

***Priors Marston Parish Council Meeting
Tuesday 24th September 2024 at 7.30pm
At The Priors Hall***

DRAFT MINUTES

Present: Cllr. Laura Lucas, Cllr. John Franklin, Cllr. Pete Dunkley, Cllr. Robyn May
County Cllr Chris Kettle, District Cllr. Nigel Rock (NR left at 8.30pm)

In Attendance: Emma Hooker (Clerk) 11 Members of the public.

Meeting opened at 7.34pm

- 1. Apologies:** None
- 2. Declarations of Interest:** None
- 3. Approval of the minutes of the last meeting held on 9th July 2024**
Minutes approved by all present at the meeting as a true record and signed.
- 4. Outstanding Actions & Matters Arising**

- **Speed Survey – Feedback from Cllr. Kettle/WCC Road Safety/Police**

The data gathered from the 3-week survey has been analysed by the Road Safety team at Warwickshire County Council, and this was their official response:

We can confirm that we have been in touch with the Parish Council and have confirmed to them, and Cllr Kettle, that the speed limit is appropriate for the environment. A principal aim in determining appropriate speed limits should be to provide a consistent message between speed limit and what the road looks like, and for changes in speed limit to be reflective of changes in the road layout and characteristics. This includes the level of road-side development. In the case of Southam Road, with the lack of frontages and very small number of houses, there is little change for a driver to observe and therefore any reduction in the current posted speed limit would not be effective.

Please be advised that when considering requests for reduction in speed limits, various factors are considered, and in this case, the environment has been looked at and the official speed data reviewed, in conjunction with the Personal Injury Collisions.

We can confirm that the official data provided to the Traffic & Road Safety Team from the Traffic Surveys Team, which both Teams have reviewed, shows that there is good compliance with the 30mph Speed Limit throughout the village of Priors Marston. This data therefore confirms that there is no speeding issue throughout the village.

(Karen Lee Road Safety Liaison Officer WCC)

Sally Rolfe – Road Safety Unity Warwickshire Police Response (summary)

The Council and the Police use slightly different criteria to determine any non-compliance issues that may need enforcement. The Council will always use the 24hr mean average over the period of the survey whereas the Police will use the 24hr 85th percentile figure for the same time span. This would then be put into context with the ACPO enforcement guidelines of 35mph in a 30mph and the casualty benefit to be gained with the allocation of limited Police resources.

The reason the Police use the 85th percentile figure is to give a better idea of how the vast majority of drivers are behaving on a road.

Cllr Kettle followed up:

Whilst there is a difference in opinion between the County and the Police on the level of compliance, with speed limits, Warwickshire Police are not going to provide additional enforcement resources to address the speeds recorded. The Police's particular concern is the non-urban feel at the start of the 30 mph zones.

After discussions with County Officers, it seems there are three options to follow from the Police's comments:

- 1) That the streets are "urbanised" at the start of the 30mph zones, by street lighting and other urban paraphilia;
- 2) That the 30 mph is moved to the start of the perceived urban area and the non-urban gateways replaced with a 40-mph introductory zone; or
- 3) The 30-mph zone remains as is but additional 30 mph roundels to reinforce the existence of the 30-mph zone.

Simon the representative from the speeding group suggested there is an option 4 where the data is uploaded to the Road Safety Analysis team to provide an expert view on the data. The Parish Council suggested that as a group they could upload this data on the Parish Councils behalf. Cllr Kettle made it clear that having the data reanalyzed would not change the stance of WCC views, however he could possibly use his discretionary budget to help fund more signs (see Option 3 above) (ACTION Speeding group)

A further question was asked from the speeding group on using advisory 20mph signs. Cllr Kettle confirmed that WCC do not allow these signs – It is against WCC Policy and where any are seen on highways they are removed. Only the legal limit signage is permitted on highways,

The speeding group commented they thought the signs in the village were in poor condition generally. The PC asked them to audit these signs and come back to the Parish Council so this can be looked at. ACTION speeding group)

- **Drains**

Cllr Kettle thanked Cllr Franklin for continuing to push him on the plan of works for gully cleaning and jetting the drains in the village. The data has been given to Cllr Kettle on timetable of works, however he is disappointed as some drains have been missed

from the schedule and 4 or 5 are marked as not flowing. Cllr Kettle will continue to keep this on his agenda.

Flooding in the area has been pretty bad in recent days and he asked that he is kept informed of flooding areas to help with future planning.

- **Maintenance of Footpaths/Greens**

The blue path along The Green has been tidied up and treated. The blue path opposite the Priors Hall on Shuckburgh Road will be next to be worked on and cleared.

The footpath (Sledging field) opposite the Priors School, up to Keys Lane was very overgrown. The PC have been in touch with the land owner and agreed a suitable timetable for regular cutting back to avoid this happening in the future.

5. District Cllr Nigel Rock Update.

- **General Election**

The election on 4 July 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 Jeremy Wright as Conservative MP, while in the Stratford Constituency part of the District there is a new Liberal Democrat MP, Manuela Perteghella. Manuela is the first female MP Warwickshire has ever had and as a serving Stratford District Councillor is fully familiar with local issues. We wish both MPs well in serving our communities. Your District Councillors have good personal relationships with both MPs and we hope we can continue to represent residents fully at all levels.

- **Annual Canvass**

The annual canvass allows Stratford-on-Avon District Council to keep the electoral register up to date, to identify who risks losing their voice at elections, and to encourage residents to register before it's too late. Residents may be contacted by post or by email.

If you're not currently registered, your name will not appear in any messages SDC sends. If you want to register, the easiest way is [online at www.gov.uk/register-to-vote](https://www.gov.uk/register-to-vote).

Recent home movers in particular are urged to check their details. Electoral Commission research has found that recent home movers are less likely to be registered than those who have lived at the same address for a long time.

Residents with questions about their registration status can contact their local council's electoral services team at elections@stratford-dc.gov.uk

Community Safety

Stratford-on-Avon District Council is supporting Warwickshire County Council in looking for experiences of survivors of Domestic Abuse to help inform local services and support. If you've experienced domestic abuse, or you know

someone who has - please help Warwickshire to better understand why people find it hard to reach out for support. This can be done by:

- Visiting www.talk2someone.org.uk
- Emailing VAWG@warwickshire.gov.uk

Our own Cllr Natalie Gist is the Portfolio Holder for Law & Governance. She is quoted: " Domestic Abuse in all its forms is more common than many of us could imagine. The suffering and trauma endured by victims continues long after any abuse ceases. There are many statutory services and support services in Warwickshire. Nevertheless we very much appreciate the help and experience of those who have survived domestic abuse, whether reported or not. It is essential that the lived-experience of survivors is the heart of improving local support and helps us to break down any barriers to that support that may exist."

If you are a victim of domestic violence or know someone who is, you can telephone the Refuge helpline on 0800 4081552 (Monday to Friday 8.30am to 8.30pm). A voicemail operates on this number. If you leave a message, please do let them know your name, number and a safe time to call and they will get back to you. Or you can email Refuge at DVS@refuge.org.uk. In an emergency always call 999.

The Skills Escalator Fund

Stratford-on-Avon District Council is working in partnership with Warwickshire Skills Hub to launch The Skills Escalator Fund. ***If you are a small/medium sized business, self-employed, or a voluntary or charitable enterprise, you can apply for up to £750 training support per person for up to 5 employees.***

The training which will be funded by the Skills Escalator Fund is led by you and the needs of your business. If you need support in developing a training plan, Warwickshire Skills Hubs team of Business skills advisors are on hand to shape a tailored training plan to reflect your business and employee's aspirations.

The program is available to businesses base in Nuneaton and Bedworth, Rugby, Warwick and Stratford post code areas (with up to 249 employees) who are seeking to invest in their employee's progression by supporting them to undertake further training which contributes to the needs of the business.

To find out more information and download the application form please follow this link: [Skills Escalator Fund - Upskill Your Business | Stratford-on-Avon District Council](#). Alternatively go to the District Council's website and type 'Skills Escalator' into the search box and follow the link. Or please contact skillshub@warwickshire.gov.uk

Planning Announcement from Government

Whilst revisions to the planning system were expected from the new government it is too early to say what this means for us. There are hints that some aspects will be positive, some less so. Positively, we have a local plan (some Authorities do not); we are well on track down the complicated process of producing a new local

plan (at a stage called reg 18); we have provided big housing numbers over recent years; and statements about the right type of housing in step with infrastructure are welcome. More concerning are: top down compulsory targets for housing numbers; a statement indicating that we just might have to waste much time and effort a restart our new local plan (we need to be at Reg 19 stage); plus a concern that we might have to absorb even more homes from Coventry overspill. These proposals have been published in a revision to the National Planning Policy Framework which was put out for consultation on 30 July and closes on 24 September.

HS2

Nigel has attended meetings with Construction Commissioner, Sir Mark Worthington, the County Ecology and HS2 contractors, none of which offered much comfort. Projected road closures around Priors Hardwick, Wormleighton and on the Southam to Banbury Road are concerning. Your District and County Councillors continue to query the reasoning and validity to these. Nigel is presently hoping to attend a joint meeting between our County Councillor and MP later this month to discuss the issues affecting priors and Wormleighton.

5 County Cllr Christopher Kettle Update

HS2 continues to take up a significant amount of time with a continuing feed of new or changing impacts on the Road and Footpath networks.

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. The Construction Commissioner is aware and will be considering how best to address this issue.

The EKFB councillor liaison officer Simon Davies has now left EKFB leaving, regrettably, a number of unanswered questions about EKFB's work program.

The main delay has been on the new bridge near Lower Boddington for which the barriers have yet to be designed and delivered.

Once these barriers are put in place, there is now a new proposal to build a link road across the track, in addition to the other works, but this will require an additional all-round four-month road closure, separate to the 24-month closure of Stoneton Lane. This is not helpful news.

A new proposal discussed today is that Welsh Road from Priors Harwick to Upper Boddington will be improved possibly with the introduction of passing places.

This will provide a long term by-pass to the closure of Stoneton Lane.

In the shorter term at the beginning of 2025, there will be a three-month blanket closure of all roads between Wormleighton, Priors Hardwick and the Boddingtons, by passed also using the improved Welsh Road then using roads possibly thorough Claydon to access the Banbury to Southam Road. No traffic surveys have been done by HS2 on the feasibility of this approach or the timetable to improve the Welsh Road, before the blanket closure is implemented.

Cllr Andy Crump and I have met with Highways officers to address the speed limits on the A425 between the polo ground and Southam. This site is not active yet but when operational will see significant vehicle movements, hence the need for the speed reduction.

I have finally had feedback on ragwort clearance which has been a significant problem to equestrian properties and other farms close to the HS2 route. Sites should be assessed and monitored periodically, and ragwort growth addressed in line with the DEFRA Guidelines.

Continuous improvement measures for this season and into 2025 continue to be investigated including additional new machinery to manage ragwort. Furthermore, in light of the concerns raised from key stakeholders, HS2 have requested evidence of the implementation of the contractors processes for managing Injurious weeds and taking action in areas where further mitigation is required. I'm aware that EKFB and BBV have a dedicated team of operatives who manage vegetation within each sector. These teams have been undertaking regular mitigation of Ragwort throughout the spring/summer period and are continuing to do so. High risk areas are identified by the Agricultural Liaison Officers and mitigated by the maintenance teams. Due to the size and scale of land in possession by HS2 this remains an ongoing task."

Return to school.

I have had a number of requests for help with eligibility for school transport. If anyone is aware of families having problems, please contact me.

6. Highways

- Street Lighting

The following works are required and have been agreed by the Parish Council.

Unit 1 Hellidon Road – Needs new LED or Lantern (awaiting quote)

Unit 1 Keys Lane – Balfour beaty due out to inspect and report back

Unit 1 Vicarage Lane – New LED required (awaiting quote)

All other non-working units on Shuckburgh Road – (Units 4,8, 10) have been reported as fixed and working.

7. Planning Matters

New and Pending

- 24/00356/FUL – demolition of barn for four new dwellings – The Meadows, Southam Rd (22/3) further amendment 02/09 (No Objection)
- 24/01527/LBC – Beech Cottage, Hellidon Rd – Replace 3 timber frames (No Objection)
- 24/01917/FUL – Haremeadow, Marston Doles – Proposed agricultural barn and temp workers dwelling – 19/09 – Planning enforcement case – reviewed and reported to the PC no issues.
- 24/02113/TREE – Hill View, The Green – Several proposed tree works 20/09(No Objection)
- 24/02105/TREE – The Priors Hall – Fell Italian elder 23/09 (No Objection)
- 24/02151/TREE – 3 School Lane – Dead Cherry tree removal 24/09 (No Objection)

- 24/02280/LBC – Hardwick grounds, Installation of lift – (No Objection)

Decisions

- 24/00129/FUL – Construction of self-build dwelling, new access and associated works – Cosy Nook, Keys Lane – PC OBJECTION – GRANTED 19/07
- 22/03132/FUL – Appeal – Land adj. to Keys House single self-build and garage (08/04) APPEAL DISMISSED 02/09
- 24/01140/FUL – First floor Ext. and 2 storey porch – Honesberrie Too, Southam Rd (03/06) GRANTED 24/08
- 24/01270/FUL – Beechcroft – removal of garage 1st floor ext. GRANTED 19/07

The new owners of land at Chestnut Bank Field spoke to introduce themselves and hand the PC plans for their upcoming project on the land which has outline planning permission. The application will be submitted by the end of the year hopefully when the PC will comment.

Cllr Rock would like to discuss ways on improving the PC's policy framework and how we can better object to applications when necessary, using the parish plan and officer's comments to better effect. Cllr Franklin and Cllr May agreed to take part in a meeting with Cllr Rock. ACTION: Clerk to facilitate.

8. Finance July and August 2024

Bank Balance as of 1 September £32,132.55

Receipts- £3448.81 SDC Precept £3,448.81

DD = £151.90

1&1 Internet £12.00

YU Energy July/August £123.90

HSBC bank Charges July/August £16.00

Payments £3,243.40

Staff Salaries & Expenses July/August £ 1098.40

Pete Brown Mowing July/August £400.00

Nigel Whitehead Playground/Village Maintenance £245.00

WCC – Speed Survey £1500.00

8.1 The Parish Councils Internal auditor has audited the half year accounts and signed them off.

9. AOB

- Sarah Mills applied for the vacant position of Parish Councilor and has been co-opted onto the Parish Council with immediate effect. Register of Interest forms have been submitted.
- Cllr May highlighted the concern of the village of the recent thefts to Cllr Kettle and Cllr Rock, a horsebox and its contents being the most recent theft in Hardwick. Cllr Rock had a long meeting with the Police recently on this matter.

Cllr Kettle advised that the rural crimes team provide monitoring equipment and will come out to home/farm owners and attend future village events.

- The tree in the churchyard is still deemed as a danger to the public so the gate to the north of the churchyard will remain off limits. The PCC report they are awaiting a tree inspector to visit from WCC. They were advised this evening they need to contact SDC and not WCC for tree advice.

The meeting concluded at 8.50 pm

The next meeting of the Parish Council is as follows:

Tuesday 12th November 2024

At The Priors Village Hall

7.30pm All Welcome