

PRIORS HARDWICK VILLAGE MEETING
Draft Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday 17th January 2019
at 7.30pm in St Mary's Church

Present:

Mrs C Kelly, Chairman
Mrs M Clarke, Secretary

Mr S Crowshaw; Miss E England; Ms T Hicks; Mr and Mrs P Hobday; Mr C Hodgson; Mr S Hyde; Mrs L Jameson; Mr A Towler; Mr M Suddens; Mrs S Sutherland; Mrs J Wilkin

Mrs Kelly welcomed all to the meeting and thanked Mrs Clarke for turning on the heating in good time.

1. Apologies were received from:

County Councillor Bob Stevens, District Councillor Chris Williams

Mrs C Bath, Treasurer

Miss I Davies; Mr and Mrs I Harvey; Mrs G Hodgson; Mr D Kelly; Mr J Mayne; Rev C Parkes; Mr and Mrs E Pile;
Ms J Redfern; Mrs R White

2. Minutes of the Last Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 19TH October 2018 had been circulated prior to the meeting and were taken as read... It was proposed by Mr Hodgson, seconded by Mr Towler and generally agreed that these were a correct record of the meeting.

3. Matters Arising

Lower End, Corner outside Bramleys Mrs Kelly had alerted Patch Byrne to this matter but not until after Christmas, and he had been away. This would, however, be followed up.

The Boddington Road. Mr Hodgson alerted the meeting to the potential for more and larger vehicles to be using the narrow road to Upper Boddington, in view of the future HS2 works in our locality. He asked if Mrs Kelly might put in a request for passing bays along this stretch of road. Mrs Kelly would put this matter in hand.

Mrs Kelly reported to the meeting that she was attending HS2 meetings with other local community representatives to keep informed of HS2 works and plans. To date the same two HS2 representatives for our area were in post.

4. Finance

Mrs Bath had sent a written report which Mrs Kelly read to the meeting and a copy of which is kept with these minutes. Bank balances currently stood at £5,488 with little change now expected before the end of the financial year. Expenditure additional to that planned included bin emptying at £98.32 which represented 8 months of service.

Precept

The current precept was £1,750 which is more than sufficient for current requirements. However, in view of additional expenditure agreed by the meeting during the current year, including the community area, with maintenance and other associated costs, Mrs Bath sought approval for an increase in the precept from £25 per household per month to £30. This still compared favourably with the charge in Priors Marston which is £95 – but does include street lighting and some pavements.

It was proposed by Mrs Jameson, seconded by Ms Hicks and generally agreed that the precept be increased to £30 per household pa. for 2019-2020.

Mrs Kelly recorded the thanks of the meeting to Mrs Bath for all her work as treasurer for the village.

5. Councillor Williams' Report

Mrs Kelly had suggested that Cllr Williams did not come out on such a cold night, on view of his health, and reported verbally for him.

Firstly that the police contribution from the Council Tax had been raised to the equivalent of £2 per household from the current £1.

Secondly that the Council Tax levied by the District Council had been increased by 1.5%, which is well below the maximum increase permitted by the government.

Priors Hardwick Village Meeting 17.01.19 page 2

6. Councillor Stevens' Report

Cllr Stevens had sent a written report which Mrs Kelly read to the meeting and of which a copy is kept with these minutes.

General:

Senior staff posts are gradually being filled.

The report on the County Fire Service indicated that it meets all the required standards, although there is still room for improvement in administrative areas.

Work is in hand for next year's budget and the same pressures affect adult services and children in care, with increases in demand but not in resources.

HS2-

The County Council continues to monitor road closures and community communications. Southam School and Stagecoach are liaising over the potential disruption to school travel. To date WCC is paying for additional buses when required but it is expected that this will be refunded by HS2.

Highways

Major works as well as HS2 around the Feldon division, especially the A423 would cause disruption during the weeks following the meeting.

A programme for utilising government funds specifically for pothole repairs was being prepared. We were asked to report any requirements ASAP as potholes would be repaired on a priority basis and the money had to be spent in the current financial year.

7. Planning

Land opposite Parkes House

Mr James's application as discussed at the Village Meeting on 19th October had been refused. Thus, in order to preserve his approval for a house on the site Mr James had arranged for footings for the original application to be prepared. Mrs Kelly had agreed that these were in line with the original application and they had been approved by the planners.

Since then Mr James had further cleared the site including the hedge and ditch, for which he had provided a tunnel, and including a layer of topsoil over the verge in front of the plot leaving about a metre of grassed verge.

It was pointed out that the original plans indicated that the hedge and the ditch did not form part of the plot for which permission had been given. Mrs Kelly had pointed this out to Mr James who had said that he would plant a new hedge and that the ditch belonged to him.

Laburnum Cottage

Mr Crowshaw, the new owner of Laburnum Cottage had attended the meeting in order to explain his application for extension work at the property.

1. Proposed demolition of existing carport, utility room and entrance porch and construction of a new two storey extension. Plans of the proposal were circulated among the meeting and it was agreed that the application be supported.

2. Proposed construction of a new detached garage and store. There was concern that the height of the new building would detract from the amenity value of surrounding properties in St Mary's Close and Grove Cottage; also that the first floor might be used as living space. Mr Crowshaw explained that he was intending to replace the dormer window with a Velux panel and that this space had been provided as storage space given that there was no loft space in the main house.

Fears that the building would be too high were allayed and the meeting agreed to make no representation relating to this application.

Site Block Plan It was pointed out that in both applications the designated area of the site was incorrect. In fact it included two allotment plots opposite Nos 12-14 in St Mary's Close.

No Man's Land

Mr Taylor's plot Mrs Kelly had heard no more from Mr Taylor and would investigate as to when the permission expires.

Regarding the ownership of the main area of No Man's Land, the matter was still being reviewed with The Land Registry. A friend of Mr Mercer, a solicitor, was continuing to look into the details of this matter.

(On the day following the meeting Mr Taylor had contacted Mrs Kelly and informed her he was going to dig a trench and lay the drain down to No Man's Land. He apparently is proceeding with the original permission which expires in February – Mr Kember's expires in 2020. Mrs Kelly is liaising with the Councillors and Planning Department to ensure that all the conditions regarding the application are met.

Lino's Land

There had been no further news on this and Mrs Clarke would enquire again.

8. PCC Update

Mrs Kelly had included this on the agenda since the church was now providing additional events relevant to the village as a whole.

Mrs Clarke announced two seasonal events for Easter:

Sunday 14th April – Palm Sunday: in the evening the Windmill Singers would perform ‘Olivet to Calvary’

A work for soloists and choir which follow events from Palm Sunday to Good Friday

Sunday 28th April - At 5.00pm a ‘Carol Service’ for Easter using popular hymns and new hymns for Easter using Christmas tunes. Around 200 people had attended the Christmas Carol Service and it was hoped that many would return for Easter.

9. Fete

To date Mrs Kelly had received no replies to her request for volunteers to run the biennial fête for 2019. In answer to a question from the meeting Mrs Kelly confirmed that the date and type of event would be the choice of the organisers, but that she was sure that plenty of help would be available when initial plans had been established.

10. HS2

Mrs Kelly was conscious, in view of the current icy weather, that the road from the village approaching the HS2 camp at the T junction was not being gritted, and that with the entrance to the camp, so near to the junction extreme care would be required. It was the responsibility of HS2 to maintain the safety of the road around their entrance. Members of the meeting strongly supported this advice.

Mrs Kelly would continue to attend HS2 link meetings in order to have up to date knowledge of disruption to traffic.

11. The Community Area

Mr Hodgson gave his report, a copy of which is kept with these minutes.

The application for £40,000 from the HS2 Community Benefit Fund was being progressed, and work was in progress for the planning application, which would involve consultations with Historic England and Stratford-on-Avon District Council.

A letter of support had been received from our MP and Culture Secretary, Jeremy Wright. The equipment for the area would be supplied by Playscape Designs Ltd thanks to assistance from Mr Bob Michelmores of Priors Marston. Nathalie Bull, Miriam Price, and Carolyn Bath had all given their services free of charge but was expected that there would be a fee for the Planning Application, which could be met from the retained PHAG funds. It was hoped to begin work on the site in April.

Eco Loo Mr Hodgson had sought advice from WALC regarding a grant towards the cost of an Eco Loo and had been advised that we should ally ourselves with a local business. He thus contacted Emily Darbishire who is currently seeking a new supplier for the Glamping business at Hill Farm. It was thought that the Eco Loo might be sited at the edge of the Community Area nearest to the church and could thus serve the church as well.

Mr Hodgson also pointed out that the provision of a loo of any description would involve maintenance and cleaning responsibilities to which the which the younger generation would have to make a commitment.

12. SmartWater Update

Mrs Kelly had explored the options for marking items of property and had concluded that SmartWater was the best option, but prohibitively expensive if bought individually. Warwickshire Police, however, were able to sell it in bulk to councils, at a much reduced price of £8.90 as opposed to £25.00 per unit. However, councils were not permitted to sell on to individuals.

Mrs Kelly therefore proposed that the village make a bulk purchase through the precept, which would include a demonstration on use of the liquid and for an additional £96 a set of notices for houses and notice boards etc announcing the presence of this deterrent. It had been noted that the presence of such notices on properties and notice boards had reduced the number of thefts and burglaries in participating communities.

Mrs Kelly estimated that the cost would be covered by adding £10 to the precept already agreed in item 4 of these minutes. This would mean a total precept for 2019-2020 only of £40 per household.

Mrs Sutherland proposed, Mr Hodgson and Mr Towler seconded and it was agreed nem.con that, just for financial year 2019-2020, a £10 per household ‘SmartWater Supplement’ be added to the precept (ie to the new precept agreed earlier in the meeting). This would then bring the total precept to £40pa per household for just the one year.

Priors Hardwick Village Meeting 17.01.19 page 4

13. Website and Village email Update

Village email update Mr Towler reported that since the last meeting 45 messages had been sent round the village. There were still 23 people on the original list held by Mrs Kelly, who had still not signed up to the new system.

Mrs Kelly would look into each of these with the help of Mrs Clarke.

Seven new people had joined the list since the last meeting and the list now comprised 74 names.

Village Website The website is now working well. Mr Towler invited everyone to visit it and to let him know if they felt there was anything that required attention or that could be added.

14. Defibrillator

The meeting was in favour of having a machine which could be located in the telephone box. Mrs Kelly would look into this. It was thought that Alex McCurdie would be a good person to contact in the first instance.

15. A O B

Litter Mrs Kelly voiced the gratitude of the village to those who habitually pick up litter around the village. However, the roadsides beyond the residential areas bear witness of more careless behaviour. In the case of larger items, it is possible to telephone for collection such items. Mrs Kelly would be able to advise on this number.

Footpaths Ms Redfern was eager to re-establish a group of people who would like to walk the footpaths in and around the village. Mrs Kelly expected an invitation to be issued in the foreseeable future. Mrs Kelly reminded the meeting that when crossing fields dogs should always be under close control and all gates should be closed.

Refuse Bin Mrs Kelly confirmed that the bin near the Lych Gate, which is now emptied weekly by the Council, is designed to accept dog waste as well as general waste. However, she noted that currently it was being used almost exclusively for dog waste apparently by dog owners who lived in nearby. Mrs Kelly asked that this public bin should be used only when necessary for dog waste.

Bonfires Mr Suddens recalled times when garden bonfires had been lit indiscriminately causing nuisance to many neighbouring properties. He asked Mrs Kelly to look into any local regulations relating to the use of bonfires in rural communities.

The Fessey Charity Mr Harvey had sent word to say that when Mrs Bath returned from her holiday they would meet and allocate the interest from the capital fund as gifts to three worthy people in the village.

The Next Meeting of the Village would begin with the AGM and would take place on Thursday 25 April.

Please note the change in date due to availability of the church.

Anyone interested in taking on the role of Chairman or Secretary should inform Mrs Clarke by the end of Wednesday 24th April.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.49pm