

***Priors Marston Parish Council Meeting
Tuesday 8th March 2022 at 7.30pm
Priors Hall, Shuckburgh Road.***

DRAFT MINUTES

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

In Attendance: Emma Hooker (Clerk), Mr. David Adams

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 11th January**
Minutes were approved by all present at the meeting, as a true record.
Signed by the Chair.
- 4. Matters Arising / Outstanding Actions**

Community Meeting (9th February 22)

The Meeting was held and Chaired by Emma Hooker at the Hollybush.

All Community Groups were represented and was a productive meeting. Items on the Agenda:

1 – Annual Village Meeting

Date: 17th May 2022

All Community Groups agreed to attend to represent their group. The Annual Village Meeting will be chaired by the Parish Council but then it will be an informal evening where parishioners can chat with the representatives of each group with a drink and nibbles.

This meeting will be publicised in the usual ways – the date is already on the notice board.

Platinum Jubilee Celebrations

After discussion it was agreed to look at the possibility of arranging the following. More details to follow.

Friday – Sports Club and School PTA event at the Sports Club

Saturday – The Manor open Gardens/Family picnic

Sunday – Special Church Service

Further details will be published nearer the time.

The Pound

We have contacted a land valuer who is in discussion with the PC. Update as and when we have further news.

5. District Cllr Nigel Rock Update

Council Budget

After an interesting debate, Stratford decided its budget at the Council meeting on 21st February. The result was a rise in the district council element of council tax of 3.35% which is the maximum permitted. A number of measures are to be taken to control expenditure and income. The controversial green bin charge is to rise to £42 and thence add £2 per year every year going forward. The Lib Dem opposition proposed a number of measures within the total expenditure figures, including an advice service to residents to help with home energy, and this latter suggestion was accepted by the Conservative administration. A significant part of Council income comes from central government. One big problem for the Council is the Government will only say what they will provide over the coming year rather than declaring their finance grants over three or four years as they used to. This uncertainty constrains financial planning for the council. The resulting tax figures (Band D properties) for all Councils are

	2021/22	2022/23	Increase
Stratford-on-Avon District Council	£149.12	£154.12	3.35%
Warwickshire County Council	£1,533.51	£1,590.93	3.74%
Warwickshire Police and Crime Commissioner	£252.96	£262.71	3.85%
Sub-total	£1,935.59	£2,007.76	3.73%
Town and Parish Councils (average)	£65.17	£66.08	1.40%
TOTAL	£2,000.76	£2,073.84	3.65%

Boundary Review

I am very disappointed with the outcome of the boundary review that will come into effect if the Council's request to merge with Warwick is denied by the government. Despite the contrary views of nearly all representation locally, some very strange Ward areas have been decided upon. For us it puts Shuckburgh and Shotteswell in the same ward (with two members), whilst dividing up Southam parish in a most unsatisfactory way, combining with Stockton and Long Itchington. See:

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



Even the Commission themselves say, 'We acknowledge that there was strong local opposition to these proposals, but we are firmly of the view that all of the alternative proposals received would not provide an acceptable balance between our statutory criteria.'

The re-introduction of two member wards for just two very rural areas gives an inconsistent level of representation. It is a backwards move and means that residents will be less clear about who their representative is and discriminates against the rural areas with some wards having many parish councils to liaise with - an almost impossible task. The emphasis appears to be on arithmetic numbers rather than community representation and connections.

Energy Price Rises

You may be aware of that the government intends to give help with energy prices by means of £150 Council Tax Rebate for properties in Bands A-D. The District Council will have to administer the scheme, but at the time of writing the council staff who will have to do this have no actual details of how this might work. There was also the announcement of a £144 million Discretionary Scheme to help those who are not included in the £150 Rebate. Also there are no details as to how this might operate, what our share of the pot is or how it is to be paid. At the Council meeting I challenged the way these announcements are made (like some of the Covid grants last year) before the operation of the scheme has been decided. The government working like this is unfortunate to say the least, but hopefully more details will come out over coming weeks.

Waste Collections

The new waste collection system is to operate from August. I have had quite a few questions about this. An outline of the scheme's operation can be found at www.stratford.gov.uk/waste-recycling/123-waste-collections.cfm

Covid

At 26 February the 7 day infection rate per 100,000 for the District was 422. Our local area had similar rates of 396 the cases per 100,000 Southam area and slightly higher at 518 for the surrounding Feldon are. To put this in context, the District rates from September to mid December fluctuated around 490, rising to peak about 1600 at the beginning of January, before falling back now be approximately the prevailing infection rate during the months before peak at the new year. Infection rates seemed to have taken more time to fall back in rural areas than some of the metropolitan areas of the West Midlands.

The Government has decided the trends are sufficiently positive to release all controls.

Although it is reported the Omicron variant is fortunately a bit less serious, the health service locally has still to recover from the challenge. At University Hospital Coventry 40% of ambulance patients waited more than 30 minutes to be handed over to A&E staff (figures for the week to 20 February). For ambulance waits at Warwick the figure was 26%. These A&E waits are broadly triple what they were at equivalent dates two years ago, although they fluctuate week by week. I repeat the many thanks to our health and care workers, and personally I shall continue to be cautious to protect them and others as much as I can in my behaviour despite the lifting of government restrictions.

Self and Custom Build Policy

I have been appointment to chair a scrutiny group looking a revised policy approach to this subject, which has relevance to a number of villages in our area as well as the whole District.

6. County Cllr Chris Kettle Update

Budget – The Budget was discussed again at the rates in Cllr Rocks update. 2% of the increase will be spent on adult social care within the county. £170 million will be spent on education and children’s services.

HS2 – The Wormleighton Rd has now re-opened although work continues. The A425 road closure is still in place.

Highways – Report Potholes if they have not been repaired or problem areas. *Clerk did mention to Cllr Kettle that she has been in contact with Jeoff Hobday to resolve the issue at Byfield Rd and the bad state of repair. This is still outstanding despite chasing. ACTION: Copy in Cllr Kettle on correspondence.*

7. Highways

Road Closures in the village:

14/3 -15/3 – Vicarage Lane (Drainage works)

13/4 – 15/4 – HollyBush Lane (Replace water valve)

20/4 – 25/4 – Shuckburgh Rd (New Power Supply to home)

Hardwick Rd Bench

After being damaged badly by a bus it is unrepairable and a new bench will be procured.

Tree on Memorial Green

Tree needs to be assessed to see if it needs trimming before any new lights are placed on there for this Christmas.

Priors School – Pedestrian gate

The Council have been asked to place a pedestrian gate at the end of the alley way on school lane to prevent children from running onto the road. *Clerk has contacted Highways for assessment and will report back.*

Byfield Road damage

The road was dug up for we believe Thames water some time ago and the repair of the road is not adequate and is very damaged. This has been reported several times and nothing has happened. Clerk to copy in Cllr. Kettle to expedite this issue.

8. Planning Matters

New and Pending Decisions

21/03940/FUL – Hollybush Cottage – New log store and shed – Objection/Pending

21/04039/FUL – Marston Farm, Shuckburgh Rd – demolition of existing wing and replace – No Objection/Pending

22/00311/TREE – The Priors Hall Beech and Willow Fell

22/00462/TREE – Brook Furlong – Horse chestnut Fell

22/00492/TREE – The Orchard, Vicarage Lane Walnut Tree Fell

DISC/00063/22 – Land to the rear of Bicknell – stone vary – requested on site
22/00337/FUL – Rear of Japonica – Plot 1 Amend design
22/00338/FUL – Rear of Japonica – Plot 2 Amend design
22/00339/FUL – Rear of Japonica – Plot 1 Car Port
22/00340/FUL – Rear of Japonica – Plot 3 Car port
22/00341/FUL – Rear of Japonica – Plot 4 Car Port

Decisions

21/03121/FUL – The Meadows, Southam Rd – New Equestrian Barn
GRANTED 11/02
21/03857/TREE – Oakdene, Hollybush Lane – Several trees Pruning
GRANTED 13/01
21/03640/LBC – Rose Cottage, Southam Road – Internal new stud wall
GRANTED 10/02
21/03857/TREE – Oakdene, Hollybush Lane – Several trees Pruning
GRANTED 14/01

9. Finances January/ February 2022

Bank Balance as of 1st March 2022 - £23,305.46

Receipts = £0.00

DD = £154.86

1&1 Internet £83.86
ICO (Data Protection) £35.00
Campaign for rural Britain £36.00

Cheque Payments = £ 1815.58

Staff wages (Dec/Jan/Feb) £1380.00
N Power (December) £101.08
K Mingard Village Maintenance £56.50
P Brown Mowing £200.00
D Bates Garden Services £66.00
HSBC charges £12.00

10. AOB

Litter picking schedule

Now Stratford are responsible for amenity cleaning, the litter issue (especially on the anterior roads into the village) will need to be monitored as it is particularly bad on the Byfield Rd with beer cans and McDonalds wrappers on a regular basis.

The Schedule for litter picking from SDC is:

24/1 – 21/3 – 16/5 – 11/7 – 5/9 – 31/11 2022.

Broadband

After an incident on the 26th February, which brought a communications pole down the entire village has been without Internet and as of today's meeting this was still the case. The Clerk and District Cllr have been in contact with OpenReach and with

Jeremy Wright's (MP) office to get this resolved urgently. To date we are awaiting a temporary fix in the forthcoming days.

Sports Club

David Adams was present and asked to speak in his capacity as Trustee of the Sports Club. He reported that as of November 2021 the Sports Club had a newly elected committee and it had been decided to apply to become a CIO (Charitable Incorporated Organisation) to give security to the club ongoing.

Mr. Adams went on to say that there will be a new group of trustees and the desire is to have someone who represents each of the community Groups, including the Parish Council and asked for a Cllr to put themselves forward. This will be discussed and a name will be given to the Chair of the Sports Club ASAP.

The meeting concluded at 8.:50 pm

The next meeting of the Parish Council is as follows:

Tuesday 10th May

Annual Village Meeting 17th May

At The Priors Village Hall

7.30pm All Welcome