity, but in a measured and sustainable way. Please continue to be cautious and get your jobs as you become eligible!

The Covid legislation allowing County, Districts and Parishes to meet safely by remote meetings is about to expire. The situation is a something of a mess because the Government won't allow parliamentary time to extend the regulation, giving councils a headache to find large, safe venues where social distancing can happen. At the time of writing, local government is taking legal action in attempt to allow remote meetings to continue. In an even more strange twist one arm of central government (DCLG) is reported as supporting that legal action!

HS2

The Councillors around Southam continue to offer unified and united pressure on HS2 to sort out the road closure of the A425. We had another meeting in the middle of April with them and our MP. I have to say I find HS2 a considerable challenge, with them offering a fairly uncaring approach to our local communities.

It continues to be unclear why the diversion road was not built, but what is clear that the work near the polo ground is overrunning to the extent that it might take double the time HS2 first thought. My own approach is that we should strain every sinew to get HS2 to build the promised diversion road. Additionally, very robust representations have been made by us and HS2 now seem to be thinking about the possibly of compensating for the financial hardship to business and residents. Cllr Bromwich of Southam has kindly coordinated the setting up of email address so that people affected can record their losses and difficulties and it can be relayed to HS2. The email address is hs2southam@gmail.com. Please supply as much information as possible about the financial impact so we can make the representations to HS2. We have no idea if we will be successful, but we can only try.

8. Planning

New and Pending Decisions

20/02301/FUL – Jacks Orchard, Shuckburgh Rd – Erection of one custom self build and related development (08/09) – No Objection – Pending Decision

21/00227/TPO – 1 Priors Court, T1 Ash remove lower branches

17/02 No Representation– Pending Decision

21/00058/OUT – Ambercote, School lane – New 3 bed dwelling – Objection. This Application has been referred to Planning enforcement.

21/00356/REM – Land to the rear of Japonica – approval of reserved matters 10/03 – Objection

20/03043/FUL – 2 Grange Cottages, Hardwick Rd – Drop kerb parking for two cars – No Objection – Withdrawn.

21/00949/TREE – 1 Turvins Meadow – Ash Tree reduce in height – No Representation

21/00227/TPO 20/02301/TREE – Cedars Farm, The Green – Several tree crown thinning works and Sycamore reduce lower branches – No Representation

Decisions

21/00100/FUL – White Gates, Shuckburgh RD – new porch / garage alterations 04/03 – GRANTED 07/04

21/00142/LBC – The Orchard, Vicarage Lane – Replace thatch roof with water reed 11/03 – GRANTED 30/4

8. Finances March/April 2021

Bank Balance as of 1st May 2021 £23,988.87

Receipts =£ 9,530

Rent The Pound £250

SDC Precept £9280.00

DD = 37.20

1&1 Internet £37.20

Cheque Payments = £4,906.93

Wages / Expenses March £494.35

Zurich Insurance £857.66

Playsource Ltd £2756.40

Mowing - March £200.00

Eon Electricity £162.52

Post Office Contribution for 20/21 £200.

WALC Subscription £236.00

The Clerk/Responsible Financial Officer presented the accounts for the Parish Council and are attached to the file set of minutes and forms part of them. They will also be available on the Parish Council website for inspection. Or contact the Clerk directly.

The Annual Governance Statement was approved and the AGAR part 2 internal audit paperwork will be signed by the Chair and sent to PKF Little John Auditors.

2021/22 Budget was approved.

9. A.O.B - None

The meeting concluded at 8.10pm

The next meeting of the Parish Council is as follows:

Tuesday 13th July 2021

At The Priors Village Hall

7.30pm All Welcome