

PRIORS HARDWICK VILLAGE MEETINGS
Minutes of the Meetings held on Thursday 25th April 2019
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

Mr S Darbshire; Miss E England; Mr and Mrs I Harvey; Mr and Mrs P Hobday; Mr C Hodgson; Mrs L Jameson;
Mr A Kinnear; Ms J Redfern; Mrs H Stamper; Mrs S Sutherland; Mrs S Talbot; Mr A Towler; Mrs J Wilkin

1. Apologies were received from:

District Councillor Chris Williams
Mrs A Darbshire; Mr H Darbshire; Mr and Mrs J Gibson; Mrs C Hodgson; Mr and Mrs D James; Mr D Kelly; Mr J
Mayne; Mr I Mercer; Rev C Parkes; Ms J Redfern

Mrs Kelly invited Mr Hodgson to take the chair for the Annual General Meeting

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Mr Hodgson welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked Mrs Kelly, Mrs Bath and Mrs Clarke for their work over the past year.

Elections

Chairman Mr Hodgson thanked Mrs Kelly for her work during the past year. Mrs Kelly had indicated that she was willing to stand for a further year. There were no other nominations. It was proposed by Mrs Sutherland, seconded by Mrs Jameson and agreed nem.con that Mrs Kelly be elected.

Secretary Mr Hodgson thanked Mrs Clarke for her work during the past year. Mrs Clarke had indicated that she was willing to serve for another year. There had been no other nominations. Miss England proposed, Mrs Hobday seconded and it was agreed nem.con that Mrs Clarke be elected.

Treasurer Mr Hodgson thanked Mrs Bath for her work during the past year. Mrs Kelly had invited to Mrs Bath to act as Treasurer for a further year and Mrs Bath had agreed.

There was no other business and the meeting closed at 7.33pm.

QUARTERLY MEETING

Mrs Kelly thanked Mrs Clarke and Mrs Bath for their work throughout the past year, and also the Councillors for their attendances at meetings and their help and advice.

2. The Minutes of the meeting held on 17th January had been circulated and were taken as read. It was proposed by Mr Hodgson, seconded by Mr Harvey and agreed nem/con. that these were a correct record of the meeting.

3. Matters Arising

Highways

Mrs Kelly was continuing to pursue with Patch Byrne the matter of the roadside gully around the boundary of Bramleys, but to date no solution to divert the flow of water had been found.

HS2 Regarding additional/ unusual traffic related to HS2 no disruption in the foreseeable future was envisaged.

Road Edges Mrs Clarke reported that in many places the edges of the tarmac were being broken away and gullies deepening, due to larger vehicles steering off the road and into the gullies already formed. Cllr Stevens reported that this was happening all over the county.

Passing Bays on the Boddington Road Mrs Kelly had approached the County Council, but so far to no avail. She would repeat her request.

4. Financial Report

Mrs Bath explained that at the end of the financial year statements regarding the organisation and keeping of the accounts needed to be agreed by the meeting. Mrs Bath read the requirements of each of the statements in each of the categories.

1. Exemption from External Review Mrs Bath explained that the procedure for certifying the annual accounts had changed, and that, as a very small village we qualified for exemption from an external review. Mrs Bath read out the points that qualified us for this exemption.

It was proposed by Mrs Bath, seconded by Mr Towler and agreed nem.con that we agree formally to confirm our exemption from an external review.

Mrs Kelly signed on behalf of the village.

2. Effectiveness of Internal Controls Mrs Bath reviewed in detail the procedure followed in keeping and preparing the annual accounts. The meeting agreed that the controls were effective.

3. Approval of Annual Governance Statement

Mrs Bath read aloud the details of the Statement. It was proposed by Mrs Bath, seconded by Mr Hodgson and agreed nem.con that the statement was correct. Mrs Kelly signed the Statement.

4. Presentation of Accounting Statements

Mrs Bath distributed copies of the Statement of Accounts for the year ending 31st March 2019, and reviewed them. There were no questions

5. Approval of Accounting Statements

It was proposed by Mrs Bath, seconded by Mr Towler and agreed nem.con that the Statements were a true record of the financial activity during the past year.

Mrs Kelly signed the accounts.

A copy of the Statement of Accounts for the year ending 31.03.19 is kept with these minutes.

5. District Cllr Williams' Report.

When the agenda for the meeting had been published the Conservative candidate for the forthcoming District Council Elections, Emilia Fletcher, had signified her intention to attend. However, village residents had been warned by email in the days preceding the meeting, that Ms Fletcher would not, in fact, be able to attend.

Cllr Williams had only left hospital on the bay before the meeting and therefore was unable to attend, but had sent his end-of -year report, which Mrs Kelly read to the meeting.

Cllr Williams reported on new appointments to senior pots in the District Council, that it is financially sound and is actively pursuing potential grant funding for infrastructure improvements. The District Council already operates a service offering wide-ranging advice and assistance for any facing difficulties.

This would be Cllr Williams' final report as, after 21 years representing the Fenny Compton Ward area, he would not be standing again for election.

Mrs Kelly wished to record the thanks of the meeting for all the support and advice we had received from Cllr Williams over the years, and we'd look forward to welcoming him to our next meeting, with our new representative.

A copy of Cllr Williams' report is kept with these minutes.

6. County Cllr Stevens' Report

Cllr Stevens began by explaining the name 'Feldon', referring to the name of the newly formed Ward and to this area in general. The word refers to the rolling countryside, characteristic of this area.

Cllr Williams reported that Warwickshire has been rated as one of the best economic performers in the country which has attracted a vast increase in the provision of housing. This has brought both advantages and challenges, which have occupied much of the County Council's time.

A second challenge had been "Brexit" and a third the impact of HS2 on our roads and infrastructure. These matters are further explained in Cllr Stevens' report a copy of which is kept with these minutes.

Regarding education in the County many schools are now becoming academies, and thus the responsibility of the County Council for education is reduced only to ensuring that there are sufficient "Good" school places for all children, and adequate provision for those with Special Educational Needs. Southam College is now part of the Stowe Valley Multi-Academy Trust, and The Priors School is well ahead of the field having been a government funded Free School since 2011.

Cllr Stevens reported on a good report for the Fire Service following an inspection, with improvement required only in the back office.

Priors Hardwick Village Meeting 25.04.19 page 3

Cllr Stevens reported that the Police Station had been sold for sheltered housing and the Police are now located next to the library in Tithe Lodge. There is now a new but permanent Police Officer for the area.

Sadly the County Council had found it necessary to increase the Council Tax by 4.9% of which 2% was ring-fenced to care for the elderly. However, Cllr Williams reported that the County Council's finances are in good order, with capital spending now directed mainly to expansion of school and transport related projects.

Cllr Williams ended his report with thanks to Mrs Kelly, Mrs Clarke and Mrs Bath (he wished this to be added to his written report) and his good wishes for our grant application from HS2.

A copy of Cllr Williams' report is kept with these minutes.

A question was raised about the possibility of a speed limit through the village. Mrs Kelly observed that this had been requested many times, but always refused. However, Mrs Kelly would continue to ask, but realising that the process would be a lengthy one.

7. The Priors Hall

Mrs Harvey reported that there would be two more film evenings before the summer break. These had always been well attended.

It was very much hoped that the Post Office would be able to continue.

Thanks were offered to Mrs Harvey for all her work as a Trustee of The Priors Hall and in organising the bookings for the Hall and its equipment.

8. HS2

Mrs Kelly reported that she had attended a number of meetings, with local colleagues, with the Groundworks representatives for this area. These meetings had been somewhat frustrating since in spite what might have been said, the operating company, Dornas, seemed to think they could do as they please without warning. The current concern was for an extra large load due to be delivered to the Wormleighton site towards the end of April. The proposed route from the motorway was via the A361 then through Aston le Walls to the site. However, Dornas had recently been declared bankrupt and the work was being put out to tender – with the consequential delay to any further progress.

In addition to this it was thought that the political situation may at some time affect the progress of the scheme.

9. The Community Area

Mr Hodgson reported that the original HS2 group had now shifted its focus towards progressing the grant application from HS2 and the Community Area project. In applying for Planning Permission for the site at Elmers Farm, application had to be made first to Historic England, relevant to the site of the old village. An inspection had been made on 21st January, but only with the help of Groundwork was a decision forthcoming on 18th April, which indicated that Historic England could not support the project.

However, in the meantime, Mrs Bath had already identified a potential plot to the west of St Mary's Close – part of Morrells Farming Ltd and Mr Hodgson had managed to arrange an agreement, in principle, for the village to lease a plot of 1,000 square metres, subject to a satisfactory lease agreement.

Groundwork had accepted the change of site, subject to planning approval from Stratford-on-Avon District Council, which would also need to include approval of the change of use. Playscape would be coming to assess the new site as soon as possible.

Access to the site for building purposes would have to be planned carefully.

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

In the discussion that followed, concern was raised about any additional parking in St Mary's Close, and also pedestrian access beyond the tarmac end of St Mary's Close. The status of No Man's Land was still in abeyance.

A suggestion was raised that an appeal be made against the decision by Historic England, but Mrs Bath thought that this might be futile since it would potentially create a precedent for further development on the site of the Ancient Monument

Mr Hodgson had consulted Mr Baughan as a neighbour to the site, and he had objection. Mr Cutt from Weavers, was about to return from holiday and would be consulted asap.

Mr Hodgson therefore wished to put before to the meeting that the site for the Community Area be changed from Elmers Farm to a site west of St Mary's Close. Mrs Bath proposed the motion and Mrs Hobday seconded it. There were no objections.

10. The Fete

Mrs Stamper announced the date as Monday 27th May, with a dog show at 3.00pm followed by the fete proper at 4.00pm. There would be a variety of stalls and offers were invited. It was suggested that a list of stalls be circulated with requests for items to be offered in support. There would be Tug of War contests between Priors Marston and Priors Hardwick teams for men, women and children, and in the evening, in the grounds of The Manor, a bar, food and music for a social event. All proceeds from the fete would go to funding the Community Area, and contacts for information on the event would be Helen (Stamper), Lucie (Penruddock) and Emily (Darbishire).

Priors Hardwick Village Meeting 25.04.19 page 4

11. Litter Picking and Mowing

Rubbish

Mrs Kelly thanked all those who had participated in the litter picking exercise on Saturday 6th April – and to the two ladies who habitually pick up litter as they walk around the village. Thanks also to Mr Alan Kinnear who had weighed and examined the litter collected from his stretch of the Welsh Road. There were some surprising discoveries. Thanks were due also to Warwickshire Highways who had collected the large-scale fly tipping rubbish. Cllr Stevens informed the meeting that we can now request such collections when necessary, as a matter of course. It was noted that if this exercise is to be repeated annually it would need to be no later in the year, since the grass is beginning to grow and would potentially hide some items of rubbish.

Mowing

Mr Hobday had for at least 8 years mown 'The Triangle' at the T junction in Church End. He was now looking to relinquish this task and Mr James had offered to take it on. Mrs Kelly offered the sincere thanks of the village to Mr Hobday for all his work and to Mr James for continuing the work.

Footpaths.

Mrs Kelly asked urgently that all walkers keep strictly to the footpaths, keep dogs on leads and ensure that all gates are closed and fastened. With many young stock in the fields at this time of year, this is of great importance.

Village Walks

The walks, organised by Ms Redfern take place every 2nd Saturday of the month, leaving from the Lych Gate at 10.30 am. The next walk would be on Saturday 11th May.

Bonfires - update

Following Mr Suddens' enquiry at the last meeting, Mrs Kelly had made enquires and discovered that there are no restrictions on normal household bonfires unless these are used to an excessive degree. The advice offered was that people should alert their neighbours if there was any possibility of disturbance or inconvenience resulting from the bonfire.

12. Update on recent Planning Applications

Allotment Plot, No Man's Land

Shortly after the last meeting Mr Taylor had posted a notice inviting anyone with a claim on No Man's Land (name spelt incorrectly) to notify his solicitors. In the absence of any claim Mr Taylor was proposing to lay a vertical drain along the length of No Man's Land.

Mrs Kelly had responded to the solicitors, informing them of our claim to adverse possession of the plot. She had also alerted all other people and agencies involved in the current enquiries relating to the registration of No Man's Land with the Land Registry. Mrs Kelly's letter to the solicitors had been answered with a request for permission to lay the drain, which, because of the ongoing enquiry, Mrs Kelly was not able to do and replied in these terms.

In the meantime, Mrs Kelly has renewed her efforts to obtain an enquiry into the reasons for the seemingly inexplicable decision of the Land Registry in their allocation of the land...She had recently sent to them copies of all documents since the 1800's relating to No Man's Land.

Once more, Mrs Kelly asked residents if they were about to seek any form of Planning Approval, to consult her in the first instance in order to make the process less troublesome at later stages.

13. Village Website

Mr Towler reported on three items:

- Three more people had signed up to the village emailing list. Since the last meeting there had been 52 mailings.
- The news page of the site is updated from time to time and news of events –recent past or present is always welcome. Mr Towler would be interested to know people's opinions on the website and hoped to conduct a survey in the near future.
- 'Next Door' mailings. Many people in the village had recently received through Royal Mail a letter addressed to the correct section of the village, offering advice on traders, local issues and crime & safety matters. Most people were wary, and Mrs Kelly had left a message with the Police asking if they used this facility; but to date had received no reply. Mr Towler had tested the scheme by inventing a fictitious account and had concluded that this enterprise did not appear to be suspicious and could be useful. (A copy of the letter is kept with the minutes)

14. Fessey-Herrick Charity

Mr Harvey reported that he and Mrs Bath had met and distributed the funds to 4 recipients. The annual interest from the investment had amounted to £80.

15. SmartWater update

As agreed at the last meeting Mrs Kelly had ordered the units through the Police. Delivery of both the units and the publicity stationery was still awaited. There would also be a demonstration of how to use the product.

Priors Hardwick Village Meeting 25.04.19 page 5

16 Correspondence.

There had been none.

17. A.O.B

Defibrillator

Mrs Kelly had had no success so far in finding a source for a grant towards the cost of the machine.

Condition of the war Memorial

Mr Mercer had expressed concern that the stone was beginning to crumble and had sent an advert for a possible solution. Mrs Kelly would look up details of past work on the War Memorial and bring details to the next meeting.

Silver Spur Races

The races – three in all – would take place on Saturday 27th April starting at 12.00, on land belonging to Mr Ben Nichols MFH. Members of the public, as spectators, would be very welcome and signs would give directions to parking etc. Food and drinks would be available.

A question –

Mr Towler wished to know if anyone else had received a visit from a man in a white van marked Mark Oliver Fine Foods. This person had called at Mr Towler's house, saying he'd been there before, but Mr Towler had not been around. No-one present at the meeting had received such a visit.

PCC Update

On Sunday 28th April at 5.00pm there would be a Carol Service for Easter – an event very much like the Christmas Carol Service, but with an Easter theme. All would be welcome..

On Monday 29th April the Annual Parochial Church Meeting would be held at Pingle House at 7.30pm. Only members of the church Electoral Roll may vote at this meeting but anyone who is interested would be welcome to attend.

Air BNB scam?

A gentleman had called at Mr Towler's house, saying he'd been there before, but Mr Towler had not been around, and that he was representing AirBNB. Had anyone else been approached like this? No-one present at the meeting had received such a visit.

The date of the next meeting would be Thursday 18th July at 7.30pm in the church

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.58pm