

PRIORS HARDWICK VILLAGE MEETING
Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday 26th July 2018
at 7.30pm in St Mary's Church

Present:

Mrs C Kelly, Chairman
Mrs C Bath, Treasurer
Mrs M Clarke, Secretary

Mr S Darbshire; Miss I Davies; Mr and Mrs I Harvey; Mr and Mrs P Hobday; Mrs N Nichols; Rev C Parkes;
Ms M Price; Ms J Redfern; Mr A Towler; Mrs S Sutherland; Mrs S Talbot; Mrs J Wilkin

Mrs Kelly opened the meeting and welcomed all present on what was possibly the hottest day of the year.

1. Apologies were received from:

County Councillor Bob Stevens

District Councillor Chris Williams

Mrs A Darbshire; Mr H Darbshire; Miss E England; Mr J Eustace; Mr and Mrs C Hodgson; Mr and Mrs A Hone; Mrs L Jameson; Mr D Kelly; Mr and Mrs E Pile; Mrs N Nichols.

2. Approval of the Minutes of Meetings held on 26th April 2018

Minutes of the AGM

It was agreed that no amendments were required.

Minutes of the Last Quarterly Meeting

The minutes had been circulated prior to the current meeting and were taken as read. It was proposed by Mrs Bath, seconded by Mr Darbshire and Mr Harvey and agreed that these were a correct record of the meeting.

3. Presentation by the Police of SmartWater and discussion relating to recent burglaries/break ins

Mrs Kelly explained that the police had been invited following several burglaries and break ins in the village. In some cases it was felt that police attendance and presence had been less than satisfactory and Mrs Kelly had written to Phillip Seccombe, the Police Commissioner. She had received a reply from Inspector Kettle as Chief Inspector Chishty was on a course. After the attempted burglary at Lower End, Mrs Kelly met PCSO Campion and arranged for the Police to attend the Parish Meeting and discuss SmartWater. PCSO Catrina Campion introduced herself and her colleague Lewis Barber.

PCSO Campion reported that during the period April – June there had been 6 burglaries and 5 thefts reported in Priors Hardwick, from residential and farm properties. This was indeed a big increase in our area but compared with other neighbouring communities it was not exceptional.

SmartWater

PCSO Campion presented the SmartWater method of invisible marking of property by which individual items are identified with the owner. The cost of each kit which would mark up to 100 items was in the region of £50, but bulk buying would reduce the cost considerably.

The PCSO's had recently made a similar presentation at Priors Marston. Mrs Kelly would send a message round the village enquiring if residents would like to take part in a bulk purchase of SmartWater equipment, and in the case of a positive response, Mrs Kelly would contact Priors Marston, via Emma Hooker, to propose a joint bulk purchase.

In response to a question, PCSO Barber reported that CCTV cameras were useful as a deterrent, but less so at catching the perpetrators since identification from film footage was difficult. A series of cameras, perhaps covering neighbouring properties was more useful -though your neighbours must be made aware and give permission for this. However, only cameras sited low to the ground had any chance of picking up the faces of criminals.

Priors Hardwick Village Meeting 26.07.18 page 2

Other advice given was:

Use of light sensors; keeping car keys and valuables in a safe place, including a safe bolted from inside to the floor; inside the house – automatic light switches; the use of the village messaging service including contact with neighbours who are not on line. This service, run by Mrs Kelly, also includes messages from the Southam Safer Neighbourhood Team, and where applicable, the Farm Watch messages also.

In conclusion PCSO Campion noted that when she had joined the Southam team 13 years earlier, there had been 12 officers in the area: now there were just 3.

The officers left a variety information sheets to be taken away, and a copy of each is kept with these minutes.

Finally Ms Redfern wished to record her appreciation for the speed with which the police had attended the recent break in at her property and their care, sensitivity and efficiency in dealing with the incident.

4. Matters Arising

Highways

Flooding Mrs Kelly to contact Hugh Darbishire and Ben Nichols regarding clearing the drains and the corner of Lower End, and whether the work had been completed

Hollow Lane Remedial work was due to begin at the beginning of August.

Welsh Road Mrs Kelly had contacted Patch Byrne as a matter of urgency about the hole at the side of the road opposite the Parkes House tennis court. Mr Byrne would arrange for a bollard to be placed on it.

Equipment Mrs Kelly had been advised of equipment in support of road works (eg diversion signs, temporary barriers) being left on site long after the work had been completed – specifically at St Mary's Close and near the Doles Bridge. Equipment & signage in St Mary's Close had been removed just before the meeting – but over 4 weeks after the completion of the work (to repair electricity supply to 4 houses). The sign announcing a road closure on 6th May remained near the Doles bridge. Mrs Kelly reported that the supply of this equipment was contracted out by the Highways Dept. but Patch Byrne would alert those responsible.

-Speed Limits The signage all around the Boddington crossroads had been renewed, as Mrs Kelly had requested, shortly after the last meeting. Mrs Kelly had sent a message around the village asking residents to contact Mrs Flanagan to support her effort to have a speed limit imposed in the area, but there was no news of any progress in this matter.

5. Financial Report

Mrs Bath reported that the auditing of the accounts was now complete. As required, the accounts had been available at Mrs Bath's home for inspection, but no-one had requested a visit. The announcement of this availability had been made via the village website, and thus many people had been unaware. A suggestion was made that a notice announcing the availability of the accounts for inspection be displayed on the village notice board in addition to the website. The accounts would now go to the external auditor. There was currently £4,792.00 in the accounts.

Village Litter Bin

James Bath had been emptying the bin for the last three years, but he would shortly be leaving the village for his university/apprenticeship training. Mrs Bath thus asked if anyone would be available/willing to continue this work. It would need to be someone tall as the complete cover of the bin needs to be removed. The alternative would be to ask the council to empty the bin each fortnight with the usual grey bin round. Mrs Bath explained the budget was currently showing a surplus of about £100 pa.

It was agreed unanimously that we ask the council to take over the emptying of the bin.

The meeting recorded it thanks to James Bath for his work in emptying the bin for the last three years.

6. Councillor Williams' Report

Cllr Williams had been off work for some time with pneumonia and on medical advice remained on 'bed rest'. There was therefore no report

The meeting wished to send Cllr Williams its best wishes.

7. Councillor Stevens' Report

Cllr Stevens had sent a copy of his report which Mrs Kelly summarised for the meeting. A copy is kept with these minutes.

Cllr Williams reported on :

General

The effect on staff reduction due to budget reductions;

The uncertainties due to Brexit and changes in ministerial positions in the government, resulting in reluctance in the council to commit to any long-term spending projects;

Concerns relating to the large number of new houses being built, and the effects on education.

HS2

Cllr Stevens had recently attended a "road show" at Ufton, but had learnt little apart from the fact that the project was already 6 months behind schedule.

Work on the trial pit near Wormleighton was expected to start soon, but final lorry routing had not been finalised.

Armed Forces Week

Many parishes would be lighting a beacon on 11th November, but Cllr Williams wished to remind people of the sacrifices which had been made since 1918, especially in the 2nd World War.

Galanos House was preparing for a major project of expansion.

8. The Priors Hall

Mrs Harvey report that the Hall had recently held its AGM and that Priors Hardwick had been well represented. Trustees from Priors Hardwick are Mrs Harvey and Mr Les Wareham.

The Hall had enjoyed another successful year. Four first floor offices are let. The fifth and smallest room had been 'reclaimed' as a committee room and had been named after Mr Mike Smith in recognition of the enormous amount of work he had completed for the Hall since its inception, throughout the building process and as secretary until the present day.

All licences had been renewed and statutory checks made.

The Hairdresser's and the Post Office continue to function on the ground floor, and the Film Evenings run by the Hall Trustees have continued to attract good audiences.

Copies of the Priors Hall General Report and Financial Report for 2107/2018 are kept with these minutes.

9. PCC Update

The Patronal Festival, Sunday 9th September The Windmill Singers will be here to sing the service which will also include 4 well known hymns. The preacher will be The Venerable Sue Field, Archdeacon Pastor of Coventry, who will also sing the Responses. The service will be conducted by Rev Celia Parkes, and will be followed by refreshments.

This proved to be a high class and very popular event last year and promises to be even better this year.

Harvest Festival, Sunday 30th September.

In a departure from our usual practice, the service will be held this year in the morning, at 10.30, and the other churches in the benefice will be invited to join us. Each church will hold its own harvest meal independently. In Priors Hardwick Mrs & Mrs Hodgson have kindly invited us to Pingle House for an evening meal, as usual. This year it will begin at 6.30pm. Please let Mr & Mrs Hodgson, or Mrs Kelly know if you would like to attend and/or provide a lasagne or a pudding for the meal.

10. WW1 Centenary

Choral Concert Saturday 10th November 7.30pm in the church The Windmill Singers will perform pieces from "The Armed Man – A mass for Peace" by Sir Karl Jenkins and there will be readings, well-known songs and hymns appropriate for the occasion, and a short reflection. There will be a retiring collection for Galanos House.

Beacon and Bonfire Mr S and Mr H Darbishire had offered to build the beacon on the hill behind Lower End. It would be lit at 7.00pm. The bells in the church would be chimed prior to the lighting. There was the possibility of hot drinks in the Community Area before the lighting of the beacon.

11. Correspondence

There had been none.

12. GDPR and the Website

Mr Towler has been working on the village website and setting up email addresses for the Chairman and Treasurer to be contacted on directly. These are now live and Mrs Kelly will be sending out an email from her new email this month asking the recipient to accept further emails from the new address. This also gives the resident a choice to opt out then or at any other time to comply with the new GDPR regulations. Mr Towler has set the village up as a 'mailing group' via Yahoo - on testing this the first email can end up in the Junk mailbox - to deal with this Mrs Kelly will send out another email from her old address at the same time to inform the village so that they can check their Junk boxes and "approve" the new address.

13. Fessy Herrick Update

Mr Harvey reported that the account remained 'in the black'.

14. Community Area

Tea Party This had been a great success with about 80 (?) people attending including many children. The party had been preceded by a presentation on site of what was proposed for the Community Area, and photographs of the proposed equipment were brought into the church. Within the church, children and parents completed a quiz the answers to which were to be found in the church. Mr Hone and Mr Hobday then gave short presentations on the history of the church building and the bells.

Questionnaire Mr Hodgson reported on the results of the questionnaire as follows:

"The responses to the Questionnaire produced 13 in favour of the area, the access and as a meeting place, none against. 12 out of 13 said they would want to use the various playground facilities while 1 would only use the adult fitness equipment. 7 felt they would use the facility more than twice each month, others for a lesser period per month. There were requests to ensure mobility access which has been incorporated in the original design. All of these results have now been incorporated into a new Community Benefits application which we have been advised to submit to Groundwork acting on behalf of HS2."

However, before he could complete and submit the application Mr Hodgson required more information from Chris Leech, the designated 'enabler' who would only return from holiday on 23rd July, by which time Mr Hodgson would himself be on holiday.

Mr Hodgson wished to record his thanks to Mrs Bath, Mrs Bull and Mr Klegerman for their help in preparing the application.

Mr Hodgson wished to ascertain the continuing support of the village meeting for this project – which was readily forthcoming.

15. HS2

There was little to report other than that supplied by Cllr Stevens in his report.

16. A O B

Priors Hardwick Village Meeting 26.07.18 page 5

Planning Application for Elmers Farm

Ms Price wished to inform the meeting that she was about to apply for planning permission to convert an office above her garages into a self-contained dwelling suitable as a holiday let.

Ms Price also referred to a recent situation when several vehicles had been parked on the grass areas in front of her property, and she was thus intending to enlarge the drive area within her boundary.

There were no objections to the proposals.

No Man's Land and Allotment Plot

In both cases the situation was unchanged but ongoing.

17. The date of the Next Meeting would be Thursday 18th October at The Church of St Mary.

The meeting closed at 21.12