

***Priors Marston Parish Council Meeting
Tuesday 12th March 2024 at 7.30pm
At The Priors Hall***

DRAFT MINUTES

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

In Attendance: Emma Hooker (Clerk) 2 Members of the public.

Meeting opened at 7.40pm

1. Apologies

Cllr. David Evans

2. Declarations of Interest: Cllr May – Planning application

3. Approval of the minutes of the last meeting held on 9th January 2024

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

4. Outstanding Actions & Matters Arising

• **The Pound Update**

The Parish Council have provided the solicitors with the title deeds and supporting paperwork. We will await further guidance from the solicitors.

• **HS2 Funding**

The Parish Council wish to apply for the community fund (Sports and Recreational) from HS2. Any monies gained from this application will be used towards the maintenance and future replacement of play equipment. Clerk requested the correct link to use from County Cllr. Kettle who will email the contact and advice.

• **Grit Bin Locations**

The PC has agreed a new grit bin for Keys Lane. Given they do not have one currently and with recent water issues it is seen as a reasonable request from residents. The PC and highways have not been able to agree on the location of the bin as of yet, however a new site was discussed and will be put forward. Once agreed the PC will order two grit bins, one for Keys Lane and one to replace the broken one on Hellidon Rd.

• **Playground Maintenance**

Priors Garden Services came out this month to rid the playground floor of the moss. Unfortunately, without chemicals it has not been as easy to remove. The PC have been advised by Playscapes not to use chemicals as will erode the flooring. The amount of trees surrounding the play area ensures the right conditions for the moss to thrive, and sadly the PC have not been successful in its application to remove some of the trees to make the area lighter.

Clerk will continue to look at options and was given a number for a company who may be able to help.

Street Lights

Following on from the annual WCC street light maintenance the light on Keys Lane needs replacing. The PC will not be replacing this light at this current time but will continue to monitor.

5. District Cllr Nigel Rock Update.

Council Budget Meeting

Stratford-on-Avon District Councillors have set the district element of the Council Tax at a meeting of the Council on Monday 26 February.

The amount residents will be asked to pay for a Band D property is £164.12, an increase of £5. This is an increase of 3.1%, which for an average home represents just an additional 42p per month to the District Council next year. Stratford-on-Avon remains a low-taxing authority, 18th lowest out of 164 district councils across the country in 2023/24. Despite this, the budget makes no cuts to services in Stratford District and the Council has made allowance for a number growth areas which have been assessed with feedback from public consultation. To give a few examples, rural services were felt to be important - three-quarters of people agree with our proposal to invest a further £85K to maintain the UBUS service and £28K for Rural Crime Advisors. Services for residents in financial difficulty, through our proposal for £250K for cost-of-living crisis was also supported by most residents.

The Council is providing a further £500k for climate initiatives which include £100K for the Community Change Fund. Our waste fleet is the Council's largest contributor to harmful emissions, and the Council is investigating the use of waste vegetable oil to fuel the waste collection fleet to make this District cleaner, safer, healthier and greener place to live and work. There is a cost, but the cost in year one is roughly 6p per household, per week.

The Council has set aside funds to look ahead and to work now to invest and modernise. Our 'Council Plan and Change Programme' will invest in the changes needed to safeguard against future pressures.

More detail here:
[Council Tax level for Stratford-on-Avon District | Stratford-on-Avon District Council](#)

Recycling Rates

Residents in Stratford-on-Avon District are still some of the best recyclers in England, as the District Council reaches 5th in the top ten Councils for reuse, recycling and composting. Figures released show that Stratford-on-Avon District Council has a recycling rate of 60.0% for last year (2022/23).

Rank	Authority	Recycling ratefor 2022/23
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1	South Oxfordshire District Council	61.6%
2	Three Rivers District Council	61.5%
3	Vale of White Horse District Council	60.9%
4	St Albans City and District Council	60.1%
5	Stratford-on-Avon District Council	60.0%
6	East Devon District Council	59.5%
7	Stockport Metropolitan Borough Council	59.3%
8	Surrey Heath Borough Council	59.3%
9	Dorset Council	59.1%
10	North Somerset Council	58.9%

The Council is a partner in the newly built, state-of-the-art Materials Recycling Facility, also ensuring that there is a known controlled destination for dry recycling.

[Stratford-on-Avon District Council 5th in recycling league table | Stratford-on-Avon District Council](#)

A reminder that residents can download the District Council's app which is designed to allow access to a variety of council services whilst on the go - the mobile app enables residents to keep up to date with the latest council news, quickly report incidents, get reminders of bin collections and find useful information about their property and the surrounding area.

[Stratford District Council on the App Store \(apple.com\)](#)
[Stratford District Council - Apps on Google Play](#)

County Council Fire Service Consultation

Natalie and Nigel attended the presentation at Southam on 28th February and the District council will be responding in detail as consultee. The response will be published on the Council's website. The District recognises that there is need for a reconfiguration of services, but there are many factors to be considered in implementing any changes. Fire cover at night is of particular concern for Stratford District.

5 County Cllr Christopher Kettle Update

WCC expenditure budget for 24-25 is for £623 million, of which £236 million is funded from other sources or reserves, leaving £387 million to be funded from Council tax.

Council tax will go up by 2.99% for core expenditure plus 2%, ringfenced for Adult Social Care totalling 4.99%. This will result in a band D charge per property of £1,736.19.

Within the base budget there are £16 million of savings for the year as follows:

Budget savings	2024/25 £'000
Children and Young People Directorate	3,362
Communities Directorate	1,378
Social Care and Health Directorate	6,597
Resources Directorate	1,261
Corporate Services	3,579
Annual Budget Savings	16,177

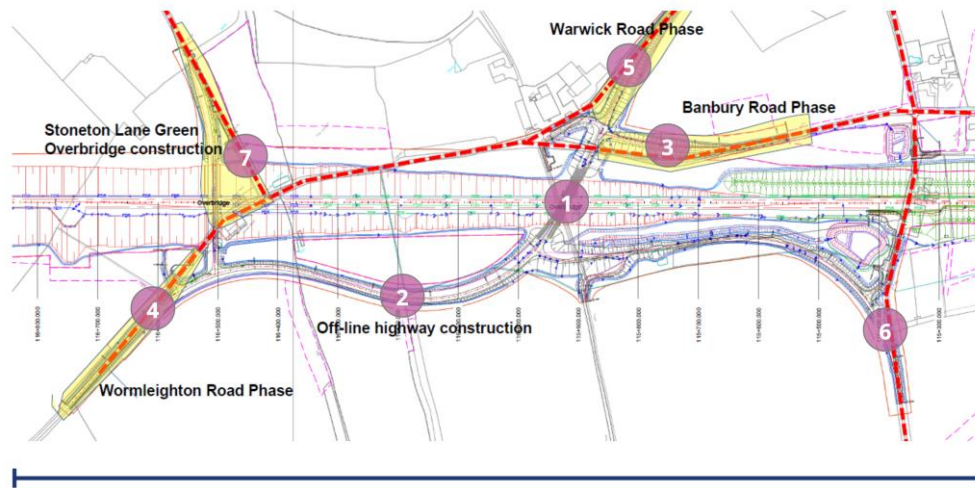
HS2

I have had three meetings with HS2 to discuss progress but also non-compliance with the HS2 Code of Practice by main contractors.

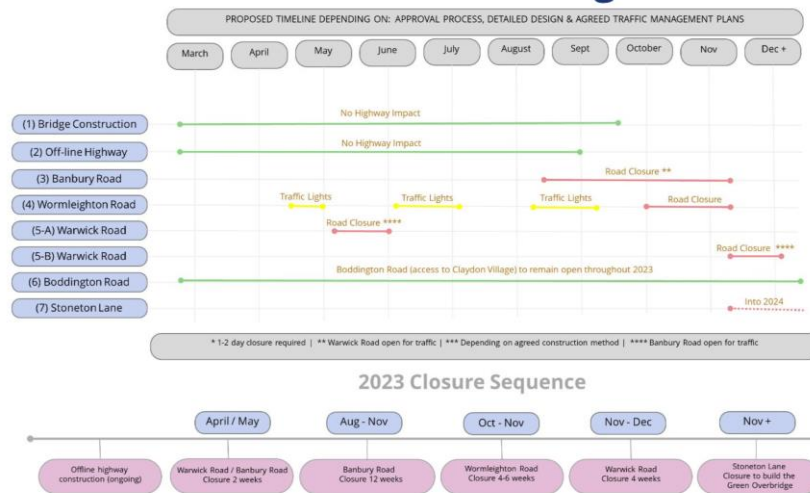
The works between Wormleighton, Priors Hardwick and Lower Boddington as identified below are significantly behind the proposed timetable shared in July 23:



Banbury Road Overbridge – phasing map



Timeline for traffic management



The opening of the Banbury Road Overbridge has been completed but has to be signed off so has not yet opened. The closure of the Wormleighton Road is now pencilled in for the 18th March, for four weeks but the start date has yet to be confirmed as of today's date.

Log highways issues and report feedback (X and Facebook)

Warwickshire County Council has launched a new platform to support the way customers can report a highways problem or log customer feedback through its website

Find out more: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/4953/updates-to-the-way-customers-log-highways-issues-and-report-feedback>

Free Scootability Training (X and Facebook)

Scootability training is back for 2024!

Warwickshire County Council is offering free Scootability training throughout the county during the first week of the Easter holidays (25 – 29 March).

Find out more: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/5032/supporting-children-to-travel-actively-free-scootability-training-in-warwickshire>

Help to meet household utility costs (X and Facebook)

Warwickshire residents struggling to pay their utility bills can look to Warwickshire County Council for support.

Find out more: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/5030/help-to-meet-household-utility-costs>

6. Highways

- **Speed Survey**

The speed survey is up and running to all entrances into the village. Tubes across the road have been installed; as the area was not suitable for radars, they collect the exact same data. Speed, Volume, Classification, and the report will be available mid-April. Once the data is in it will be shared with County Cllr. Kettle and he will give a response to the community speeding group. Cllr. Kettle reiterated again that the village would not become a 20mph restricted village.

- **Voneus Broadband**

The contractors have been in the village over the last few weeks. The PC are not given any prior notice but have been in touch with voneus and will pass on any details they are given for future works. Any issues can be reported to Cllr. Kettle.

7. Planning Matters

New and Pending

- 23/02105/FUL – Change of use holiday chalets to independent school – North Farm Fisheries – PC OBJECTION (20th March committee date)
- 24/00066/FUL – Single story ext. Bicknell, School Lane – No OBJECTION
- 23/03204/FUL – Conversion and extension of garage for holiday let – Chestnuts House, Byfield Rd. Pending 15/01 – NO OBJECTION
- 24/00220/TREE - Remove 9 conifers – Stone Cottage, Hardwick Rd – NO OBJECTION
- 24/00167/FUL – Construction of barn for farm machinery, Cotswold Lodge, Southam Rd – NO OBJECTION
- 24/00129/FUL – Construction of self-build dwelling, new access and associated works – Cosy Nook, Keys Lane – PC OBJECTION
- 24/00275/TREE – Reduce silver birch, Laurel, cherry– Beech Cottage, Hellidon Rd- NO OBJECTION

- 24/00356/FUL – demolition of barn for four new dwellings – The Meadows, Southam Rd (22/3) NO OBJECTION
- 24/00160/VARY – Reserved matters (22/02120) new double garage – Craig Cottage, School Lane (22/3) NO OBJECTION
- 24/00461/FUL – Proposed Porch – Chestnuts House, Byfield Rd (25/3) NO OBJECTION
- 24/00473/TREE – Several tree works – Daneby House, Keys Lane (25/3) NO OBJECTION
- 22/03132/FUL – Appeal – Land adj. to Keys House single self-build and garage (08/04) PC OBJECTION carried forward from original application will be submitted.
- PREAPP/00006/24 – Hare Meadow, Marston Doles – Agricultural Barn and dwelling (temp) Info only
- 22/02050/FUL – Appeal – land rear of Japonica new dwelling – APPEAL – PC OBJECTION

Decisions

- 23/00874/FUL Front porch and single storey extension- Moreton Cottage, Shuckburgh Rd – GRANTED 15/01
- 23/02531/FUL – Extension first floor and car port – Beechcroft, Shuckburgh Road REFUSED 08/01
- 23/02830/FUL – Rebuild and Extend existing outbuilding Jasmine Cottage, Hardwick Road – GRANTED 02/03
- 23/03176 – Proposed first floor rear extension – Caleb Cottage, Hardwick Rd – GRANTED 22/01
- 23/03307/TPO – Lime Pollard ro previous growth – High House – GRANTED 30/01
- 23/03251/TREE – several tree work as above - GRANTED 30/01
- 25/00095/FUL – Cladding and replacement windows – Driftwood – GRANTED 01/03

9. Finance January and February 2024

Bank Balance as of 1 March 2024 £27,957.20

Receipts- £0.00

DD = £220.60

1&1 Internet £6.00

1&1 Internet £135.60

Campaign to protect Rural Britain £36.00

HSBC Charge £8.00

ICO £35.00

Payments = £2425.70

Pete Brown Mowing £400 (x2)

N Power £361.14 1st Oct – 31s Dec

N Power £186.92 (1st Jan – 12th Feb Final)

Staff Salaries Exp. X 2 months £1,120.30

Moore PLC (External Auditor) £252.00

WCC Street light Maintenance £105.3

10. AOB

- Priors School Lease transfer to Warriner MAT . Solicitor to witness two Parish Cllrs signature and ID required. This will be completed and forwarded to the school ASAP.
- Litter Pick – Feb 25 saw the last community litter pick. Approx. 16 people came along and tidied up the village and verges on a lovely spring day. Thank you to everyone who came. The next one will be early summer.
- Annual Village Meeting – 21st May. Clerk has reached out to all the community groups regarding the Annual Village Meeting. Providing support will be there for this previously popular evening it will be advertised to the village.
- Church £200.00 contribution – As previously minuted the PC are in agreement to contribute £200 this year as a contribution to the maintenance of the blue pathways in the churchyard.

The meeting concluded at 8.40pm

The next meeting of the Parish Council is as follows:

Tuesday 14th May 2024

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