

***Priors Marston Parish Council Meeting
Tuesday 12th September 2023 at 7.30pm
At The Priors Hall***

DRAFT MINUTES

Present:, John Franklin (Acting Chairperson), Robyn May, Pete Dunkley, Nigel Rock (District Cllr), Chris Kettle (Warwickshire County Cllr)

In Attendance: Emma Hooker (Clerk)

14 members of the public

2 representatives from VLC Education

Cllr Pete Dunkley left at 8.35pm

Meeting opened at 7.35pm

1. Apologies

Cllr Laura Lucas, Cllr. David Evans

2. Declarations of Interest: None

3. Approval of the minutes of the last meeting held on 11th July 2023

Minutes approved by all present at the meeting as a true record and signed by the Acting Chair.

Outstanding Actions & Matters Arising

• Volunteer Community Speed Watch update

The Community Speed Watch gave the Council an update on the recent speed survey held in the village. There was frustration as the Police would not let them stand along the Southam Road due to Health and Safety issues, so where they stood in the centre of the village they felt they were very visible and did not record any speeding on that day.

More volunteers are needed as there are only 6 currently who have been trained and vetted by the Police. **Anyone interested can contact Dawn directly or the Parish Council.**

A long discussion took place on the concerns of the people present and what can and cannot be done to slow traffic in the village.

- The newly painted roads with the 30 mph signs have failed and this will be taken up by Cllr Kettle to ensure these are repainted as soon as possible. It has already been highlighted to Highways and is with the contractors.
- Sign damage done (30mph and Village sign) when hedge trimming contractors worked in the village in the summer was reported by the Clerk and still no action. Clerk to forward to Cllr Kettle and Cllr Rock for them to chase.
- Community Speed group to produce a list of what they would like to see to improve road safety, and where, and send to Cllr Chris Kettle (Via PC) Any suggestions require support from the PC (Including community consultation) and go through legal process including requirement of the road to be certain widths etc. and need to fit budget constraints. Cllr Kettle

explained that flashing speed cameras are no longer used within Warwickshire and no speed cameras would be placed in Priors Marston due to financial constraints and lack of speeding data. Ideas of Village gateways and relining the road outside Japonica for pedestrians were discussed and will be forwarded to Cllr Kettle to get further guidance.

- Community Speed group to continue to monitor traffic concerns and report to the police, details of any dangerous driving with as much detail as possible so they can build a picture. They need to be genuine reports with hard evidence, as local anecdotal evidence is not sufficient to build data.

County Cllr Kettle summarised; everyone present is sympathetic with concerns of the group however legislating against dangerous driving is not going to be solved with more signs, those who choose to speed or drive inconsiderately will do so regardless. This is an enforcement issue with Police involvement. Villages with lights and cameras still have issues with speeding. The budget does not allow all villages to have speed cameras and any street furniture for traffic calming must be approved by the legal team and Highways who know what works and what does not. When we receive the list from the Community Speed group this will be looked at and further discussion can then take place.

4. District Cllr Nigel Rock update

DISTRICT COUNCIL MATTERS

COUNCIL PLAN & ORGANISATION

The new Council Plan will be coming out to public consultation on 18 September. Please let us have your views as it is the plan for our District for the next four years. It is intended that the plan is formally adopted in December.

COMMUNITY SAFETY

We should like to remind residents that there is a Community Safety Team at Stratford DC to support residents across the District. They work closely with the Neighbourhood Safety Teams in Warwickshire Police. Please find attached a Community Safety Guide outlining the different areas of help and support available, along with contact details.

THE GREEN BUS

We are aware that many parents and children have been affected by the sudden withdrawal of the school bus services by The Green Bus. All of the residents affected who have been in contact with us have now made alternate arrangements. Please let us know if you are still having difficulties and we shall endeavour to assist.

HS2 AND ROAD CLOSURES

The road closures continue. We have also had reports of heavy goods vehicles travelling on village roads. Contractors should only be travelling on formal diversions, so please report persistent issues to HS2 so the message can be repeated.

Again, for your ease of reference, should you need it, the HS2 Helpdesk Team may be contacted on 08081 434 434 or emailed at hs2enquiries@hs2.org.uk. Any changes will be on www.hs2inwarwickshire.co.uk

Cllr Natalie Gist

Natalie.Gist@stratford-dc.gov.uk

Cllr Nigel Rock

Nigel.Rock@stratford-dc.gov.uk

County Cllr Christopher Kettle Update County Council Matters

Harbury Crossroads

Warwickshire Highways have confirmed that, after a delay caused by concerns from SDC about noise and vibrations, piling has now re-commenced. However, the timetable has slipped considerably and I am working with officers to get the contractor to find a way to make up for lost time.

I still have funding for further road related schemes in my delegated highways budget. However, whilst these are discretionary grants, any proposal is subject to professional scrutiny by the Highways teams and schemes that do not accord with normal highway protocols will not be accepted.

The delivery timetable is not acceptable and, whilst works are scheduled, the lack of visibility of a timescale is not helpful.

HS2

The seemingly endless road closures of the B4451 for HS2 surveys, more surveys and resurfacing are almost over. There will be a few more nighttime closures to allow "Dorothy" to remove from the tunnel to a new site in North Warwickshire. Further, longer-term road closures are being put in place on the Warwickshire/Northants border to allow for the excavation of the track, the building of bridges and the adoption of the current off-line new highway.

Whilst phases on Banbury and Wormleighton Road will be relatively short 4-6 weeks, the building of the Stoneton Lane overbridge is likely to result in the closure of the Stoneton lane for some 18-24 months, as this required the existing road to be removed, the track to be excavated and then the overbridge to be built. This cannot be done off line.

Hi speed broadband

There has been a reduction in the number of complaints received but WCC will be pursuing those sub-contractors who have not fulfilled their obligations to reinstate properly

Councillor Grant Fund

The deadline for any second applications will be later in the year, but there should be some £1500 available for second round projects.

School buildings and RAAC - Statement from the Chief executive

1. WCC maintained schools: of these, one school has been impacted - Out woods Primary School in Atherstone. We invested £170k of WCC capital over the summer in mitigations and had agreed these with DfE but unfortunately, their advice changed this week, requiring parts of the school to be closed. Through close collaboration between the school and our teams, we have accelerated the additional mitigations required by DfE so that the school will reopen fully on Monday with some temporary mitigations. We have a confirmed position on the rest of the maintained school estate with no other schools affected.

2. Academy schools in the County: Myton and Aylesford Schools in Warwick have been affected. Other academies may be identified through ongoing DfE surveys, but we cannot advise on the progress of these as they are not overseen by WCC. Both academies have longer mitigation periods. We are offering all help and support to the schools, including potential temporary solutions.

School transport

The new school year has brought up a number of new school transport issues which I am seeking to resolve. It is challenging in that there is no statutory obligation to provide

home to school transport particularly when parents select out of catchment area schools for their children.

West Midlands Combined Authority (Twitter and Facebook)

Warwickshire County Council is now unlikely to apply to join the WMCA before the next WMCA election.

General issues

Withdrawal of Green Bus service (Twitter and Facebook)

Warwickshire County Council has moved to reassure the families of young people eligible free transport to their schools, who have been affected by the withdrawal of The Green Bus Service, that an alternative service will be found.

Read more: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/4468/withdrawal-of-the-green-bus-service-update-30-08-23>

Supporting SEND transitions in Warwickshire (Twitter and Facebook)

Warwickshire County Council has worked closely with parents, carers and professionals to create a one-stop-shop for advice and guidance to support smooth transitions back to school for children and young people with SEND.

Read more: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/4464/new-one-stop-shop-to-support-transitions-for-children-and-young-people-in-warwickshire->

5. Planning Matters

New and Pending

23/00874/FUL Front porch and single story extension- Moreton Cottage, Shuckburgh Rd – No Objection - Pending

23/01149/FUL Proposed conversion of existing outbuilding to annexe – Chapel End Keys Lane – No Objection - pending

23/01962/LBC – Install 10 solar Panels – Cedars Farm – No Objection - Pending

23/02105/FUL – Change of use holiday chalets to independent school – North Farm Fisheries – Pending – No Decision

23/02136/FUL – Land adj. Fir Tree Cottage Hellidon, Solar farm for Hellidon Lakes – No Objection –Pending

Decisions

22/03132/FUL Land adjacent to Keys Lane Erection of single self-build and garage – Refusal 21/07

23/01765/TREE – Grange Cottages, Hardwick Rd – Poplar Tree Fell – Withdrawn

6. Finance July and August 2023

Bank Balance as of 1 September 2023 £26,824.36

Receipts- £0.00

DD = £12.00

1&1 Internet £12.00

Payments = £2,299.99

Pete Brown Mowing £400.00

Staff Salary x2 1018.40

N Power £205.59

Nigel Whitehead Maintenance £660.00

HSBC Charges x2 £16.00

7. AOB

- Playground Moss need to be treated. Clerk awaiting to hear which chemical can be used safely on the surface prior to work starting.
- Community Litter pick 23 September at 10.00am at the Memorial Green. All Welcome.
- Church PCC requested financial support from the Parish Council to help with costs of maintaining the footpath through the churchyard used by many villagers. Chair asked them to contact the Clerk with a figure so it can be discussed.

The meeting concluded at 9.10pm

The next meeting of the Parish Council is as follows:

Tuesday 14th November 2023

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