

***Priors Marston Parish Council Meeting
Monday 9th January 2017 at 7.30pm
The Priors Hall, Shuckburgh Road, Priors Marston***

DRAFT MINUTES

In attendance: Cllr. Nick Fulford (Chair) Cllr. John Franklin, Cllr. Viv Nind, Cllr. Chris Williams, Cllr. Bob Stevens & Emma Hooker (Clerk)

Also Present: Mr. Ricky Emms (Head Teacher at The Priors School), Mr. Rob Butcher

1. Apologies

Apologies received from Cllr. Laura Lucas and Cllr John Appleton.

2. Questions from Residents

Clerk reported that Parishioner Mrs. Sue Smith had concerns regarding Application 16/03824/OUT. Agreed with Clerk to object via the Stratford Planning Portal and invited to attend a future Parish Meeting once the Full detailed application was in if she wished.

Mrs. Sue Smith also raised concerns on speeding into village from Southam Road. The Cllrs. discussed this and it was confirmed that we have the appropriate 30 mph signs along that stretch of the road.

Clerk reported that following on from an email from Mrs. Gill Breakwell where she expressed concerns over the state of the verges on Keys Lane (Due to contractors parking there) this had been reported to Highways and in future the Council will request that where there is extensive building works that verges are made good by the applicant's builders.

3. Declarations of Interest

None Reported.

**4. Priors School – Land Ownership and Lease Agreements
- Southam College Multi Academy Trust Consultation**

Copies of License to install and Use Playground and The Playing Field Lease were present at the meeting and disseminated to all Cllrs. present.

Mr. Emms spoke to the Council on the detail of the agreements.

Play Ground.

The agreement of the license was made on the 16th April 2002 (for a period of 25 years) the land is owned by the School (Earl Spencer) and the Council should pay £50 rent per annum to the School. The Council is obligated to ensure that the land is securely fenced, monitor all play equipment and ensure all insurance are adequately maintained. It was agreed that this all happens currently.

Playing Field Lease.

The lease came into effect on 1st December 2002 (for a period of 25 years)

Priors Marston Parish Council owns the land and the School should pay the Council £50 per annum for the lease. The Council is also obligated to pay half the costs of maintenance of the boundaries.

In Summary – The £50 per annum both parties owe are off set against each other.

Mr. Emms, Cllr John Franklin and the Clerk walked the site of the Playing Fields to assess the fence, which is in very poor repair along a lot of the boundary. Although the Council is not responsible for the entire fence, for which it is responsible it was agreed we need to look at replacing.

Mr. Emms reported that the fence is not suitable or adequate to ensure the safety of the pupils. Discussion took place on differing options including:

- 1) Similar fencing as is (2-meter high preference of the School)
- 2) Wire mesh (More durable)
- 3) Metal railings

The view of the Council is to maintain the rural feel of the School and not make it into a fortress. This will be weighed up with the security and safeguarding issues that are the requirements of the School. It was agreed Mr. Emms would write a tender document with the requirements and gain quotes, as he has contacts at the companies who specialise in Schools. These will be given to the Clerk for Cllr. Inspection and agreement (Quotes on all different types of fence and heights)

Mr. Emms invited any Cllrs. to walk the boundary, which they will do once quotes are in.

Southam College - MAT Consultation.

Mr. Emms presented to the Council the Schools views on the Southam College consultation. The main risks for the School could be families choosing Byfield School (currently a failing school that is in the MAT, under the proposal) as a guaranteed feeder school for Southam over Priors. Losing just five children to Byfield could mean a Teacher's salary in terms of budgets.

Although acknowledged that for the next few years no change is foreseen, with the current building within Southam it could soon become a problem for Priors families to get a place at Southam.. This is seen as unreasonable due to the nearest school being in Rugby, over 10 miles away.

The School has had a separate meeting regarding this matter and is gaining support from parents and has asked the Council to write in to object to the current proposal.

The view is that Priors School should be in the same priority as the feeder schools and not further down the admissions criteria, as it suggested.

ACTION: Clerk to write to Southam Trustees to object using the template on the School website.

ACTION: Clerk to publish on Council's Facebook page and send email to Villagers.

ACTION: Clerk to send Mr. Emms Priors Hardwick's contact to send information

5. Approval of Minutes of last meeting held on Monday 7th November 2016

Approved by all present and signed as a true account by Cllr Nick Fulford.

6. Matters Arising from previous meeting

- 1) WRCC – Housing Assoc. approach. At time of meeting no queries that the Council had raised have been responded to. Sarah Brooke-Taylor has promised Clerk response in the next week.
- 2) Knotweed – Clerk has been unable to contact house owners to establish if they still have a problem. Clerk to write and ask them to get in touch if there is still an issue.
- 3) Village Plans – Cllr Franklin has written a notice for inclusion in the next Parish News. Cllr Nind asked if we had a running total of the quantity of houses built since the Core Strategy was introduced in 2013. Cllr Williams will investigate and report back.

ACTION: Cllr Williams.

- 4) Web Site – Cllr Fulford and Clerk updated the Council on the work done thus far on the new website. Screen shots were presented and the feedback was very positive. Thank you to Simon Brown for all his hard work on the website. It was agreed to carry on with the aim to get the new website launched as soon as possible. The Council is liable for all content so must have sole control once the website has been built.

ACTION: Cllr Fulford and Clerk to meet with Simon Brown.

7. Precept 2017/18

The Clerk reported that the proposal for the forthcoming Precept would be £17,500 no increase from previous year. Cllr Fulford proposed this and seconded by Cllr Nind. Any costs for the boundary fence at the School would come from the Council's reserves.

8. District and County Councilor's Update

Update from Cllr Chris Williams

Cllr Williams asked that Councilors attend all Planning Committee's in future regardless of stance. Due to the time incurred to attend when the Council has no objection this was declined. The Clerk will however email 24 hrs. before the committee confirming we have no objection. If we are objecting a Councilor will do their best to attend, as they always do.

Health Matters – At a full meeting of the District Council in December a motion was passed regretting the decision by Oxfordshire County Council to support the recommendation by the Health Service in Oxfordshire to relocate the Maternity Unit at the Horton Hospital in Banbury to John Radcliffe Hospital at Oxford. This recommendation emphasised the impact of this decision whereby those patients living in Warwickshire who use the Horton Hospital will put undue pressure on existing services in Warwickshire. This decision to relocate to John Radcliffe Hospital was carried out without any consultation with neighbouring authorities.

Fiscal Matters – The District Council, unlike the County Council, is not subject to the same financial pressures. Unlike last year where the District Council was given dispensation to raise the Council Tax by more than 2% due to their low tax base, this year this dispensation has not been given and everything else being equal, I anticipate that the Council Tax will be kept to under 2%. There are no plans to cut any of our existing services although there will be savings by efficiencies over the next year.

Update from Cllr Bob Stevens

WCC Chief Executive retires in February 2017 and any new appointment will be deferred until after the elections in May 2017.

HS2 project is to receive Royal assent in February 2017. They have also appointed a new communications team.

Another £20 million savings has to be found on top of £80 million already made. Big pressure is adult social care followed by children's safeguarding. Council Tax rise will be 3.99% (1.99% + 2% adult surcharge) but could be higher if Council decides to take up extra 2% agreed by government. Budget debate is on Feb 3rd if an agreed decision can be reached.

Community grants - £5000 per councilor are still included but subject to agreement.

9. Planning Matters

NEW Applications

16/03824/OUT – Outlined planning for 4 new dwellings on land behind Japonica Cottage, Priors Marston.

16/04068/tree – Fell of T1 Salix 3 Manor Farm Cottages

Pending Decisions

16/032461 – Manor Farm – Demolition of agricultural building to build 5 new dwellings (16/11)

Council has been informed that this application will be withdrawn, with a view to re apply with changes as yet to be determined.

16/03164/FUL – Land off Welsh Rd West – Construction of stables and Ménage

16/0349/TREE – Rose Cottage, Southam Rd – Fell of Willow, Acers and shrubs

10. Finance

Bank Balance as of 1st January 2017 is £20,923.00

Receipts = £460.39

Priors Hardwick Village Fund £460.39

Cheque Payments November/December = £1267.86

RBL Poppy Appeal £18.50

Play Safety Ltd £79.80

Pete Brown (October) £200.00

MCI Electrical £94.97

Priors Hall Hire £60.00

Clerk's Wages & Expenses (November) £454.59

Chris Allen (Oct and Nov) £160.00

Pete Brown (November) £200.00

11. AOB

- 1) Criminal damage to the sign on land opposite The Orchard has been reported to the Police. A notice will go into the next Parish News. A sign will be ordered in the future.
- 2) Email from Mr. Maynard regarding the ongoing issue around parking on the land opposite his property (The Orchard) was discussed. Clerk to contact Mr. Peter Endall, WCC Solicitor for comment.
- 3) Outstanding Planning Application 14/03605/FUL at The Leys, Hardwick Rd. is still outstanding after 2 years. Cllr Williams will escalate this at SDC. Clerk has been informed that police and dog warden will visit the property to ascertain the level of dog breeding on site and vet the guard dog on site and report back to the Council.

The Meeting Closed at 9.23pm

The next meeting of the Parish Council is as follows:

Monday 13th March 2017 19.30, The Priors Hall, Shuckburgh Road,
Priors Marston.