

Priors Marston Parish Council Meeting
Monday 11th January 2016, 19.30
The Priors Hall, Shuckburgh Road, Priors Marston

DRAFT MINUTES

In attendance: Viv Nind (Chair), Laura Lucas, John Appleton, Elton James, Helen Keeves

Members of the public: Micky Broadhurst, Christopher & Barbara Salwey

1. Apologies

Cllr John Franklin, Cllr Bob Stevens, Cllr Chris Williams

2. Election of Chairperson

March 2016 Chairperson Cllr John Franklin, nominated by Cllr Nind and seconded by Cllr James

3. Questions from Residents

- a. Planning Application 15/04398/FUL
Erection of 2 x two bedroom dwellings – Land off Shuckburgh Road
Very concerned about this planning application, many inconsistencies in application. Parish Council advised to put all concerns in writing to SDC.
- b. Hedges & Trees
Keys House & Fir Tree on Southam Road require trimming as obscuring traffic/vision, HK to make contact with homeowners.
- c. Road Closure Notification
Road closure on Keys Lane in 2015 for the soapbox derby, advised would like more advance warning for any road closure. Cllr James confirmed the 2nd July had been reserved for 2016 soapbox derby. HK to clarify road closure notification process & procedures.

4. Declaration of Interests

None Declared

5. Approval of the minutes of the last meeting, held on 9th November 2015

Approved. Proposed Cllr Appleton, Seconded Cllr James

6. Matters arising from previous meeting

- a. Highway Issues

Signs/SLOW

Awaiting one SLOW sign (on the road) to be re-instated on the Southam Road, this will be completed by WCC spring 2016

Footpaths

Simon Brown has volunteered to review the footpaths within the village, identify their condition and report back to the Parish Council, he was unable to attend the meeting in January, so will hope to provide an update in March.

Village Green

WCC has written a letter to the homeowners of The Orchard asking that the stones be removed, which are obstructing the village green. WCC has asked for them to be removed within 14 days. HK to follow-up with WCC.

b. Defibrillator

Defibrillator has been installed, waiting for the Ambulance service to add the equipment to its database. Next action, include information in the Parish Magazine.

c. Maintenance

Village benches, signage, street lights all need to be added to the village maintenance plan, HK to review with Cllr Franklin.

7. Village Plans

a. Housing Needs Survey

In the previous meeting some additional comments were put to WCC for inclusion in the HNS before we adopted it. WCC are reluctant to add to the results of the Housing Needs Survey so all Cllrs agreed we will accept the housing needs survey as presented and update the village plan with our preferences as a Parish Council.

Agreed the Parish Clerk will prepare an overview of the findings for the Parish Newsletter.

b. Village Plan/Neighbourhood Plan

It was discussed and agreed by all councilors not to wait until the core strategy is adopted to update the Parish Plan or develop a Neighbourhood Plan but to agree a plan of action to move forward as soon as possible.

We have consulted with SDC planning to develop a way forward and are waiting further information. Once this has been received, we will organise a special meeting of parish councilors to discuss in detail and develop a plan to involve the community.

8. District and County Councilors – update

Cllr Chris Williams – District Councillor's Report

This is a relatively quiet time for the District Council. The main concentration has been preparation of next year's budget.

District Council Budget 2016-17 - The District Council, unlike the County Council does not have the same financial pressure although they are having to balance the figures bearing in mind the advice given by the Chancellor and the expectation that the settlement provided by central government will be significantly reduced. The government recognises that Stratford District Council has a significantly lower tax base than other authorities. Principally this has been

achieved by not implementing Council Tax rises over the past five years. In normal circumstances, any local authority tax increase has to be less than 2%. However, this year the dispensation allows a tax increase, which, if accepted at the Budget Meeting, would be 3.14% and amount to less than 11p per week for Band D. Stratford would continue to be the lowest taxed authority in the West Midlands.

Core Strategy Progress – There will be a Public Examination to hear responses to the modifications proposed in August 2015 and this is reflected in the proposed programme. Whilst, taking account of the requests to attend the hearing sessions the programme includes scope to look at one retained allocation, the emphasis is on the modifications proposed earlier. It must be stated that originally 70% of the Core Strategy has already been accepted and these present modifications amount to no more than amendments recommended by the Inspector in his Interim Report dated March 2015.

Cllr Bob Stevens – County Councillor's Report

Warwickshire County Council Budget - The County treasurer is still trying to decipher the Chancellors statement re the Budget settlement. It seems that WCC has to find an extra £12 million for the next 2 years. By using £5million of reserves this years budget will remain more or less as planned. Next year we will have to find the full £12 million. (our total budget is in the order of £350 million.) Most of the budget (over 50%) goes on Adult social care. Government has agreed that a special year on year levy of 2% on the council tax can be raised. This will hardly cover the new Minimum working wage and leaves the additional pressures of increasing numbers to be funded. We are also working with the Health Authorities to maximise savings and efficiency through more joint working especially with respect to Hospital discharges and subsequent care in the community.

There is also continued pressure on the children's services and the establishment of a Multi agency Safeguarding Hub(Mash) as the number of reported child abuse cases continues to increase. These cases now have to be investigated immediately regardless of their credibility. (More time, more Staff, more money). The overall outcome is that 2016/17 budget will be tight but manageable with a total Council tax rise of 3.5 - 4% and further cuts are in prospect for 2017/18.

Combined Authorities - Warwickshire County Council is still opposing joining any form of combined Authority with Birmingham and the West Midland Metropolitan Authorities. I can see no advantage in joining one and although not being sold as a political union, like the EU, I believe it will be seen as one eventually. An elected Mayor seems to be a prerequisite. I do not believe our not joining would lead to less capital investment in Warwickshire but has the [potential for more housing as the Mets. Birmingham and Coventry try to meet their housing targets

Council Grants - I am expecting there to be another round of Community grants this year (£5,000 per Division) – applications will be required in July/August and a delegated highway Budget (£32,000 per division) – applications required via me ASAP if any.

9. Planning

Planning applications currently with Stratford District Council

- 15/04398/FUL Land off Shuckburgh Road – 2 x two bed (25 Jan)
- 15/04090/FUL Bicknell (12 Jan)

10. Finance

Bank Balance as of 1st Jan 2016 = £19,486.23

Receipts

2013/2014 VAT £371.40

Cheque Payments Dec/Jan = £1701.05

Pete Brown (Nov) £220.00

Wages (Nov) £420.65

MCI Electrical Installations Ltd £174.00

Chris Allen (Nov/Dec) £256.00

Pete Brown (Dec) £220.00

Wages (Dec) £410.40

11. Precept 2016/2017

Proposal is for the precept to remain at £17,500 in the coming year we have more streetlights to replace, playground repairs & a village plan to update. HK to circulate 2016/2017 budget and precept review.

12. Correspondence

None

13. AOB

Village Bins

Have given the go ahead to SDC to service the bins. Meeting with Angela Lloyd, Streetscene Contracts Officer – 14.01.16 – Service to start 1st April *Pete Brown to continue with current service until then

Crime Prevention Talk & Marking Day where property such as bicycles, lawn mowers, power tools can be securely marked – Saturday 16th April, The Priors Hall, 10 – 12

Playground Repairs

Meeting with Bob from Playscape Designs to review playground maintenance on 14.01.16.

The meeting closed at 21.05

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be Monday 7th March 2015, 19.30, The Priors Hall, Shuckburgh Road, Priors Marston.