

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

DRAFT MINUTES

Present: Cllr. Laura Lucas, Cllr. John Franklin, Cllr. Pete Dunkley, County Cllr Chris Kettle, District Cllr. Nigel Rock (NR left at 8pm)

In Attendance: Emma Hooker (Clerk) 4 Members of the public.

Meeting opened at 7.30pm

- 1. Apologies**
Cllr. Robyn May
- 2. Declarations of Interest:** None
- 3. Approval of the minutes of the last meeting (annual) held on 14th May 2024**
Minutes approved by all present at the meeting as a true record and signed.
- 4. Outstanding Actions & Matters Arising**

- **Vacancy**

The Parish Council have a vacancy on the Parish Council. Further discussion is needed on a future co-option.

- **Drains**

The PC have been in communication with Cllr. Kettle for several months regarding the issues across the village. Keys Lane, Southam Rd and Hellidon Rd especially. Cllr. Kettle confirmed the broken drain on Southam Rd is booked in for repair on 2/11/24. He explained there is only one jetter to cover the whole of Warwickshire and there is a schedule of works which started in early May for clearing gullies etc. and as of today's date they have not yet arrived in Priors Marston, but they should be due anytime.

The PC will continue to pressure the County Council to maintain the drains and schedule repairs as quickly as possible.

- **Maintenance of Footpaths/Greens**

The PC has agreed to get a quote for the maintenance of the blue paths which are overgrown.

Cllr. Kettle will contact Highways on cutting back the foliage in Keys Lane which is impeding the highway.

- **Speed Survey data**

The summary report for the speed survey which was performed in April for 2 weeks was sent through to the PC only a couple of hours before tonight's meeting so the data has not been looked at in detail.

Representatives of the Speeding Action Group were present, and a long discussion took place on the data and how this will be used to possibly get some calming measures in place.

Cllr. Kettle assured the group and the PC that the data will be sent to the Highway Safety team at WCC who will consider if this reflects normal or abnormal speeding behaviour and will report back in time for the meeting in September at the latest.

Cllr Kettle reiterated again that there is no budget for traffic calming measure in the county and Priors Marston does not have a high (in fact very low) accident rate and would not be a priority.

Playground equipment – funding options

There is a possible HS2 funding source we can investigate so we can prepare for the eventual replacement of the play area. Clerk will liaise with Cllr Franklin to complete.

5. District Cllr Nigel Rock Update.

• General Election

The election covered two constituencies in Stratford District. For us here, election registration and polling station organisation was run by Stratford District, while the Election itself was run from Warwick District Council, causing some minor confusion as postal voting letters were labelled Warwick District Council. For our area in the Kenilworth and Southam Constituency the election has resulted in the retention of Sir Jeremy Wright as Conservative MP, while in the Stratford Constituency part of the District there is a new Liberal Democrat MP Manuela Perteghella. We wish them both well in serving our communities. Your District Councillors have good personal relationships with both MPs and to that extent we hope we can continue to represent residents fully at all levels.

To an extent, the election has constrained some activity in local government over the last few weeks.

• Armed Forces Day – Saturday 29 June

On Monday 24 June, Stratford-on-Avon District Council raised the flag for Armed Forces Day.

Armed Forces Day is an annual event and takes place on the last Saturday each June, falling this year on 29 June. Armed Forces Day gives communities the opportunity to show their support for the men and women of the Armed Forces including currently serving troops, service families, reservists, veterans and cadets.

It also marks the culmination of a week of celebrations, beginning on Monday 24 June, when the public show their support and appreciation for the Armed Forces community. It also includes Reserves Day (26 June), which provides the country with an opportunity to recognise our Reserve Forces.

The District Council supports Armed Forces personnel all year round through an Armed Forces Community Covenant. The Covenant is a pledge to ensure that those who serve or who have served their country in the armed forces - and their families - should be treated with respect and fairness.

The District Council has also recently been awarded the Bronze Award from the Defence Employer Recognition Scheme (ERS). The ERS encourages employers to support defence and inspire others to do the same.

The scheme encompasses bronze, silver, and gold awards for employer organisations that pledge, demonstrate or advocate support to defence and the armed forces community, and align their values with the Armed Forces Covenant.

The District Council will now be working towards the Silver Award.

- **Community Safety**

The Rural Crime Advisors at SDC have issued some reminders for residents to protect themselves from crime over the Summer months.

Vehicle security

Lock your car, don't be tempted to unlock your car from a distance, unlock it when you are at your vehicle.

If you have keyless entry, store your keys in a faraday pouch, this will minimise the risk of thieves gaining the signal, that is constantly emitted from the key, storing it and being able to unlock your car (without having the key).

Don't leave valuables on show in your car.

Be aware of who is around you when you are at your vehicle.

Try to park in places that are well lit with good, all round, visibility of the vehicle.

- **Caravans**

Caravans are prime targets for thieves. It is not just new caravans that are targeted, those 2 or 3 years old are stolen and older. Most thefts occur from storage compounds/ locations, especially if they are in a rural area, or occasionally from driveways, pitches at sites or dealer's premises.

Consider use of wheel clamps, trackers, wheel locks, hitch locks and data chip systems – for further information please refer to: [Caravan Advice – Warwickshire Rural Watch](#)

- **Eating out**

At picnic areas – be aware of where your valuables are, don't leave valuables in bags on a table or on a blanket, unattended.

If you carry a bag – try to carry the bag in front of you, where possible e.g., cross body bags, if this is not possible consider using small 'purse bells' on a zip, this could act as a deterrent and increases the likelihood the attempt will be identified, a small travel padlock can also be helpful.

Out and About

Avoid use of headphones when walking, particularly when you are walking alone or around an area you may be less familiar with. Removing the ability to hear the world around you might increase the potential to make you a target.

Consider carrying a personal alarm with you, many alarms will fit on a keyring

5 County Cllr Christopher Kettle Update

- **Local roads**

I have spent some time investigating gulley cleaning and jetting.

There are 82 gullies in the village of which 11 are scheduled to be cleaned twice yearly and 71 annually. The village is on the Fenny Compton route, 071, and the scheduled start date for the twice-yearly cleaning was to be in late June but commenced early in May 24. The scheduled start date for the gullies cleaned annually was also June but from the records does not seem to have started.

I have asked for details for both as to what has been done and when, if not they are likely to be done. The report demonstrates that there is a managed

program for all gullies across the County to be cleaned quarterly, twice of annually.

Gully cleaning can identify where individual drains need to be jetted using specialist equipment. Three drains were jetted in March 24 and problems identified with silted up outfalls or damaged drains. Jobs have been created for these to be cleared or repaired.

- **HS2**

The EKFB Councillor liaison officer Simon Davies has now left EKFB leaving, regrettably, several unanswered questions about EKFB's work program.

I have now been given the name of his successor, who along with the senior liaison manager for Warwickshire have postponed the removal of a hedgerow and trees remote from roads or the HS2 track itself.

The planned works around Wormleighton are still a mess with the ongoing use of unsuitable rural roads by HS2 diverted traffic making some of those roads unfit for use. The Construction Commissioner is aware and will be considering how best to address this issue.

The proposed removal of 180 meters of hedgerow and trees, without any apparent connection to new road layouts or the actual track on the A425 has now been postponed until the new EKFB liaison officer and HS2 managers understand whether the removal is necessary.

The works between Wormleighton, Priors Hardwick and Lower Boddington remains significantly behind the proposed timetable started in July 23 with the closure of the Wormleighton Road scheduled for late autumn 23 still to commence.

6. Highways

- Speed Survey (Previously discussed in Outstanding Actions)
- Drains (Previously discussed in Outstanding Actions)
- Road Closure Notice: -
Southam Road 19-8 – 21/8 for water installment

7. Planning Matters

New and Pending

- 24/00129/FUL – Construction of self-build dwelling, new access and associated works – Cosy Nook, Keys Lane – OBJECTION – Amendment 18/04
Planning Committee date 17th July. (TBC which Cllr. Can attend)
- 24/00356/FUL – demolition of barn for four new dwellings – The Meadows, Southam Rd (22/3))
- 22/03132/FUL – Appeal – Land adj. to Keys House single self-build and garage (08/04)
- 24/01140/FUL – First floor Ext. and 2 story porch – Honesberie Too, Southam Rd (03/06)

Decisions

- 24/00473/TREE – Several tree works – Daneby House, Keys Lane (25/3)
Granted 02/05

The PC are concerned regarding the application 23/02291/FUL Agricultural land west of The Meadows, Southam Rd. Granted 8/12/23.

The issues are the access – was this on the planning application? There also seems to be a named sign “Meadowview” and post box at the access. The PC will ask Planning to investigate and Cllr. Kettle will discuss with highways.

8. Finance May and June 2024

Bank Balance as of 1 July £32,079.04

Receipts- £ £1390.08

HMRC VAT refund £1390.08

DD = £653.46

1&1 Internet £6.00 / £31.20

YU Energy May & June £8.44 / £8.64

YU Energy May & June £63.47/£59.40

Public works loan £460.31 (last payment)

HSBC bank Charges £8.00/£8.00

Payments £2,435.80

Staff Salaries & Expenses £655.40 / £28.20 / £549.20

Pete Brown Mowing £ 200.00 / £200.00

The Priors Hall (Post Office) £100.00

Internal Auditor F. Maxwell Middle £200.00

Grineaux Accountants £348.00

Nigel Whitehead Playground/Village Maintenance £ 155.00

10. AOB

- A representative of the PCC (Church) asked the PC this evening for a donation towards the works required on the Cedar trees in the churchyard. Chair asked for a formal request with a quote for works and what they are looking for as a contribution.
- The Parish News editors have requested a contribution from the PC for help towards printing costs of the magazine. The PC would prefer to signpost people to the digital version available on the website and could also be shared via email or what's app on request.
- The Village Hall committee have requested a letter of support from the PC in their funding application for heating and solar panels. Clerk will liaise with Village Hall committee to action.

The meeting concluded at 9.20 pm

The next meeting of the Parish Council is as follows:

Tuesday 10th September 2024

At The Priors Village Hall

7.30pm All Welcome