

PRIORS HARDWICK VILLAGE MEETING
Minutes of the Quarterly Meeting held on Thursday 20th July 2017
at 7.30pm in St Mary's Church

Present:

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

Mr S Darbshire, Miss E England; Mr I Harvey; Mr C Hodgson; Mr. B Nichols; Mrs S Sutherland; Mrs S Talbot; Mrs J Wilkin;

1. Apologies were received from:

District Councillor Chris Williams
Miss I Davies; Mrs B Harvey Mr and Mrs P Hobday; Mr and Mrs A Hone; Mrs L Jameson; Mr M Pemberton; Ms J Redfern; Mr A Towler; Mrs R White

Mrs Kelly welcomed everyone to the meeting, and announced that matters were in hand to install a sound system in the church using funds raised at the Fete and those donated from Tea at Three.

2. The Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 20TH April 2017 had been circulated and, with one spelling amendment, were taken as read. It was proposed by Mrs Sutherland, seconded by Mr Hodgson and agreed nem/con. that these were a correct record of the meeting.

3. Matters Arising

Trees Mrs Sutherland wished to confirm the status of the tree. It was confirmed that only land up to one metre from the edge of the road surface was the responsibility of the County Highways Authority.

Highways

As promised the road signs had been cleared of vegetation and cleaned.
The pothole near the Morrells drying barns had been repaired as had other minor breaks in the road surface. Mrs Kelly felt that Patch Byrne was to be applauded for completing the work as promised.

Bonfires Mrs Kelly reported a phone call from a resident requesting that people have a thought for others when lighting bonfires in the village. So far the village had no formal policy on this matter.

Dustbin Lorries Mrs Kelly had received a complaint from a resident about effluent left on the road when the green bins were being emptied. It was thought that this was due to the fortnightly service when grass cuttings had been in the bins for up to 14 days. Mrs Kelly would contact the District Council.

Drains There was nothing to report.

4. Financial Report

Mrs Bath reported that the accounts for 2016-17 were in the auditing process of which the period for inspection would end on 28th July.
There had been no unexpected expenditure since the last meeting and the account stood at £4,021

5. County Councillor Stevens' Report

There had been two elections since the last meeting: first the County Council elections at which Cllr Stevens had been re-elected and second the General Election from which the outcome had not been as expected and with the addition of the Brexit negotiations had left the Council in a state of flux. With Parliament now in recess, followed by Party conferences Cllr Stevens did not expect much new business until October.

With the decision not to allow Business Rates to be applied to local councils any budgeting or spending decisions were difficult until other calculations had been agreed.

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However, the council had at present two areas of concern:

Firstly children's centres, with the new government provision of 30 hours per week for nursery children instead of 15. It was feared that some smaller nurseries would not be able to survive financially and

would close. Plans were being considered for streamlining this area of provision, and members of the meeting were encouraged to take part in the current consultation process.

Secondly, schools. It was estimated that the county would need 12 new primary schools and 5 new secondary schools in the near future. However, provision in our area was currently adequate for primary children, and also for secondary children if admissions were not accepted from other counties. Cllr Stevens confirmed that in the Multi-Academy Trust at Southam, all children living in Warwickshire would have priority of admission to the College if their parents so wished.

Cllr Stevens announced that the next Community Forum, was due to be held on Wednesday 13th September when the Police and Crime Commissioner would be the main speaker.

The Small Community Grant was still open for applications.

The County Council had received a grant of £30K for work on highways, but by comparison with the work currently required this would be a help rather than a solution.

Galanos House had recently enjoyed great success with their attempt on the record to form a human flower. They had assembled over 2,600 people - staff, friends and supporters - in the form of a poppy on the field of Southam College. This number had beaten the previous record, and the adjudication of the Guinness Book of World Records was currently awaited.

6. Cllr Williams' Report

Cllr Williams had sent a written report which Mr Kelly read aloud to the meeting. A copy is kept with these minutes.

Members of the meeting were concerned to learn of the proposed sale by Orbit of 'redundant' garages, of which there was a block behind St Mary's Close. There was a strong feeling that the funds gained from the sales would be used to provide accommodation for homeless families in the district. Mrs Kelly would check with the how this might or might not apply in Priors Hardwick.

Cllr Williams also reported that with the adoption of the Core Strategy there had been a significant reduction in the number of planning applications received. However, there was concern that the government may require us to increase the number of houses in the county in our housing provision for the next 15 years.

7. Planning

No 1 Agricultural Houses Mr Marsh-Lazell had relocated the proposed garage building in line with his house so that it would not be visible from the neighbouring property and had been advised by English Heritage that he would not need a survey relative to the proximity of the ancient monument.

He was applying again for planning permission and the meeting agreed that, having approved the previous application, no further response was required.

Allotment Plot, St Mary's Close Mr Kember had been granted permission, since he had withdrawn his plans for the proposed extension of the house. He had included in the current plans provision for laying drainage along No Man's Land and protection of the trees. However, some of the conditions laid down in the permission relating to access to the plot across No Man's Land differed from those in the appeal document.

Mrs Kelly would contact the District Council for clarification on this matter

8. No Man's Land and Grove Cottage

Mrs Kelly wished to record her thanks to Mr Mercer who had assisted her in taking and recording measurements of the areas of land at No Man's Land for which Mrs Kelly was applying on behalf of the village.

Miss England had been awarded on 8th March 2017, an area of No Man's Land adjacent to her house and yard, larger than that for which she had applied. Mrs Kelly's application on behalf of the village had been refused on the same day. Mrs Kelly was concerned that the Title Plan showed only the 'general position, not the exact line, of the boundaries' of the plot in question.

Mrs Kelly had thus contacted the Land Registry again seeking more details as to the reasons for the award to Miss England, and the process which had led to this decision. A copy of the email is kept with these minutes.

Mrs Kelly had visited Miss England on Monday 17th July to discuss the situation prior to presenting it to the current Village Meeting.

Mrs Kelly thanked Miss England for attending the meeting and distributed copies of Miss England's application. Mrs Kelly asked members of the meeting to read and consider the application and its result, with a view to a further discussion either in the late summer or at the next Quarterly Meeting in October. In the meantime Mrs Kelly would be pleased to receive any comments on this matter.. A copy of the application is kept with these minutes.

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It was noted that the fence which Miss England had erected to indicate the area for which she had applied and which had, since 8th March served its purpose, had been removed on Monday 17th July. Mr Ben Nichols, employed by Mrs Stamper, the owner of the property which held right of vehicular access to fields beyond No Man's Land, had been responsible for this, and he had also removed the trailer which belonged to him. Mr Nichols had informed Mrs Kelly of his intention to do this on 17th July and had attempted to inform Miss England, but she had not been at home and not contactable.

Mrs Kelly pointed out that this was a matter between individual property owners and not a matter for the village meeting.

Reference was also made to the day in the autumn of 2016 when Mr Nichols had lowered the hedge between No Man's Land St Mary's Close and cleared brambles etc without prior notice to nearby residents. Mr Nichols agreed that the result had been unsightly, but Mrs Kelly had taken photographs and had consulted the County Council tree specialist who agreed that all the work was within permissible limits and that no lasting damage had been done.

Mrs Wilkin was persistent in asking that residents should always be considerate in discussing with their neighbours, in good time, any work to be undertaken which might affect those neighbours.

9. HS2

Mr Hodgson reported that amidst the current political uncertainty suggestions had been made that the eventual cost of the project could even be as great as twice the original estimate.

Contractors for the work had recently been appointed among them CEK and Carillion, and representatives from local communities have at all times the opportunity to discuss with the engineers any matters of concern. (See also report on the Community Forum)

Grant from the Community and Environment Fund of HS2

Previous meetings on 29th March and 20th April had agreed that funds for a community play area would be an appropriate application. Mr Hodgson had thus attended a seminar set up by WCC with Groundwork, the charity established as liaison vehicle between communities and HS2. This had been most helpful with support and advice on completing the lengthy application form.

Mr Hodgson had concluded from the advice offered that a joint application from the HS2 Group and the Village Meeting would present the strongest cause. With £15m on offer between the six counties in our section of the HS2 route, applications would need to be strong.

Applications would not be invited until construction had begun in the area, but Mr Hodgson felt it would be appropriate to begin preparations as soon as possible. One important part of the application would be to offer part of the total funding for the project from our own community. For this Mr Hodgson proposed 15% of the total application, made up of 10% from the Village Meeting and 5% from voluntary activities. This was agreed.

Site for the play area

Ms Perrin of Elmers Farm had offered leasehold the area of her paddock, to the west of the footpath leading from the bridge over the stream from the churchyard. This area backs onto the Butchers Arms car park.

Mr Hodgson had formed a committee with Mrs Stamper and Mrs Bull.

It was agreed that the area should be designed as an open plan, rustic, restful community area, including a children's play area. Cllr Stevens remarked that an application for an area of multiple use, ie walkers, children and retired village residents would increase our chance of being awarded funding.

It was recognised that planning approval would be required, and Mr Nichols noted also that maintenance of the area would be essential.

10. Fessey Charity Update

Mr Harvey reported that there had been no changes.

11. The Priors Hall – Update

Mrs Harvey was currently at a meeting of Trustees.

12 Community Forum.

Mrs Clarke reported on the meeting held on 14th June.

The police had reported back on their work since the previous meeting: The spate of burglaries had extended across county boundaries and CID had been involved.

Regarding nuisance from off-road bikers, the police were trying to establish additional routes where landowners were content for bikes to be ridden.

Speeding in Long Itchington and Bishops Itchington - speed checks had been carried out

The priorities for the following three months would be: speeding on the Warwick Road, Southam; speeding in Long Itchington and Bishops Itchington and Rural crime.

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HS2 Lydia Smith introduced Caroline Hutson who spoke of the work of Fusion the company which would complete the preparatory work for the project. One matter of concern was that regarding environmental monitoring; Ms Hutson could give no indication as to when the first measurement would be taken – against which any future readings could be compared.

Cybercrime A very interesting presentation on how to stay safe and secure online and in use with mobile and smart phones.

A full copy of the report is kept with these minutes.

Neighbourhood Watch Miss England reported that residents were not reporting matters of concern to her. It was suggested that her contact details should be included in this capacity in the new directory.

13. Village Directory

Mrs Clarke reported that the details for Priors Hardwick were up to date and Mrs Brown had almost completed the details for Priors Marston. It was hoped that the new directory would include the new assistant priest due to move into the Priors Marston Vicarage in the near future.

The new directory would also include disclaimers relating to the details included and use and distribution of the directory.

14 Village Website

Mrs Kelly offered the thanks of the meeting to Mr Hodgson who had maintained the website for many years.

Mr Alan Towler, the new owner of Warwick Villa had offered to take over this responsibility, and was inviting anyone who had suggestions for the website to contact him.

15. Correspondence

There had been none

16. The Date of the next meeting would be Thursday 19th October.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.35pm