

***The Annual Priors Marston Parish Council Meeting
10th May 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)

Meeting was opened at 7.40pm.

1. Election of Chairperson

Cllr John Franklin proposed Cllr Laura Lucas to remain as Chair and this was Seconded by Cllr Pete Dunkley. Therefore Cllr Laura Lucas is duly elected as Chair of Priors Marston Parish Council for the forthcoming 12 months
Cllr Lucas signed the acceptance of office form.

2. Apologies: None

3. Declarations of Interest: None

4. Approval of the minutes of the last meeting held on Tuesday 8th March 22

Minutes were approved by all present at the meeting, as a true record.
Signed by the Chair.

5. Annual Chair's report 2021/2022

Priors Marston Parish Council consists of the following councilors: - Laura Lucas (Chair), John Franklin, David Evans, Pete Dunkley and Robyn May.
Emma Hooker is the Parish Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer.

In the last year the Parish Council has:

Maintained and repaired the playground, including monthly safety checks and an annual independent ROSPA safety inspection.

Repaired several areas of the flooring and climbing areas.

Reviewed and commented on 39 (31 last year) planning applications and attended a number of Stratford District Council (SDC) planning committee meetings. Applications comprised of:-

* Tree works – 12 applications

* New dwellings – 10 associated applications

* Extensions – 3 applications

* Others – 14 (Changes of use, listed building works etc.)

Upheld the high standard of maintenance and cleanliness of the village

Benches – all cleaned and stained

Blue path – Weeding and cutting back

Notice Board – Replaced

Updated and cleaned various village road signs.

Damaged verges repaired by Highways and keep in continual contact with Highways on ways of improving verges and green areas within village

Continue to update the website which is now fit for purpose and holds all legal documents, agendas and minutes to comply with the Transparency Code.
 Email distribution list as an effective communication tool
 Maintained the asset register and Maintenance plan
 Maintained Village Defibrillator

COVID Volunteer response What's app community group continued and support given to Parishioners
 Started a Community Group who meet throughout the year to discuss Parish Plan actions and events
 Negotiated a new Amenity contract with Stratford District Council
 Organised Police presence to monitor speeding within the village and reported results.

In the coming 12 months we aim to: -

Review the condition of village footpaths and rights of way
 Continue to work with WCC and land owner on the potential Byfield Rd Footpath to the Sports Club
 Monitor Speeding issues within the Village working with the Police and develop Community Speed Watch if gain enough Volunteers
 With other village organisations, ensure that the actions set out in the new Parish Plan are suitably actioned
 Work through the Action list for the Parish Council in the Parish Plan
 Ensure that the maintenance plan for all village assets is adhered to
 Continually update the village website and Facebook page
 Provide regular updates on the village notice board and in The Parish News as well as the email list

6. **Finance and Accounts for Year ending 31st March 2022**

The Clerk/RFO presented the accounts for the Parish Council and are attached to the file set of minutes and forms part of them. They are also available on the Parish Council website for inspection.

Priors Marston Parish Council Accounts Year to 31st March 2022

Receipts	2020/21	2021/22
Precept	£18,560.00	18560.00
Stratford DC - Amenity Cleaning	£1,848.14	£-
Priors Hardwick Loan Contribution	£920.78	£920.78
Rent for The Pound	£250.00	£250.00
CIL money	£-	£3,913.93
Sundry Income *VAT	£283.54	£814.44
TOTAL RECEIPTS	£21,862.46	£24,459.15

Expenses	2020/21	2021/22
Street Lighting, including maintenance & electricity	£710.56	£918.80
Village Maintenance including Grass Cutting & Amenity Cleaning	£5,010.68	£5,853.48

PWLB (Village Hall Building Costs)	£3,752.20	£3,752.20
Clerks Wages inc NI, HMRC	£5,951.60	£5,726.12
Office Expenses, Website,village hall, post office, Audit fees	£1,085.87	£1,159.98
Cost of Elections	£-	
Priors Hardwick Amenity Cleaning	£646.85	
Insurance	£841.47	£857.66
Playground	£3,741.60	
Defib	£375.60	
Training	£120.00	£48.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	£22,236.43	£18,316.24
Surplus for year	-374	£6,142.91
Closing Balance	15,921.00	£22,063.96
Less Allocated Reserves*	£10,000.00	£16,414.00
Total Available Funds	£5,921.00	£5,650.00
*Allocated Reserves		
Playground	7,500	10,000
Streetlights - and village assets	2,500	2,500
CIL reserve		3,914
Total Allocated Reserves	£10, 000	16,414

Finance

Bank Balance as of 1st May 2022 £30,513.32

Receipts = £ 9280.00
£9280.00 Precept SDC

DD = £37.20
1&1 Internet £37.20
HSBC charges x 3 months £34.00

Cheque Payments = £ 2,000.94
Staff Wages/Expenses March £570.40
N Power £276.64
Post office Contributions £100.00
Mowing x 3 months £600.00
WALC subscription £237.00
K Mingard Maintenance £166.50
WCC Annual Street light Maintenance £50.40

7. Annual Village Meeting

The Annual Village Meeting is to be held on Tuesday 17th May at 7pm.

The Sports Club, Church, Priors School PTA, WI, Village Hall and The Hollybush will be in attendance and will be presenting future plans and events and taking questions. Refreshments will be served and it has been well advertised so we are hoping for a good turnout.

The Chair will present the Chair's Report and invite questions on the Parish Council.

8. Queen's Platinum Jubilee

The Community Groups have been meeting over the last few months planning events for the village to celebrate the Jubilee. The Events planned as of today are:

Friday – Family fun day at The Sports Club

Saturday – Picnic by the lake at The Manor

Sunday – Special Church Service

All event details are in the Parish News and will be emailed through to the database.

9. District Councillor Nigel Rock Update

On 14 April, a surprise announcement was made by the Conservative leadership of the two Councils that they have decided that the merger cannot go ahead. Both full Councils had decided before Christmas on the merger in principle. Since then work has been going on to assess the viability, both at central government (who would have to decide whether to permit it) and between Warwick and Stratford Councils. We knew detailed investigation work was expected, and was showing that the financial factors to align the two councils with one another may have been challenging, but this was still a surprise. In the last few days more details have been emerging with more to come

The issues are financial and revolve around the borrowing arrangements of Warwick District Council, the valuation of assets and the role of a wholly owned company called Milverton Homes. The due diligence process to discover the full financial picture apparently could not be completed in an agreed time scale to suit the leadership of the two Councils.

I am concerned to learn that the merger has been called off at this late stage and after a considerable amount of time and money has been spent on it. Financial savings were being forecast from the merger and the question now must be what happens if those savings don't arrive. A special council meeting to discuss the situation has been called for 11 May.

I will be working to ensure as much as possible can be retrieved from working together without a full merger. There are a number of aspects that are expected to survive. Some with direct effect on residents include the joint local plan and

the new waste collection contract starting in August. Other back office functions such as shared legal services should continue.

10. County Councillor Chris Kettle Update

Councillor Grant Fund

Organisations or groups can now apply online for WCC Councillor Grant Funding. As part of the 22/23 budget this amount has been increased to £8,000 per County Councillor.

The deadline for applications for the first round of funding is 5pm on Sunday 29 May 2022.

Reception place offer day

Thousands of children across Warwickshire were offered places at primary schools on Tuesday 19 April, with 90% of Warwickshire children starting school in Reception offered their first choice.

Covid

Weekly data is no longer being provided by WCC on covid infections. The last data was provided on W/E 6th April with an infection rate of 678 in Napton and Fenny Compton ward.

The most recent data on the Gov.uk website shows the figure for the division has dropped to 245 per 100,000. There have been 9 deaths in S on A D district the last 7 days within 28 days of a positive test.

11. Planning Matters

New and Pending Decisions

21/03940/FUL – Hollybush Cottage – New log store and shed – Objection/Pending
DISC/00063/22 – Land to the rear of Bicknell – stone variation requested on site – Pending.

22/00337/8/9/40/41 FUL – Rear of Japonica Several Amendments – This application was discussed prior to the Planning Committee date 18/5/22. Cllr Rock will discuss this application with Head of Policy and report back prior to committee date. Objection by the PC will remain in place.

22/00451/OUT – Chestnut Bank Field – Demolition of all buildings one new dwelling with detached garage change of use from Agricultural to residential – Pending -27/05

22/00809/FUL – Honnesberie Shooting Club, The Grange – Extension to club house – No Objection – Pending

22/01082/TREE – Parish Council – Memorial Green Oak Tree lift and lower crown – Pending

Decisions

21/04039/FUL – Marston Farm, Shuckburgh Rd – demolition of existing wing and replace – GRANTED 08/04

22/00311/TREE – The Priors Hall Beech and Willow Fell - GRANTED 10/03

22/00462/TREE – Brook Furlong – Horse chestnut fell – GRANTED 10/03

22/00492/TREE – The Orchard, Vicarage Lane Walnut Tree Fell - GRANTED 17/03

Planning Enforcement have cases open and are investigating the following on behalf of the PC:

- 1) Breach of Parking conditions 18/00252/OUT Land rear of Japonica
- 2) Breach of several planning permissions 19/01635/FUL – Formerly Grassmere

Ambercote, School Lane have installed a gate that's only access is across village green without prior consent. Planning Enforcement advised the PC this is a private matter and does not breach Planning. The PC decided to write to the owners and request they either remove the gate or reinstall the boundary or the PC will erect a bollard in front of the gate to restrict access.

The meeting concluded at 9.15pm

The next meeting of the Parish Council is as follows:

Tuesday 4th July 2022

Annual Village Meeting 17th May

**At The Priors Village Hall
7.30pm All Welcome**