

***Priors Marston Parish Council Meeting
Tuesday 9th November 2021 at 7.30pm
Priors Hall, Shuckburgh Road.***

DRAFT MINUTES

Present: Cllr Laura Lucas (Chair) Cllr. Pete Dunkley Cllr. John Franklin, Cllr. Robyn May (from 8pm), Cllr. David Evans, County Cllr Chris Kettle, District Cllr Nigel Rock

In Attendance: Emma Hooker (Clerk)

8 Members of the public were also present.

Meeting was opened at 7.35pm.

- 1. Apologies:** none
- 2. Declarations of Interest:** None
- 3. Approval of the minutes of the last meeting held on Tuesday 14th Sep 2021**
Minutes were approved by all present at the meeting, as a true record. Signed by the Chair.

4. Comments and Questions from the public:

A member of the public spoke on item 5.2 of this agenda – Traffic calming. There is concern over speeding vehicles through the village, but especially on Southam Road. The Parish Council were asked if it acknowledged there was a speeding problem and what can be done.

Cllr Lucas explained the Parish Council had commissioned a radar survey 2 years ago, which gathered data over one week 24/7.

Data:

1300 vehicles of varying sizes were captured

8am-9am are the busiest times and 2-3am the quietest times.

Although average speeds on the Southam Road exceeded the speed limit, overall the conclusion was that speeding in the village was not considered to be a significant problem.

Discussions took place with other members of the public present over what can be done to promote safer driving. It was acknowledged that sometimes it is inconsiderate driving rather than going over the speed limit. Where Southam Rd narrows Highways will be asked to re paint the slow signs on the road. Rumble strips cannot be within 400 meters of a house due to the level of noise produced.

County Cllr Chris Kettle spoke as representing the County Council who are responsible for Highways.

Every parish in the last month in his area has had concerns over speeding and dangerous driving. Dangerous drivers sadly are not concerned over traffic calming measures and ignore them. It is about driver behavior rather than speeding.

The Highways budget cannot sustain the introduction of further calming measures in every parish. They are used where there is a historic track record of serious injury/deaths and no funding available for areas without this track record.

Any reports of dangerous driving should be reported to the Police on 101 who can build a picture this can be followed up by the Safer Neighbourhood Team. Although this is only really helpful if you have the number plate and it's a consistent bad driver.

In conclusion it was resolved to:

- 1) Contact the Police on the speed watch in the village that the Clerk has requested.
- 2) Research starting a Community Volunteer Speeding Action Group in conjunction with the Police.
- 3) Contact Highways to see if existing signage can be improved.

Once data from the speed checks is back further advice can be sought.
Action Clerk.

5. Matters Arising / Outstanding Actions

Potential Footpath Byfield Road

The onsite meeting with WCC has been rearranged for November.

Traffic Calming Measures

Item discussed Item 4.

Community Meetings

Clerk will contact representatives of the community groups and arrange a meeting early in 2022

Blue Path Churchyard maintenance

Clerk to speak to local providers to get this completed ASAP

Notice Board

New board has been ordered and will hopefully be in place by the end of the year.

6. District Cllr Nigel Rock Update

Covid Rates.

Over recent week Covid infections in the District as a whole have been higher than they have ever been, but are now starting to fall back from around 500 per 100,000 a week ago, to below 400. However the Southam and Feldon areas have been almost double these rates and, for reasons not clear, our local area is something of a hotspot. This is at odds with previous experience where our rural areas tended to be lower. So considerable caution is required, although measures such as wearing masks in confined public places, such as shops, are not yet being required by the Government.

Whilst the majority of cases are still in school age children there have been increasing numbers in the over 60s which is a particularly vulnerable group. Personally I am perplexed by the Government's messaging that controls are not needed, because it seems that many people think the pandemic is more or less over.

Boundary Review & Merger

Work on the potential merger between Stratford and Warwick District Councils has been continuing and the consultation has now closed. A representative sample of residents has been contacted for their opinions, and an analysis of responses is underway. Meanwhile, there are Boundary Commission proposals for changing council ward boundaries if no merger takes place. The Commission's proposal involves a mixture of single councillor wards and wards shared between councillors, as well as some strange looking boundaries.

At a series of meetings, Stratford Council has resolved to resist the Boundary Commission proposals in a couple of key matters: 1. that the Boundary Commission have not respected the Council's wish for single member wards, and 2. that the very large two-member ward the Commission proposed from the M40 to Shuckburgh is not acceptable.

The Boundary Commission proposals are here:

https://s3-eu-west-2.amazonaws.com/lgbce/Stratford%20on%20Avon%20Draft%20Recommendations%20Report%20Extension_1.pdf

The date for responses to the Commission has been extended to 6th December.

The Council went on to unanimously agree a way that overcomes both issues. I had considerable input to that response. No one thinks the choices are entirely satisfactory being driven by numbers rather than communities. Getting the same number of electors for council wards around Southam is impossible while keeping to Southam parish boundaries, so there have had to be some compromises. The Council's response is at

<https://democracy.stratford.gov.uk/documents/g6038/Public%20minutes%2018th-Oct-2021%2011.00%20Audit%20and%20Standards%20Committee.pdf?T=11>

7. County Cllr Chris Kettle Update

Highways – As discussed this evening Cllr Kettle will continue to support where he can on any traffic issues.

HS2 –The Wormleighton/Upper Boddington works on the trees are currently going ahead. Chair asked why so many hedgerows around this area are being removed.

The land required to clear the way for the bridge and re-divert the road takes a lot of land hence why there are a lot of trees and hedgerows being removed in this area.

The HS2 meeting was attended by Cllr Rock and Cllr Kettle where they discussed the diversions and road closures on the A45 and A425 clashing. HS2 acknowledged they had made a mistake and the A425 closure was delayed.

Avian Flu in Warwickshire. A bad strain is in the area and posters have been disseminated to Parishes to warn residents and explain the process if they come across a dead or injured bird. This information has been emailed to residents and put on social media.

8. Improving Village Signage

Discussion took place on potentially improving the Priors Marston signs when entering the village. Stone flower beds for example. This was seen as a positive idea and one to investigate, acknowledging there would be an on going maintenance responsibility and volunteers required.

9. The Pound

This is an area of land owned by the Parish at the rear of Holywell House and the Churchyard. The owners of this property have approached the Council and wish to purchase this land (Currently rented to them for £250 a year)

The Council have visited the property and are open to investigating this further and get a valuation.

Cllr Dunkley will assist the Clerk in this matter and gain 3 valuations. If cant get parity we can contact the District Valuer.

10. Planning Matters

New and Pending Decisions

DISCN/00542/21 – land rear of Japonica – discharge of conditions – stone sample has been requested to be delivered onto site. 15/10

21/03355/AGNOT – Little Pinum, Shuckburgh Rd – A New Barn for storage of hay and vehicles – 22/10 No Objection.

21/03121/FUL – The Meadows, Southam Rd – New Equestrian Barn – No Objection

Decisions

21/0913/VARY – Land adj. Drfitwood vary to application 19/02137/FUL GRANTED

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

21/01565/VARY – Winterberry Cottage, School Lane vary to landscaping GRANTED

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

21/06 - GRANTED

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

21/02034/LBC 21/01578/FUL – The Holly Bush Inn.

Erection of 2 sail canopies and various outside lighting – 29/06 – Objection – Committee date 10/11 – GRANTED

21/02858/LBC – 7 Priors Court – Remove wall new glass pane door other interior alterations – 23/09 GRANTED

21/02949/TREE – Birchwood, School Lane – Tree work on several trees 28/9 GRANTED

The Council showed frustration regarding the process surrounding the Committee Hearings when they object to planning applications.

Cllr Franklin asked Cllr Rock for data on how many applications that go to committee uphold the parish Councils objections.

The committees do not seem to support the local view and believe the Parish Council should be represented on the committee.

Cllr Rock acknowledged and agreed with the frustrations on the Planning Committee and always reports back and sees a lack of proper debate at these committees.

10 Finances September/October 2021

Bank Balance as of 1st November 2021 - £26059.10

Receipts = £9,280.00

Stratford District Council Precept £9280.00

DD = £56.52

1&1 Internet £6.00

1&1 Internet £50.52

Cheque Payments = £1234.20

Pete Brown Mowing Aug/Sep £400.00

Staff wages £460.00

Village Maintenance (Benches) £374.20

The Parish Council will be in receipt of CIL (Community Infrastructure Levy) next month of just under £4000.00. This is the first payment of this kind to the Parish and Cllr Rock will look into this.

The meeting concluded at 9.15pm

The next meeting of the Parish Council is as follows:

Tuesday 11th January 2022

At The Priors Village Hall

7.30pm All Welcome