

PRIORS HARDWICK VILLAGE MEETING
Draft Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday 19th October 2018
at 7.30pm in St Mary's Church

Present:

Mrs C Kelly, Chairman
Mrs C Bath, Treasurer
Mrs M Clarke, Secretary
County Councillor Bob Stevens

Mrs N Bull; Mr S Darbshire; Miss I Davies; Mr and Mrs I Harvey; Mrs V Flanagan; Ms T Hicks; Mr and Mrs P Hobday; Mr and Mrs C Hodgson; Mr S Hyde; Mr and Mrs C Penruddock; Mrs D Reece; Mr A Towler; Mrs S Sutherland; Mrs S Talbot; Mrs J Vandries; Mrs C Wareham.
Mr I Klegerman; Mr and Mrs J Franklin

Mrs Kelly welcomed all to the meeting.

1. Apologies were received from:

District Councillor Chris Williams
Mrs A Darbshire; Mr and Mrs H Darbshire; Miss E England; Mr J Eustace; Mr and Mrs A Hone; Mr D James; Mr D Kelly; Mr I Mercer; Mrs N Nichols; Rev C Parkes; Mr and Mrs E Pile; Ms J Redfern; Mrs H Stamper; Mr L Wareham; Mrs R White.

2. Minutes of the Last Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 26th July 2018 had been circulated prior to the meeting and Mrs Kelly reviewed them briefly. It was proposed by Mrs Sutherland, seconded by Mrs Talbot and generally agreed that these were a correct record of the meeting.

3. Matters Arising

Highways

Mrs Sutherland reported that the rut along the edge of the road outside her property was still a hazard to traffic and that the edge of the tarmac was now beginning to crack. Mrs Kelly reported that the rut was necessary to allow the flow of water from Hill House access road to escape to the drain at the bottom of High Lane. She would, however inform Patch Byrne of the situation.

Hollow Meadow Lane

It was informally agreed that this be the name for the narrow road leading from the road through the village towards the canal.

Hollow Meadow Lane had been repaired and resurfaced, and all concerned were delighted with the result. Mrs Kelly would contact Patch Byrne to pass on the gratitude of all concerned and congratulate him on an excellent piece of work.

4. Financial Update

Mrs Bath reported that there had been no unexpected expenditure, and that the balance currently stood at £4,600. Mrs Bath estimated that by the end of the financial year the balance would be in the region of £5,400

5. Cllr Williams' Report

Mrs Kelly informed the meeting that Cllr Williams was still unwell, requiring hospital treatment and a course of chemotherapy treatment. He was, however still very interested in our village affairs and liked to be kept 'in the loop' of what was happening. Cllr Williams still invites questions and queries from residents in his constituency.

Cllr Williams had for some time made it clear that when his term of office ends in 2019 he would not be standing again.

Mrs Kelly had, several times in the past, sent the good wishes of the meeting to Cllr Williams and she proposed to do the same following the current meeting together with a hamper of food, hopefully to assist Cllr Williams' return good health. The greeting would also include the gratitude of the village for all the help advice and support we'd received from Cllr Williams over many years.

6. Cllr Stevens' Report

Cllr Stevens had sent a copy of his report in advance of the meeting and a copy is kept with these minutes.

Cllr Stevens reported on:

- Significant changes in the management structure of the departments in the County Council.
- The County Council finances – which were currently healthy
- The decision by West Mercia Police to terminate the strategic alliance with Warwickshire Police. The precise reasons for this were not known, and there had been no decision as to future plans for the Warwickshire force.
- Cllr Williams reported that he was keen to see an alliance between the 'Blue Light services'

HS2

There had been a series of meetings at various levels to update local communities, but to date there were no agreed dates for any road disruptions.

The major work expected in the near future was the installation of an electrical supply to a large tunnelling machine for the two tunnels between the Polo Grounds and Offchurch. The cable would need to run between Bishops Itchington and Ufton.

Schools

Southam College had once again achieved excellent exam results, and education in Warwickshire continues to be good. In September all pupils who applied on time were allocated to the school of their first choice.

Fewer children are now being accepted from outside the county.

Budget Pressures

Both adult and children's services continue to create budget pressures.

The fire service is facing increased expenditure due to an increase in road traffic accidents.

The Highways department is within budget, but reduced staff numbers is leading to an increase in delays for lower priority work.

The recent Community Forum was well attended (30 people present). The next one will be in December. Most villages will be organising events to commemorate the ending of hostilities 100 years ago.

7. Planning Updates

Land opposite Parkes House.

Mr James had applied unsuccessfully in 2012 for a house on his plot and had applied again in 2015. It had been pointed out that this application would cause loss of light and view from the neighbouring property, Chinnery's. Mr James had now made alterations to the plans with a larger house sited nearer to the road side boundary, to answer these concerns. Mrs Kelly had consulted with Mr and Mrs Hobday, the owners of Chinnery's who were content with the proposal, apart from concerns relating to the additional pedestrian access across the wide piece of verge land between the plot and the road. Mrs Kelly had also consulted by email the majority of village residents, from whom she had received only a few and similar, comments. Mr James had informed Mrs Kelly that he agreed to omit the additional pedestrian access from the application. A further concern voiced at the meeting was that the stretch of verge land between the plot and the road should remain as such in character and use, giving access to the trees and the bush shelter. Mrs Kelly reported that Mr James had said that he would maintain the grass verge in front of the plot, but in response to a request, Mrs Kelly would include in her submission to the planning meeting that, if the committee was minded to grant the application, a condition be applied that the grass of verge area be maintained specifically as it had been for

District Council Planning Department had now given notice that they were minded to refuse the application, citing that the house was wrongly sited on the plot, was too large for the plot and would constitute an unacceptable difference to the street scene.

The Planning Meeting at which the application would be discussed was due to take place in the week following the current meeting. Mr James would be unable to attend the Planning meeting and would send his architect to speak for him. Mrs Kelly would use her original submission regarding this application, amended to include the opinions of the current meeting. However, Mrs Kelly also was unable to attend the meeting and would ask the architect would read this to the Planners.

Mr Hodgson proposed and Mrs Reece seconded the proposal and it was generally agreed.

Doe Bank Manor

The developers/owners currently had a prospective buyer, who was concerned about one feature of the property: that of a right of agricultural access from Hollow Meadow through the field onto the lane past the Old Dairy. The suggestion of a new gate onto the lane has been turned down by Highways as the lane is too narrow. The application has now been withdrawn.

No Man's Land Plot.

Here had been no further contact from Mr Taylor apart from one telephone call shortly after the last meeting. In order to progress his planning application, he needs to submit information on his construction method in order to avoid disruption in St Mary's Close and/or interference/interruption to other properties. The application only remains valid until the end of this year.

No Man's Land

In response to a question Mrs Kelly reported that she'd received a message from Mr Mercer to the effect that his friend, a solicitor, was still pursuing this matter.

Lino's Land

The two properties in the village were now for sale, so it was thought that the transferal of the land should soon take place. We had been informed that this matter was now in the hands of another solicitor, and it was hoped that this solicitor's fee, which the village had undertaken to pay, would be in line with the original estimates.

8. PCC Update

The Carol Service would take place as usual on Christmas Eve, beginning at 6.00pm

9. Fete 2019

It was hoped to hold the biennial fete in 2019 and Mrs Kelly was looking for a group of volunteers to organise this. Mrs Kelly would supply a float and would send an email round the village inviting volunteers. It was hoped that a new team of volunteers would emerge.

10. WW1 Centenary Celebrations

Saturday 10th November - The Concert with the Windmill Singers and the choir of Stoke St Michael would take place in the church on Saturday 10th November at 7.30pm No tickets would be sold, but there would be a retiring collection for Galanos House.

A pre-performance supper would be available at the Butchers Arms from 6.00pm.

Mrs Clarke sought volunteers to help setting up the church on the day and serving drinks during the interval and received an offer from Mrs Reece.

Sunday 11th November

There would be a service of Holy Communion in the church at 9.00am followed by the wreath laying at the War Memorial at 10.00am.

Hot dogs, Beacon & Bonfire Mr Hugh Darbishire had kindly offered, once again, to organise the beacon and bonfire on the hill adjacent to Hill House.

Prior to the event, in the site for the Community Area, hot dogs would be served, from 6.00pm. Offers to cook the sausages were gratefully received from the Penruddocks.

Proceedings at the beacon & bonfire would begin contemporaneously with those throughout the land at 6.50pm.

At 6.50pm the names of the Fallen would be read out, with the appropriate sentences, and then the beacon would be lit at 7.00pm.

The church bells would also be chimed at this time.

11. HS2

Mr Hodgson reported that he and Mrs Kelly had attended a meeting in Southam relating to traffic disruption during the construction period, in order to be able to keep residents informed of any developments. There are also Action Group meetings which are chaired by Jeremy Wright, MP and Mr Hodgson attends them. PHAG had been given the opportunity to submit an alternative plan devised by Mr Hone to get the line lowered. The response to this plan, received on 23rd September, was that "the specialists do not believe this option should be explored further."

A copy of Mr Hodgson's report, which includes also news about the Community Area, is kept with these minutes.

12. The Community Area.

Mr Hodgson reported on plans for the completion of the application.

- News had been received from the HS2 Community Benefit Fund that our application had been successful in its initial stages. However, the advice was that the funding required for the Community Area project would be £48,000 rather than the £30,000 discussed at the Village Meeting on 20th July 2018.
- As part of the ongoing process a variety of formal applications, assessments and information would need to be submitted, and Mr Hodgson was grateful for the assistance of Mrs Kelly, Mrs Bath and Mrs Bull in this matter.
- The Village Meeting held on 20th July had agreed that it would contribute 10% towards the total cost of the project (after the expected grant from the HS2 Community Fund) with PHAG/Fundraising providing 5%. This was against the total estimated cost (at the time) of £30,000. Thus, based on the increased cost, and including some small additional peripheral costs, Mr Hodgson estimated that £4,500 would be required from the Village Meeting and £2,250 from PHAG/Fundraising. Against this Mrs Bath had reported (item4) that she expected a surplus of £5,400 at the end of the financial year.
- The PHAG AGM that was to follow the current meeting would hear that £1,861 was already held towards the £2,250 and fundraising so far had produced £1,054. Thus only a further £389 was required before April 2019.
- In the meantime small additional costs would be incurred, but it was hoped that with the help of local volunteers, these could be kept to a minimum.
- In view of the promising outcome of the Community Area project and feeling in the village that a toilet within the area of the church would be desirable, PHAG was looking to provide an Eco Loo in the vicinity of the church, as part of the Community Area project. Mrs Bath had reported that the Warwickshire Association of Local Councils was currently looking to parishes to apply for funds for a proportion of a project cost, and at an estimated £4,200 this would represent some 8% of the Community Area cost, - a project which would comfortably meet the WALC criteria.

In view of all the above, Mr Hodgson sought the approval of the meeting in confirming a contribution of a maximum of £4,500 to the Community Area.

It was proposed by Mrs Bath, seconded by Mrs Hodgson and generally agreed that the Village Meeting confirm its willingness to contribute £4,500 to the Community Area project.

A copy of Mr Hodgson's presentation is kept with these minutes.

13. SmartWater Update

Mrs Kelly had met with the PCSO's following the last meeting. They wished to convey their apologies for their late arrival, and less than their usual enthusiasm. They had come straight from the drowning tragedy at Bishops Itchington.

Together with Emma Hooker from Priors Marston and the PCSO's, Mrs Kelly had discussed the possibility of a system of marking belongings. However, to date SmartWater has no agreement with Warwickshire CC. Thus, PCSO Champion had offered a marking pen for small indoor items, which was not of such good quality as SmartWater. For external items a kit costing £12.99 was available which would last up to 5 years. PCSO Champion would return to her superiors to pursue the matter further and Mrs Kelly would continue her search for the best protection at the lowest price.

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14. GDPR, the website, and village email update

Mr Towler reported that all is running smoothly with the village website.

Relating to GDPR a mailing list of all those who have responded positively to receiving village information, is now in operation, but Mrs Kelly kindly continues to send to all those on her original list as well. However, of the 88 people on Mrs Kelly's list 28 have still not responded to the request to join the new list.

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AFTER THE MINUTES OF THIS MEETING HAVE BEEN PUBLISHED NO MORE MESSAGES WILL BE SENT USING MRS KELLY'S LIST

Mr Towler reported that in the last two months 24 messages had been sent out.

15. Emergency Plan for the Village

Mrs Kelly was currently updating the Emergency Plan for the village and needed to include names of people with skills or equipment which might be useful in an emergency – hopefully not - flood, snow, fire or other major disasters. Such people might include First Aiders and those with other relevant medical knowledge and skills, electricians, plumbers, builders, those with 4x4 vehicles & tractors, chain saws, generators.

Mrs Kelly would ask Mr Correia if the Butchers Arms might be used as an assembly point for the village.

16. A.O.B.

Movember Foundation movement

Mr Eustace had requested that the meeting be made aware of the work of the Movember Foundation which seeks to encourage awareness of men's health issues. Through the Patients Participation Group, the Byfield Surgery is joining this movement. Information on the Movember Foundation is posted on the village notice board as is also the information that Mr Eustace is one of our local members of the Patient Participation Group and is willing to be contacted for comments or information.

Memorial Seat at Sawpit Corner

Mrs Bath's mother had died suddenly earlier in the year and Mrs Bath wished to establish a memorial. Mrs Acres had spent many hours at Sawpit Corner, on the seat already provided, when her grandchildren were young, and Mrs Bath sought permission to place another seat, in memory of Mrs Acres on the grass area. The meeting agreed to the request.

The Next Meeting would take place on Thursday 17th January 2019 at 7.30pm in the church.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.55pm