

PRIORS HARDWICK VILLAGE MEETING  
Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> November 2021  
In the Church of St Mary

Present

Stuart Hyde (SH), Chair  
Margaret Clarke (MC), Secretary  
County Councillor Chris Kettle (Cllr CK)  
District Councillor Nigel Rock (NR)

Rob and Anita Barritt; Isabel Davies; Jamie Gibson; Barbara Harvey; Tonia Hicks; Charles and Gail Holland; Paul and Rosemary Hobday; Christopher and Gabrielle Hodgson; Libby Jameson; Candy Kelly; Ian Mercer; Joy Redfern; Andrew Smith; Sue Talbot; Alan Towler; Eddie and Ann Ukleja.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1. Apologies were received from:

Carolyn Bath (CB), Treasurer  
Rob Albury; Richard Cutt; Simon and Angela Darbishire; Hugh Darbishire; Lyn England; John Eustace; Ivan Harvey; Alan and Gill Kinnear; James Mayne; Graham Olver; Max Pemberton (belated); Lucie Penruddock; Sylvia Sutherland.

2. The Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> July had been circulated and were taken as read.

It was proposed by Alan Towler, seconded by Christopher Hodgson and generally agreed that these were a correct record of the meeting.

3. Matters Arising

i. There had, in the recent past, been incidents of vandalism in the church(minor) and in the Butchers Arms car park. The chairman asked that all residents exercise vigilance around the village and report any unusual behaviour either to him or to the police.

ii. Richard Cutt had sent a request to be included in any information or progress in work on No Man's Land and Future Hardwick.

iii. The Fessey Charity: MC enquired that, if the charity succeeded in changing its beneficiaries to young people in education rather than those in need, the names of beneficiaries would be made public.

4. Finance Update

CB had sent a report to the effect that the current account stands at £3,776 (including £450 earmarked Future Hardwick grant money) and the reserve account at £5,501. These are updated figures to those reported at the meeting due to a miscommunication.

5.a. District Councillor Rock's report

Covid 19 NR reported that infection numbers had been raging in the District, mainly among the over 60's and school-aged children. Locally they had reached 800 per 100,000 but had recently begun to fall. Of those infected a great many had not been vaccinated. It was estimated that there was at least another six months before any significant return to 'normal' might be expected.

Boundary Changes Discussions were ongoing regarding the merger of Warwick and Stratford-on-Avon District Councils. The public consultation period had expired and a decision would be taken in December which would be submitted to the government for approval.

There was also a move to reconsider county boundaries. The Boundary Commission for England (BCE) was currently conducting a review to make recommendations to the government for new Parliamentary constituency boundaries by 1 July 2023. The distribution formula, intended to produce Parliamentary constituencies of similar sizes, would result in an increase in the number of constituencies in England (from 533 to 543). The rules also require that every recommended constituency across the UK – apart from five specified exceptions (two of them in England) – must have an electorate that is no smaller than 69,724 and no larger than 77,062. The potential result of this locally would be that the Fenny Compton & Napton Ward and the Long Itchington & Stockton Ward would unite. (Constituency Ward – Kenilworth & Southam; Local Authority – Stratford-on-Avon).

In response to a question about more information about the proposed ‘superward’ NR advised a search online for the Boundary Commission (source for the above statistics).

Nazarin Zaghari-Ratcliffe has been detained in Iran since 2016. This is a high-profile detention, with much media coverage, and efforts to secure her release continue. NR reported that some of her relatives live in this ward and asked for any help or support that we might be able to give.

Severn Trent Water NR reported on many and lengthy delays caused to traffic locally by Severn Trent works on the highway. It appeared that various agencies were being employed for small units of work to complete more complex repairs etc. These were not well co-ordinated, thus leading to lengthy periods of traffic disruption. In addition, road signs which had been in use were often left for lengthy periods after works had been completed. Means of alerting Severn Trent promptly were also difficult. NR was following up this situation.

#### 5.b. County Councillor Chris Kettle’s Report

Infections :Cllr CK advised the meeting that as a member of the County Council he holds the Portfolio for Community Safety. He thus reported:-

Covid 19 had been covered by NR.

Avian Bird Flu there had recently been 5 confirmed cases of Avian Flu in the UK and one of them in the Stratford-on-Avon District. Anyone with domestic birds was advised to keep a very close eye on them and anyone noticing dead wild birds was advised not to pick them up but inform the District Council. Cllr CK advised that the risk to humans was extremely low.

Postbag Regarding HS2 Cllr CK reported that he was pleased to belong to the ‘Southam 6’ – a group of councillors who are directly in contact with the HS2 management. He gave details of the lack of co-ordination and communication within the HS2 works which was causing enormous difficulties relating the closure of the Fosse Way and the A425 sometimes at the same time. There had also been failure by HS2 to communicate fully their proposed closures.

Highways Cllr CK was aware of and concerned about traffic speeding through the village especially on the Priors Marston to Wormleighton road – even since the installation of the 30mph limit. He would arrange for Jo Edwards to arrange a site visit with nominated village representatives. Regarding additional deterrents he considered rumble strips inappropriate due to the noise they would cause near to residential properties, but he’d be willing to have the ‘SLOW’ signs at both entrances to the village repainted at a cost to the village of £500 each. Additional standing signs could also be provided at a cost of approximately £500 each – the cost to be borne by the village. It was pointed out to Cllr CK that most of what he had proposed had already been promised as part of the work of installing the 30mph limit but had never been completed despite reminders from the village. The Councillor agreed to follow up the promised work.

Cllr CK informed the meeting that all work vehicles were covered by GPS and could be tracked. However, it was becoming apparent that some workers (Socotec/ HS2) were using their own vehicles. The response to this should be to record the registration number and report it via 101. Our local PCSO, Catrina Campion would then follow it up with a visit to the offender. We were also advised that we have a new Police Constable at Southam – PC Knight.

## 6. Planning

A revised application had been made but not yet publicised, for Little Meadow by Libby Jameson (LJ). The previous application had been withdrawn since the extension to the existing building fell into land forming part of the paddock curtilage. LJ was thus re-applying for the extension with the inclusion of change of use of the land on which the extension would sit from open countryside to residential use (approximately 2/3rds the size of a tennis court). A copy of LJ's presentation is kept with these minutes. LJ left the meeting

In the discussion that followed there was some support for the application and that it would be enhancement to the location in which it would be situated. There were also some concerns voiced as to the precedent caused with the change of use of the land in the immediate locality and mixed opinion about the potential increase of traffic in the narrow access road caused by an additional residential property. Concern was also raised around the fact that the formal application had not yet been received. After discussion, and in order that the Chair might make a response to the formal application when it arrived, without calling another meeting, it was agreed to take a vote on this matter with the caveat that the revised application would be reviewed to confirm the changes were as described at the meeting. The result of voting was:

Those objecting to the application – 3

Those with no objections – 10

Abstentions -6

## 7. Website and Digital Communications Role Update

AT reported that the Priors Help facility used during the pandemic had now been closed and the general use facility open to all on the email list was in use. There were 104 people on this list and since the last meeting it had been used 66 times – and to good effect.

AT announced that as from April 2022 he would be emigrating to Denmark, and therefore resigning from this post. The village would therefore need to appoint someone with the appropriate knowledge and skills to take on this very important role within the village. This would be an ideal opportunity for someone to be actively involved in village life and possibly learn new skills, or maybe for a younger person to take on as a D of E Award Scheme project.

The village was very appreciative of the enormous amount of work AT had done over several years to bring us to this point and members of the village were asked urgently to look for a worthy replacement for him.

## 8. Village Maintenance

1. No Man's Land JR presented her report, a copy of which is kept with these minutes. It related to the document introduced at the last meeting and recommended areas of work to be addressed: Hedgerows; the full extent of the area; Spring flowers; Summer meadow species; The damp strip along the old hedgerow and general maintenance.

It was hoped to keep a path for walkers 1-2m wide throughout the year by regular mowing. JR voiced her concern about a heap of garden refuse which had been left on No Mans Land following the clearance of the plot many months ago. There had been no attempts to clear it, nor to repair the damage to the land caused by machines when working on the plot.

Some volunteers had already contributed to the upkeep of the No Mans Land and it was hoped that others would feel able to participate as well. Those interested should contact JR on 01327 261834 or at

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2. Land South of the Lych Gate During the several years of negotiations regarding the transfer of the land from Lino Pires to the village, MC had endeavoured to keep tidy the two areas of garden. This was now 'getting the better of her' and someone was required with more time and gardening ability. MC asked if anyone would like to take on a pleasant task, well sheltered from bad weather and with the advantage of passing pedestrians!

#### 9. Highways

This had been dealt with in Cllr CK's report

#### 10. HS2

SH reported that the current phase of work at the end of the Leisure Drive would end on 16<sup>th</sup> November, but that temporary lights would be operating over the weekend of 6<sup>th</sup>/7<sup>th</sup> November.

SH had brought to the meeting a large document – Schedule 17 – of proposals for the next phase in the area. Comments from the public would be invited. The document is now kept at the back of the church, and village residents are encouraged to study it at their leisure. The church is currently open every day.

Upper and Lower Boddington had held a public meeting with representatives of HS2 relating to the document, which they had found useful and CK urged members of the meeting to view the document and to contact her if they felt a similar meeting here would be useful. CH voiced his concern about the height of the proposed embankment past the Stoneton area.

CH reminded the meeting that he is in contact with HS2 regarding a possible grant towards Project Enable – our proposals for the re-ordering of the church to accommodate more village activities. CH was currently awaiting the attention of the architect, promised for mid-November, in order to complete a significant document requiring the approval of the diocese. With this document satisfactorily completed, the formal application for a grant from HS2 could be initiated.

#### 11.A.O.B.

i. Village Directory There had been a very poor response in Priors Marston for a Directory and therefore the project for a joint directory had been abandoned. However, in Priors Hardwick just over 40 people had responded positively and several people had lamented the fact that the initial project had been abandoned.

The possibility was offered of establishing a directory for Priors Hardwick alone including contact details (duly registered under GDPR regulations) of those who had responded – but it could only be issued in hard copy and only to people included in it and officially for use for village matters only. With these restrictions it was felt that the project should not be pursued.

ii. Village Mulled Wine and Mince Pies Party Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> December A venue and details were yet to be decided. Four or five fire pits would be required. Offers were invited for both the venue and fire pits. Further details would be announced by email.

#### 12. The Date of the Next Meeting would be Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> January, in the church

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.20pm