

***Priors Marston Parish Council Meeting
Tuesday 9th January 2024 at 7.30pm
At The Priors Hall***

DRAFT MINUTES

Present: Cllr. John Franklin, Cllr. Robyn May, Cllr. Pete Dunkley, County Cllr Chris Kettle, District Cllr. Nigel Rock

In Attendance: Emma Hooker (Clerk)

Meeting opened at 7.30pm

1. Apologies

Cllr. David Evans, Cllr Laura Lucas

2. Declarations of Interest: Cllr May – Planning application

3. Approval of the minutes of the last meeting held on 14th November 2023

Minutes approved by all present at the meeting as a true record and signed by Cllr. May in Chairs absence.

4. Outstanding Actions & Matters Arising

- **Housing Needs Survey**

The questionnaires have been received from WRCC and will be sent to all houses with the next parish magazine deliveries.

- **Playground Maintenance**

Following on from the recent installment of the new junior swings it was noted that the timber frame is in need of replacing soon. It was resolved to book another RoSPA inspection (last one was August 2022) and plan a maintenance plan accordingly once the report is back.

The moss needs to be removed from the playground flooring. It has been advised not to use anything with chemicals in it as will ruin the rubber.

- **Footpath Maintenance**

The blue footpaths in the village are in need of more regular up keep. Clerk to look for quotes for twice yearly footpath tidy up and playground clearance. To advertise in the Parish Magazine,

- **Radar Vehicle Survey**

Following on from the previous meeting it was resolved for the council to procure a radar speed survey which is provided by the Traffic Survey Team at Warwickshire County Council. This will be charged to the Parish Council at approximately £220+VAT per radar (for 2 weeks data) for which we require 5, 1 for each road. The Traffic Survey Team have asked that the Community Speed Group choose the

locations of the radars at their request. This action was sent to the group on the 15th December and we await that work to be done prior to organizing the date of the survey. It has been reiterated the Community Speed group that the data needs to be accepted and that the data will not in any way mean that WCC or Highways will act upon it.

5. Precept and Budget 2024/25

The Budget for 2024/25 has been agreed and it was agreed for the precept to remain unchanged at £18,560.00 for the 24/25 period.

6. District Cllr Nigel Rock Update.

The New Council Plan

The New Council Plan which will guide the administration for the next four years was voted for at Full Council on 11 December 2023. Detail below and at : [Council Plan 2023 - 2027 | Stratford-on-Avon District Council](#)

Budget

The administration is in the process of setting a budget for the year 2024/5. Central government advises local authorities of their settlement figures on an annual basis, and the final figure was reported to SDC on 22 December. Due to these tight timescales, Cabinet has been working on the budget for some months prior to the central government figures being announced. Following the Christmas break the preliminary figures have now been finalised to achieve a balanced budget. We are pleased to announce that no cuts to services are anticipated. The budget will be out for public consultation, which is expected to commence on 19 January, upon which we welcome comments.

Cost of Living Support

We should like to remind residents that there is wide-ranging help and support available from the District Council if they are worried about the cost of living, which affects health and wellbeing. There is a link here to the support available: [Cost of Living Support | Stratford-on-Avon District Council](#) or residents may telephone Customer Services on 01789 267575.

Community Safety

There have been a series of reports of break-ins, key and car thefts villages recently. This has affected Southam (including the fire station), Bishops and Long Itchington, and Fenny Compton. We also attach advice from Southam SNT at the end of our report.

Currently, the future operations of WCC Fire and Rescue service is being debated. The matter was raised at the last Council meeting. The District Council is concerned that cover is not depleted, noting the difficulty locally in maintaining Southam and Fenny Compton stations, but we want to ensure that full facts are considered and to that end we have asked for a full presentation to District Councillors.

6. County Cllr Christopher Kettle Update

Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Service with particular reference to Fenny Compton Fire Station.

In summary the WFRS volunteer call out service, which was historically available for 90% of the time pre pandemic has fallen across the County to 35% and the 12 fire appliances which are crewed by on-call firefighters are, on average, only available one-third of the time. This is unsustainable. In particular Fenny Compton, since May 23 has dropped to an average availability over six months of 9.4%. In the absence of a rapid improvement in call-out personnel availability, changes to how the service is delivered must be considered.

Please read about the need for change and comment on the proposals at: <https://ask.warwickshire.gov.uk/insights-service/wfrs-r2r/>

Clerk to email the village and put in the Parish Magazine to encourage people to have their say.

Harbury Crossroads

Work is now continuing on the crossroads with a targeted completion date of the spring. There is a clear programme and timetable for this work and I would hope that we are now entering the final stages of the significant road safety improvement project.

Highway road improvements

Councillors should be aware that WCC, after consideration by a Council appointed working party, made the decision some months ago not to introduce mandatory 20mph speed restrictions in village communities. Recently Oxfordshire CC have decided to do so which is clearly of concern to those residents living near the Oxfordshire border. Residents may also be aware that Fenny Compton has a legacy 20mph limit in the centre of the village and Southam has just announced that HS2 are funding a 20mph limit from their community support budget in the centre of the town.

Councillors should be aware of the two HS2 funding schemes set up to mitigate for the impact of HS2 on the community being the Business and Local Economy Fund (BLEF) and the Community and Environment Fund (CEF).

Clearly each application must demonstrate a need and justification for the funding

Recently a total of 25 differing and widely ranged schemes have been put forward to be funded by HS2.

These 25 schemes have been investigated by the County Councils own Traffic & Road Safety Team and have put each scheme forward to the HS2 Board. The scheme through Southam, is to apply a 20mph speed limit along the main shopping route through the town of Southam. The move received support from Southam Town Council.

Any community can apply for funding from HS2 for the two grants to mitigate for the impact of HS2. Examples of CEF funds are as follows:

- Improved pedestrian, equestrian, or cycle access not provided under statutory services;
- Landscape and nature conservation enhancement projects which increase biodiversity (including pop up interventions such as skip gardens);
- Enhancement or replacement of sports and recreational facilities;
- Improved access and enhancements to public open space;
- Provision of enhanced or new community facilities; and
- Refurbishment/re-use of historic buildings and monuments.

HS2

I have had no further response from BBV about complaints about the attempted eradication of noxious weeds on the land acquired by HS2.

I, as have WCC officers, have written back to make it clear that work practices that do not comply with DEFRA published guidelines are not really an acceptable response..

Warm Welcome Hubs (Twitter and Facebook)

Check out the Warwickshire Rural Community Council directory of Warm Hubs to find a local, warm, safe, inclusive place where you can expect a friendly welcome.

Find out more: www.wrccrural.org.uk/services/wrcc-warm-hubs/warm-hubs-network/

Kind Communities - Kind Food Grant Fund (Twitter and Facebook)

Do you know of a food-related community project in Warwickshire that would benefit from a funding boost?

Apply to the new Kind Communities - Kind Food Grant fund, and empower your community to make more affordable, healthy, and sustainable food choices:

www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/4793/county-council-launches-kind-communities-kind-food-grant-to-support-local-community-food-projects

WFRS shares festive safety reminder ahead of New Years Eve (Twitter and Facebook)

Caring Together Warwickshire

Warwickshire County Council is reminding all those with a caring responsibility to register as a carer to access the latest support over the Christmas period.

Read more here:

<https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/4896/warwickshire-county-council-signposts-residents-with-a-caring-responsibility-to-support-from-local-services>

7 Highways

Reports of drains blocked and flowing water has been received and reported to Highways. Vicarage Lane, Hellidon Road and School Lane. With only one jetter to clear drains in the whole of South Warwickshire (and a large wait list) it is unlikely that they are dealt with in the near future. Cllr Kettle has reported this as well as the Parish Council and we will keep chasing for this work to get done as soon as possible.

8. Planning Matters

New and Pending

- 23/00874/FUL Front porch and single storey extension- Moreton Cottage, Shuckburgh Rd – PENDING
- 23/02105/FUL – Change of use holiday chalets to independent school – North Farm Fisheries – PENDING
- 23/02531/FUL – Extension first floor and car port – Beechcroft, Shuckburgh Road PENDING
- 23/02830/FUL – Rebuild and Extend existing outbuilding Jasmine Cottage, Hardwick Road – PENDING
- 23/03176 – Proposed first floor rear extension – Caleb Cottage, Hardwick Rd – Pending No Obj
- 23/03307/TPO – Lime Pollard ro previous growth – High House – No Obj
- 23/03251/TREE – several tree work as above - No Obj Pending
- 23/03307/TPO – Lime Pollard to previous growth – High House, The Holloway – No Obj - Pending
- 23/03251/TREE – several tree work as above - No Obj - Pending
- 23/03204/FUL – Conversion and extension of garage for holiday let – Chestnuts House, Byfield Rd. Pending 15/01

Decisions

- 23/02291/FUL – New Agricultural building – The Meadows – Granted 08/12
- 23/02395/FUL – Demolition of existing garage add 2 story ext. Orchard `House, Manor Farm Court GRANTED
- 23/00263/COUQ – Appeal – Barn Byfield Rd for residence App - REFUSED

9. Finance November and December

Bank Balance as of 1 January 2024 £30, 603.50

Receipts- £1360.39

SDC CiL £900.00

P Hardwick Village Fund £460.39

DD = £1913.23

Public works loan £1876.03

1&1 Internet £37.20

Payments = £2928.54

Pete Brown Mowing £400.00 x2 months

Staff Salaries £1425.34 x 2 months

HSBC bank Charges £16.00

Playscapes design new swings £877.20

Nigel Whitehead Repairs and tree planting £110.00

Uncontested election charge £100

10 AOB

N power prices have increased quite considerably in recent months. Clerk is looking at price comparisons to see if there is a cheaper deal and will report back.

Reports received of off road vehicles in the local area, along Gypsy Lane and the Salt Path. This is causing the lanes to get churned up and damage the countryside. Cllr Kettle and Rock are having talks with the rural crime team to see what can be done, if anything.

The meeting concluded at 8.45pm

The next meeting of the Parish Council is as follows:

Tuesday 12th March 2024

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