

***Priors Marston Parish Council Meeting
Tuesday 14th September 2021 at 7.30pm
Priors Hall, Shuckburgh Road.***

DRAFT MINUTES

Present: Cllr. Pete Dunkley (Acting Chair) Cllr. John Franklin, Cllr. Robyn May, District Cllr Nigel Rock

In Attendance: Emma Hooker (Clerk)

3 Members of the public were also present.

Meeting was opened at 7.40pm.

1. **Apologies:** Cllr. Laura Lucas, Cllr David Evans
2. **Declarations of Interest**
Cllr Franklin declared an interest in planning application 21/0913/VARY so will therefore leave the meeting when this is discussed.
4. **Approval of the minutes of the last meeting held on Tuesday 13th July 2021**
Minutes were approved by all present at the meeting, as a true record. Signed by the Acting Chair.
5. **Comments and Questions from the public:**
 - * Speeding on Southam Road. Concerns were made by a Parishioner on the speed of some cars along that road. The Council explained that a speed survey was commissioned by the Parish Council 2 years ago and the findings were that the village did not have a speeding issue. Not to say speeding does not happen just that overall it wasn't deemed high risk. Discussion took place on calming measures that could be looked at and speed limits especially around the school. Clerk will discuss with Highways and investigate rumble strips. Cllr Rock explained changing speed limits and traffic calming measures are extremely difficult to get done and can be divisive.
 - *Churchyard. The Churchyard has recently had lots of work going on to improve the space for everyone. This has included refurbishing of benches and tidying up – all done by volunteers. The Parish Council was asked to assist by weeding the paths, Clerk explained this will be done and is on the maintenance schedule.

Due to Covid in 2020 the meetings that began with all the community groups in the village and Hardwick were ceased. It was decided that these should be restarted and Clerk will look into this.
6. **Matters Arising / Outstanding Actions**

Potential Footpath Byfield Road

The onsite meeting with WCC has to be cancelled by them, and we are awaiting another date.

Asset Register Maintenance work

Benches – All being cleaned and painted – Actioned.

Blue path – weeding and clearing – On going

Notice Board – New one to be sourced

Grit Bin – New one to be ordered for Hellidon Road.

7. **District Cllr Nigel Rock Update**

There are two consultations this autumn and both affect how we are to be represented.

Firstly, a review of the present District Council Ward Boundaries was started some time ago - well before talk of a merger with Warwick District. Secondly the consideration of that merger is to be the subject of a comprehensive public consultation.

District Council Ward Boundaries. Presently there are 36 councillors, down from the 53 there were 10 or so years ago. Broadly, each councillor represents about 2600 electors now, whereas it was 1800 before. There were a number of concerns that the earlier reduction in councillors was too great, resulting in poorer representation, and wards that are too big, with excessive workload that varied widely between wards. The proposed reorganisation was to produce an increase to about 41 councillors. The Boundary Commission has published proposals for public comment between now and **8th November 2021**. I would encourage everyone to read what is intended and comment upon it:

- <https://www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/west-midlands/warwickshire/stratford-on-avon>

There are many aspects to the report, but for us, I have great concern for our area's representation. I made input to the Boundary Commission. We already have the largest ward in the District, and I am not happy with the outcome, but as it happens the one comment I made that has been taken on board is for Ladbroke, but only to a degree. My interest was community connection, in that I suggested Ladbroke fitted better with Harbury/Bishops, than say Napton/Shuckburgh as now. That said, in overall terms this proposal makes matters much worse, with a new giant ward that stretches almost to Banbury in the south, and the M40 Junction at Gaydon in the west. The giant ward would have two councillors instead of one, but Ladbroke (with Harbury) only one. Given the objective of the review - to make better democratic connections, ease and even out work load etc, what wonders what has gone wrong. The report warrants detailed study by all the parishes in the proposed ward.

District Council Merger. A decision whether or not to ask to government to permit the merger of Warwick and Stratford will be taken by the two Councils in December. To inform this decision, information will be published to the public and a consultation will run until **24 October 2021**. At the time of writing this information pack is not yet publicly available, but is due any day now. I would also encourage parishes and the public to review this. One linkage with the previous part of my report above is that these proposal as put forward will also increase the size of wards that District councillors are to represent. However there are many other significant matters to consider which are set in a comprehensive information pack.

- www.southwarwickshire.org.uk

I would encourage the Parish Council to make plans to assess and respond to both of these matters in the required time scale.

Road Closures – HS2 I think the clerk may have already circulated this, but it bears repeating. There are to be some road closures by HS2 between Priors Hardwick, Wormleighton and Boddington in the next few weeks. Whilst this is nothing like the scale and duration of road closures by the polo ground, if you use these routes they are important to you of course. There will be intermittent closures, between 27 September and 19 November, 09.30am to 3.30pm. More information is set out in the link below. The county councillor and I pressed the contractors on their thinking on every respect of their plan - I was concerned that this will direct more traffic through unsuitable village routes. Mainly it involves tree felling and activity to protect wildlife during that work. Whilst I would rather they were not felling any trees anywhere (nor indeed building HS2) if it is to be done, this work to protect the species is important and time critical.

- <https://assets.hs2.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/Notice-of-road-closures-Wormleighton-Sept-2021.pdf>

9. Village Signage Improvement

Deferred to November meeting.

10. Planning Matters

New and Pending Decisions

21/00058/OUT – Ambercote, School lane – New 3 bed dwelling – Objection.

21/0913/VARY – Land adj. “Drfitwood” vary to application 19/02137/FUL 21.06

(Cllr Franklin left the meeting whilst this was discussed)

Cllr Rock is withdrawing his objection to this application. Due to not being quorate a decision couldn’t be made by the PC as to withdraw the objection.

21/01565/VARY – Winterberry Cottage, School Lane vary to landscaping 22/06 - Objection

21/01745/FUL – 3 School Lane – erection of single storey garage at side of house 21/06 – Objection

This was discussed further and new plans may be forthcoming and the PC will review these before making a further comment.

21/02034/LBC 21/01578/FUL – The Holly bush Inn. Erection of 2 sail canopies and various outside lighting – 29/06 – Objection.

21/02044/TREE – Hawthorns Key Lane, Maple – Pollard – Withdrawn

21/01860/FULL – Land formerly pony paddock, welsh Rd. – Change of use to as seasonal camping site – Objection

21/01240/OUT – Land rear of Japonica – amendments. No Objection.

Decisions

21/01696/FUL – Ambercote, School Lane – Demolish kitchen and replace – Granted 07/09

21/02063 /FUL – Windy Hill, School Lane – erection of small maintenance store – GRANTED 19/08

10 Finances July/August 2021

Bank Balance as of 1st September 2021 - £19,250.50

Receipts =£ 0.00

DD =£12.00

1&1 Internet £12.00

Cheque Payments = £3,411.96

Staff wages/expenses June/July/Aug £1419.98

Mowing Pete Brown June/July £400.00

K. Mingard Village Maintenance £123.65

Training Clerks toolkit WALC £48.00

Chris Allen Maintenance £107.00

Deans Garden Services Maintenance £374.00 (Keys Lane)

Nigel Whitehead Trees/Playground fence £775.00

The meeting concluded at 8.40pm

The next meeting of the Parish Council is as follows:

Tuesday 9th November 2021

At The Priors Village Hall

7.30pm All Welcome