

***Priors Marston Parish Council Meeting
Monday 12th March 2018 at 7.30pm
The Priors Hall, Shuckburgh Road, Priors Marston***

DRAFT MINUTES

In attendance: Cllr John Appleton (Chair) Cllr Nick Fulford, Cllr Viv Nind, Cllr Laura Lucas, Emma Hooker (Clerk)

Apologies: Cllr John Franklin

1. Declarations of Interest

None Declared

2. Questions from Residents

1) Concerns over the recent flooding within the village have been received. The Holloway and Vicarage Lane the main roads affected. Clerk has reported this to Patch Byrne (Highways) on the 12th March. Details of the response will be reported back to the village.

2). A query over how the Parish Council informs residents of any available properties on Bradshaw Close was raised. Discussion took place on the role of the Parish Council when alerted to a forthcoming available property.

Agreement was made that we will continue to inform residents via the web site and email distribution when we are alerted by either SDC or WRCC. The communication will make it clear who people need to speak to if interested and signpost to relevant authorities.

3. Approval of the minutes of the last meeting held on Monday 8th January 2018

Minutes were approved by all present as a true record and signed by Cllr Appleton

4. Matters Arising from previous meeting

1) Village Plan Update:

Cllr Fulford gave update to the Council. Thank you to all the volunteers who have given their time to distribute and collect the questionnaires over the last few weeks. The initial response is looking around 75%.

The questionnaires have been taken to SDC who will now collate the responses.

2) ROSPA Report Play Area

Work has been completed on the play area in response to the issues raised within the ROSPA report.

5. Code of Conduct and Register of Interests

The Parish Council voted unanimously to adopt the SDC's new code of conduct which had been distributed prior to this meeting. A copy of the code of conduct will be placed onto the Parish website in due course.

Register of Interest forms were given to Councillors to complete and return to the Clerk as soon as possible.

6. District and County Councilors Update

Update District Councillor Chris Williams

Administration - As predicted last month, the District Council has decided that the Council Tax will increase for the tax year 2018/19 by 1%. This year this recommendation is one-third of the 3% increase permitted by government without holding a referendum. This increase equates to £1.36 per year, which is less than 3p per week extra for a property in Band D. It is interesting to note that Stratford has one of the lowest tax bases not only in Warwickshire but compared with the rest of the country. As with most other local authorities, it is facing significant financial pressures through a reduction in government funding. Fortunately, due to healthy financial reserves not only is the council able to set a low tax increase but also spend some of its reserves on helping the homeless together with investing in the Shakespeare Birthday celebrations.

Planning -The Council, as with other authorities, is mindful of the government direction that it needs to provide more social housing. Our Core Strategy originally planned to suffice until 2031 will probably have to be revised at an earlier date to accommodate the demand for social housing. Birmingham City Council has approached SDC as to whether or not land can be made available within the Stratford District to meet Birmingham's housing crisis. The only land that can be considered is Green Belt land in the north of the district. I will advise you of developments as they occur.

Policy Issues - The Cabinet, today, considered the Stratford-on-Avon Area Transport Strategy. This document plans the strategy for transport for the future. Consultation will take place after the document has been presented to the full Council for approval on 24th April 2018. The document can be read on the SDC website and the Parish Council will have an opportunity to contribute. I must stress it is not just the town of Stratford-upon-Avon but the whole district.

Update County Council Councillor. Bob Stevens

Council Budget

Generally Warwickshire is performing well. Unemployment is 2.9% compared with a national average of 4.5%, productivity is 10% higher than the West Midland average, business base has grown by 5% in the last 12 months and there are now 25,585 businesses registered in Warwickshire. Warwickshire is a popular county in which to live. As well as wealth creation, the expanding population and hence housing numbers brings its problems to the infrastructure, especially traffic on our roads. The budget set out to maintain the growth in Industrial base and at the same time invest in the health and well being of the residents.

Warwickshire's total budget is £342,532,013 (£469,728,105 if you add in the schools) £132,594,995 is spent on Adult care and £56,698,493 is spent on children's Welfare i.e fostering, adoption, safeguarding etc. As well as investments in infrastructure planning, mental health and broadband improvement there will be an increase to £6000 for the community grant available to County Councillors.

To balance the books and fulfil our legal obligations as well as maintain growth and well being of the less well off an increase in revenue of £45 million is required over 2 years. Departments are to save £25million; increase in housing numbers will produce £9million; and as 4.99% increase in Council tax a further £10 million. Any shortfall will be taken from reserves (this will be predominately for one off items)

Warwickshire County council were one of the first Shire Counties to set their Budget for next year and thus the Council tax. Since then our neighbouring Shire and unitary authorities have set comparable rises. Use of reserves for revenue is a short-term measure as reserves don't last forever! Once again most of the savings are being made at the expense of staff redundancies and early retirement. As a consequence, although front line services are maintained, experienced and long serving staff are leaving thus creating a lack of continuity.

Blue Light Services

It was announced at the end of last month that a memorandum of understanding has been agreed between the West Midlands fire service and Warwickshire fire service. In the short term this will have little effect on our fire service, indeed it will improve cross border cooperation, and could streamline response time. However having combined the ambulance service, signed a cooperation agreement with the West Mercia police, is this the beginning of a West midlands combined blue light authority? Watch this space!! Warwickshire fire service is due a government inspection later this year.

Schools

Secondary school places were announced on March 1st. Southam college once again is taking its maximum number (270). Many local primary schools are opting to become academies and part of a Multi academy trust. The School in Priors Marston is already a free school.

Weather

This last month has seen some unprecedented bad weather and once again credit must go to the Gritting team for their around the clock operations. Communities have rallied to the emergency and in particular 4X4 drivers and farmers have responded to calls for help. One of the consequences will be the deterioration in some of the roads and an increase in potholes. Please continue to report the bad ones but expect a delay in their repair as the teams prioritise work across the whole of Warwickshire.

Highways

I have taken time recently to drive around the Feldon division both at 8 in the morning and tea time.to assess for myself the overall situation on the roads. There is no doubt that the Fosse way is becoming overloaded and drivers are seeking alternative routes through the villages. I believe this will get worse towards the end of the year when HS2 construction begins in earnest. As well as the volume of traffic, speeding and impatient driving exacerbate the problems. Speed awareness is a topic on this weeks Feldon and Southam community forum to be held at Southam primary school on March 14th.

7. Planning Matters

NEW Applications

17/03471/FUL Salford Cottage, Keys Lane – Single Extension NO OBJ

18/00213/FUL Marston Farm – demolition of agricultural building and replace
No OBJ

18/00268/TREE – 1 Grange Cottage – Crown T1 Apple tree – NO OBJ

18/00252/OUT – Outlined permission land rear of Japonica up to 4 dwellings –
OBJECT

18/00413/4/FUL- 1 & 3 Manor Cottages – Extensions and outside alteration – NO OBJ

18/00200/LBC – Southam Road – New front door to replace rotting door – NO OBJ

Pending Decisions

17/01373/FUL - Cosy Nook, Keys Lane – 2 Storey extension 08/09

Amended Application 14th February – NO OBJ

17/03075/FUL – Land School Lane – Erection one dwelling 22/11 – NO OBJ

Decisions

17/03663/TREE – T1 Fell Cherry Tree Court Leet Manor, Keys Lane GRANTED 25/01

18/0032/FUL – 6 Byfield Road, ground and 1st floor extension

GRANTED 21/02

8. Finance

Bank Balance of 1st March 2018 £18,097.64

Cheque Payments January, February = £ 2445.50

Direct Debits = £71.86

1&1 Internet - £71.86

Cheque Payments = £2445.50

Clerks Wages (January 2018) £399.60

Playscapes Designs 40% payment for ROSPA repairs £2045.90

9. AOB

1. GDPR – Clerk alerted the Council to the new GDPR regulations (General Data Protection Regulation) that come into force at the end of May. This may require changes to how we manage information. Clerk and Cllr Fulford are attending training in May.

2. The recent spate of Burglaries in the village is causing great concern. The Police have advised that all suspicious behaviour is reported through the 101 telephone number. The Southam and Feldon Police Community Forum are holding an open evening on 14th March – details have been put on Facebook and emailed to the village.

3. Planning Enforcement – land adjacent to Plum Tree Cottage has been reported to Planning enforcement due to the amount of trees that have been taken out. Graeme Duerden from SDC is investigating and has been out to visit the site. Clerk to chase.

4. The Hollybush pub is now owned by Heineken. The Parish Council have registered the pub as a village asset. Clerk to contact Heineken to see if we can get anyone to meet with the Council to discuss their intentions.

The Meeting Closed at 8.50pm

The next meeting of the Parish Council is as follows:

Monday 14th May 2018 at The Priors Hall – 7.30pm