

Priors Marston Parish Council
Annual General Meeting
Friday 26th September 2014, 19.30
The Priors Hall, Shuckburgh Road, Priors Marston

DRAFT MINUTES

In attendance: John Franklin (Chair), Viv Nind, Laura Booth, Helen Keeves, Elton James, Brett Smith, Cllr Stevens, Cllr Williams

Members of the public: Malcolm Monkhouse, Mike Morgan, Maggie Thompson

1. **Apologies:**
2. **Welcome from the Chair**

John Franklin introduced the Parish Council and opening the meeting

3. **Declaration of Interests**
None

4. **Approval of the minutes of the last AGM, held on Friday 26th April 2013**
Noted by the village

5. **Chairman's Summary of the year**
John Franklin presented his report to the meeting

Since the last annual meeting we have had the sad loss of Anne Gibbs who had been a Parish Councilor for many years. As reported last year, our recommendation to move from 6 to 5 Parish Councilors was accepted by Stratford District Council on the basis of the size of the electorate. As a result we now have a membership of 5 councilors.

Cllr Viv Nind, Cllr Laura Booth, Cllr John Franklin, Cllr Brett Smith, Cllr Elton James

Mrs Jennie Ellard resigned as Parish Clerk and Finance Officer and we welcome Mrs Helen Keeves to the role. I am sure you will join me in thanking Jennie for all her hard and dedicated work during her years. We send Jennie our good wishes and grateful thanks.

In the last year the Parish Council has

- ✓ Provided a permanent arrangement of Christmas Tree lights to support the Christmas Fair & any other village festive activities
- ✓ Supported the Village Hall by providing a bookcase for the book exchange scheme
- ✓ Repair/replaced village benches as necessary
- ✓ Reviewed and commented on 44 planning applications and attended a number of SDC planning committee meetings
- ✓ Researched the provision of a defibrillator and decided to install a unit in the coming year

As a Parish Council we have 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 Local Plan following publication of SDC's core strategy planned for 2015. Our current village plan is still valid, but would undoubtedly be strengthened by being updated.

Following the resurfacing of the Welsh Road we requested that the County Council should reinstate the center white lines, on the corner before entering the village. The Parish Council and a number of residents are concerned on safety grounds especially on this approach into the village. Despite repeated requests for this, the county council have not accepted our proposal but have offered to introduce some New Reduce Speed now signs and to refresh the SLOW on the road signs to encourage drivers to drive responsibly through our village. Work is due to be completed by November.

In the coming months

- ✓ 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.
- ✓ We will repair & repaint the bus shelter and tidy up the surrounding area.
- ✓ We will register the War Memorial with the war memorial trust so they have an historical record of the memorial and arrange for it to be cleaned in preparation for the remembrance service in November.
- ✓ We will continue to monitor any wind turbine planning applications

We are in the process of updating the Emergency Plan for the village. We would like to include a list of specialist trades/contacts who would be willing to help in an emergency. If you wish to be included please contact the Parish Clerk.

In the September issue of Parish News we covered the community grants scheme, the new UBus service, and maintenance of the community playground. We will continue to use this publication given its widespread distribution, so please look out for Parish Council news.

6. Accounts for year to 31st March 2014

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

7. Report from District Council – Cllr Chris Williams

The report is attached to the file set of minutes and forms part of them.

8. Report from County Council - Cllr Bob Stevens

The report is attached to the file set of minutes and forms part of them.

9. Parish Council Meetings 2014/2015

Reviewed Parish Council Meeting days and times and going to set meetings on the second Monday of the month, bi-monthly at 7.30. As follows:- 12th January, 16th March, 11th May,

13th July, 14th September, 9th November. Will advertise the meeting dates on the village notice board.

10. AOB

10.1 Footpath Closure

It was noted that a footpath was closed in the village with no prior warning. The Parish Council does not always receive advanced notice of a footpath closures.

10.2 Parking on Footpaths

Concerns were raised regarding vehicles being parked on footpaths in the village, this is a police matter and their responsibility to enforcement this, therefor please report any incidents to the local police.

10.3 Footpath Overgrown

It has been reported that the bottom field footpath is overgrown and requires some maintenance. The Parish Council do not have any resources to complete this task, this need to be reviewed with Warwickshire County Council.

10.4 Rural Crime

It was reported that there are 20 people who are conducting the local crime in the area and why is nothing being done about this? Advised there is no evidence to support this and it is a local police matter.

10.5 Speeding through Village

What is the Parish Council going to do regarding the speeding through the village? We have engaged Southam Police to monitor speeding. Also we have spoken to Warwickshire County Council and arranged new road signs and the SLOW sign to be repainted on the road.

10.6 Road Signs

Why are the white lines not being installed in the center of the road on the Southam Road where the road narrows? We have been advised that the road is too narrow to install a white line; we are adding new signage and repainting the SLOW on the road sign in the hope to slow the traffic down in that area.

10.7 No Participation in meetings

Why is there no local participation in meetings? It was advised that the bi-monthly meetings are well advertised in advance, It was commented that the Parish Council do a remarkable job with a council of five members.

10.8 Christmas Lights Switch-on

Paul Richards is keen to provide a display of Christmas lights, to raise money for both St Leonard's and The Priors School and was looking to co-ordinate this with the switching on of the Christmas tree lights and any other Christmas activities in the village.

The meeting closed at 20.35