

Priors Marston Parish Council
Annual General Meeting
Friday 29th May 2015, 19.30
The Priors Hall, Shuckburgh Road, Priors Marston

DRAFT MINUTES

In attendance: John Appleton (Chair), Viv Nind, Laura Booth, Helen Keeves, Cllr Stevens, Cllr Williams

Members of the public: Simon Ducker, Rachel Ducker

1. **Apologies:** Elton James, John Franklin

2. **Welcome from the Chair**

John Appleton introduced the Parish Council and opened the meeting

3. **Declaration of Interests**

None

4. **Approval of the minutes of the last AGM, held on Friday 26th September 2014**

Approved – Proposed VN, Seconded LB

5. **Chairman's Summary of the year**

John Appleton presented the village annual report for 2015

At the recent elections, Priors Marston Parish Council was uncontested. We now have a membership of five councillors and for the next four years they are as follows:-

John Appleton, John Franklin, Elton James, Laura Lucas, Vivien Nind.

Helen Keeves has formally been appointed as Parish Clerk after successfully completing a 6-month probation period.

We previously co-opted John Appleton to the parish council. He has many years of experience of working within Warwickshire County Council and brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to Priors Marston Parish Council.

Brett Smith has left the Parish Council. We thank him for all his hard work and wish him well for the future.

In the last year the Parish Council has:-

- ✓ Maintained and repaired the playground
- ✓ Introduced some new reduce speed now signs and refreshed the SLOW on the road signs to encourage drivers to drive responsibly through our village
- ✓ Repaired and repainted the bus shelter
- ✓ Replaced two street lights with new LED technology to comply to current environmental standards

- ✓ Registered the war memorial with the War Memorial Trust and arranged for it to be cleaned
- ✓ Reviewed and commented on 28 planning applications and attended a number of Stratford District Council (SDC) planning committee meetings

The Parish Council has a duty to protect and enhance our village and its surrounding environment wherever possible. The National Planning Policy Framework requires Priors Marston to have a village plan to help shape future development. Our intention is to update our parish plan following publication of SDC's core strategy planned for 2015. Our current parish plan is still valid, but would undoubtedly be strengthened by being updated.

In the coming months we plan to:-

- ✓ Complete the installation of the village defibrillator, to be located in the red telephone box
- ✓ The previous Housing Needs Survey was carried out 10 years ago so we intend to conduct another one to review the requirements of the village. This is particularly important given the housing allocation to be imposed on our village by Stratford District Council's core strategy.
- ✓ We plan to review the village website, working closely with local groups, to develop a more interactive and informative site which represents Priors Marston and village life
- ✓ Update the emergency plan for the village
- ✓ Replace a further three street lights with LED technology
- ✓ Complete the kerbing in School Road
- ✓ Continue to monitor any wind turbine planning applications

6. Accounts for year to 31st March 2015

The accounts are attached to the file set of minutes and forms part of them.

7. District Council – Cllr Chris Williams

a. Core Strategy

The Council is preparing a series of planning documents to guide development and change in the District up to 2031. They will determine where new homes are built, where new jobs are created and how people can travel to get to the things they need.

The first and most important of these documents is the Core Strategy, because it will set the course for everything to follow. It will present a vision of how we want the District to look and function in future years.

There are some big challenges facing our District, which the Core Strategy needs to address:

- Where should new homes be built and new jobs located?
- How can we meet the housing needs of local people?
- How can we reduce the impacts of climate change?
- How can we make sure everyone can reach the services they need?
- How do we protect our rich heritage and landscape

Examination Hearings were held throughout January 2015 and the Examination Inspector published an Interim Report on 19 March 2015.

The Inspector has invited the Council to do further work on the Core Strategy, particularly in relation to the housing requirement and the Sustainability Appraisal. The inspector believed an additional 14,000 homes would be required in Warwickshire. A revised timetable for progress towards re-opening the examination and adoption is being determined, however we are still confident that the final document will be approved in the autumn.

b. Boundry Reviews

The Local Government Boundary Commission has consulted on new ward boundaries for Stratford-on-Avon District. The Commission's final recommendations propose that Stratford-on-Avon should be represented by 36 councillors in the future, seventeen fewer than the current arrangements. The recommendations also propose that those councillors should represent 36 single-member wards across the district.

c. Council Tax

We have again frozen the District's share of the council tax, resulting in an additional £67,723 council tax freeze grant.

d. Election

On the 7th May 2015, all of the residents within the Stratford-on-Avon District Council voted not only for their Parliamentary candidate but also for their new District Councillor. I am pleased to say that I have been re-elected as your District Councillor for the next four years in the Napton & Fenny Compton Ward.

The result produced a significant change in the political balance at Stratford District Council as The Conservative Party won 31 of the 36 seats on the newly-constituted council, leaving the Liberal Democrats with only three councillors, Labour with one and the Independents with one.

8. County Council - Cllr Bob Stevens

a. Planning Applications

2014/2015 has been dominated by a large number of planning applications that are being submitted in Southam and surrounding villages. Although, at present, not directly effecting Priors Marston the knock on effect on highways, schools and health are bound to impact your daily lives.

b. HS2

Continuing to gain momentum with a view to start building in 2017 with 40% of phase 1 in Warwickshire.

c. County Council Budget

Over this last year the council has been proceeding to implement its 4 year plan to accommodate a £90 million reduction in the grant from central government in a £320 million annual budget. This has resulted in cutting all non-mandatory services and consequently the number of posts reduced by around 1000 in a 6000 strong workforce. We are becoming more of a commissioning Council out-sourcing contracts wherever financially viable. We are also working in partnership with other local authorities to combine resources where possible.

d. Police Force

We have seen the merger of Warwickshire and Mercia police forces. A new chief constable took over Warwickshire and the police services like the county council is having to find savings without effecting the front line services.

e. Fire Service

The Fire Service is also undergoing fundamental reorganization and successful negotiations with the FBU have led to a more efficient shift and manning system. There are also talks progressing over collaborative working with Hereford & Worcester Fire Brigade. Leamington Fire Station will receive a major refurbishment and a replacement training centre is proposed near Ryton on the A45.

f. Chairman of Warwickshire County Council

I was on the County Council cabinet and my portfolio, as well as HS2, was Public Health and integration of Health with Social Care, Children's welfare and Safeguarding, and the council's commitment to honouring the covenant for military personnel who have served or are serving. At the AGM I was honoured to have been elected Chairman of the County Council, so for the next year will be in a non-political role.

9. Parish Council Meetings 2015/2016

Parish Council Meetings will be held on the second Monday of the month, bi-monthly at 7.30. As follows:- 13th July 2015, 14th September 2015, 9th November 2015, 11th January 2016, 14th March 2016, 9th May 2016, 11th July 2016, 12th September 2016, 14th November 2016. The meeting dates will continue to be advertised on the village notice board.

10. AOB

a. Street Lights & Maintenance Costs

It was noted that Street Lighting costs for 2014/2015 were significantly higher than previous year. This is due to the replacement of two mercury lanterns at St. Leonards Close, which have been replaced with LED lanterns to comply with current legislation. The clarification of costs are as follows:- Total spend 2014/2015 £1496.49. £591.04 of which are electricity costs and £905.45 for the two replacement lanterns including fitting.

The meeting closed at 20.15