

PRIORS HARDWICK VILLAGE MEETINGS
Minutes of the Meetings held on Thursday 26th April 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
District Councillor Chris Williams

Mr and Mrs H Darbishire; Mr S Darbishire; Miss I Davies; Mr and Mrs I Harvey; Ms T Hicks; Mr C Hodgson; Mr S Hyde; Mrs N Nichols; Rev C Parkes; Ms M Price; Ms J Redfern; Mr A Towler; Mrs S Talbot; Mrs R White Mrs J Wilkin

1. Apologies were received from:

Mrs A Darbishire; Miss E England; Mr J Eustace; Mrs R Hobday; Mrs C Hodgson; Mr and Mrs A Hone; Mrs L Jameson; Mr D Kelly; Mr I Mercer; Mr and Mrs E Pile; Mrs S Sutherland

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.

Mr Hodgson read aloud the minutes of the AGM held on 20th April 2017.
It was agreed that these were a correct record of the meeting.

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 Mr S Darbishire, seconded by Ms Redfern 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. Mr Hodgson proposed, Ms Redfern 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 7.35pm.

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.

1. The Minutes of the meeting held on 19th January had been circulated and were taken as read. It was proposed by Mrs Talbot, seconded by Miss Davies and agreed nem/con. that these were a correct record of the meeting.

2. Financial Report

This item had been brought forward as Mrs Bath needed to leave the meeting as early as possible.

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 Ms Redfern 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 Darbshire and Mrs Harvey 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 2018, and reviewed them. There were no questions.

5. Approval of Accounting Statements

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

Mrs Kelly signed the accounts.

3. Matters arising from the Minutes of the Last Meeting

Highways

The two heavy falls of snow and low temperatures since the last meeting had resulted in more damage than usual to the roads and verges. The snow had been so severe that the WCC snow plough had become stuck on the Welsh Road at London End

Potholes were now being reported in many places around the village, and Mrs Kelly had been in touch with Patch Byrne. His response was that this was a widespread situation and that we should be patient in waiting for repairs. Cllr Stevens advised that we should continue to report potholes, if possible with a photograph.

Flooding. The drain near the bend at Lower End had been jetted, but the floods persisted. It was assumed that a pipe was broken – possibly under the adjacent field, and Mr Ben Nichols had given permission for access to his field in order for any work to be carried out. Mr Hugh Darbshire felt that a gully from the road to his ditch would be a better alternative and stop the need for regular jetting. He will liaise with Mr Ben Nichols and Patch Byrne.

Access lane to Hollow Meadow properties Patch Byrne had now assessed the situation, and a programme of work was now in the pipeline for this year.

Gully around the corner of Bramleys Water flowing across the road from the hill below Hill House was continuing to worsen the depth of the gully for which it was forming a conduit for the water to a drain nearer to the access to Hollow Meadow properties and West View. Patch Byrne was also aware of this.

Trees

Mrs Sutherland had sent a message to report that WCC workmen had attended and removed the branches which were restricting telephone lines above the highway. However, Mrs Sutherland had not been advised of their visit and had been out at the time. Thus they had not entered her property to remove the overhanging branches there, which were Mrs Sutherland's main cause for concern.

4. County Councillor Stevens' Report.

Cllr Stevens reported on the following. A full copy of his report is kept with these minutes.

- Reduction in the government grant and Council Tax.
- Warwickshire and its relationship with the West Midlands
- Housing development within the county.
- The effects of HS2
- Adult and children's services which are the biggest item of expenditure on County Council resources
- Safeguarding children especially in respect of cyber crime.
- Education in the county
- The Fire Service
- Cllr Stevens' own voluntary work as the County Council's Armed Forces Champion and as Chair of the WCC pension fund investment committee.

5. District Councillor Williams' Report

Cllr Williams reported on the following. A full copy of his report is kept with these minutes.

- The District Council Core Strategy, and the possibility that an additional number of new houses required by the government by 2031 may result in a revision of the Core Strategy.
- A request from Birmingham City Council for land in the north of the county on which to build 5,000 homes.
- Consideration of plans for the Stratford-on-Avon Transport Strategy and the possibility of a southern bypass for the town. This strategy applied only to Stratford-on-Avon and not the whole district.
- Council Tax. The increase for 2018-19 is 1% equating to £1.36 per year for a Band D property.
- The District Council does have some funds in reserve and will spend some on helping the homeless, together with investing in the Shakespeare Birthday celebrations and a major event in November commemorating the end of WW1

Mrs Kelly noted that Priors Hardwick is situated very near to the boundaries with two other counties and wished to ascertain if, when discussions about housing developments are taking place, there are links with the adjacent counties, relevant to the impact on local transport and infrastructure etc.

Cllr Stevens assured the meeting that links are in place.

Mr Hodgson noted that the village had suffered a spate of burglaries since the last meeting, from farms, properties and from builders' vehicles parked adjacent to their work site. In at least one case the response from the police had only come after two days.

After discussion it was agreed that Mrs Kelly would send a crime report to Cllr Stevens.

There was also the possibility of contact with the Police and Crime Commissioner, Phillip Secombe

6. The Priors Hall

Mrs Harvey reported that the Film Nights continued to be well supported. The next one would be the last before the summer break.

A Pilates group would start on Tuesday mornings at 9.30am with the first meeting on Tuesday 1st May.

Committee Room When the Hall was built one of the rooms on the first floor was designed as a Committee Room but had been always been let as an office. Now, the Committee had decided to put the room to its original use and had named it The Mike Smith Committee Room in recognition of almost 20 years of dedicated service to The Hall from Mr Smith, as Trustee and Secretary.

7. PCC Update

The East Window Mrs Kelly reported on recent damage to the building when a section of the east window had fallen into the churchyard, landing on the grass and narrowly missing a table grave. Mr and Mrs Hone, assisted by Mr Hobday had retrieved the section of window and had replaced it with clear polycarbonate, which was sound and secure. The PCC was now awaiting reports on the condition of the east wall of the church and what repairs, if any, might be necessary before repair and replacement of the section of the window.

Open Farm Sunday – 10th June at Hill Farm There would be an open-air service at Hill Farm at 9.00am prior to the opening of the main event at 11.00.

Mid-summer Tea Party The PCC would be offering a tea party in and around the church on Sunday 24th June in thanksgiving for 150 years after the reconstruction of the nave (central section of the building) as it is today. There would be an exhibition of church history and also, hopefully more information on the Village Community Area project as well.

Patronal Festival Evensong – Sunday 9th September Once again the Windmill Singers would come to sing the service, directed by Dr Gerard Hyland, and accompanied on the organ by one of the top organists from Coventry. This service was very highly acclaimed last year. The preacher would be the new Archdeacon Pastor of Coventry, The Venerable Sue Field.

8. WW1 Centenary

Concert Saturday 10th November The Windmill Singers would return to the church to perform 'The Armed Man – a requiem for peace', followed by a short religious ceremony including many well know and appropriate hymns.

Beacon and Bells – Sunday 11th November Thanks to Mr H Darbishire there would be a beacon on the hill above Lower End. This is registered as part of the national celebration, but not open to the public. The church bells would be chimed at 7.00pm. also as part of a nation-wide ringing at this time

Priors Hardwick Village Meeting 26.04.18 page 4

9. Correspondence

There had been none.

10. Update on Recent Planning Applications

Church Cottage Mr and Mrs H Darbshire were applying for extensions to the side and rear of their property. Plans of the proposed development were passed round the meeting, and comments were invited.

Mr Hobday enquired as to the final external appearance of the property and was assured that this would be in line with the village plan and to blend with surrounding buildings.

There were no further questions.

Mrs Kelly would formally consult the owners of neighbouring properties and then respond to the planning authority.

Allotment off No Man's Land Mr Mercer had been supporting Mrs Kelly in her deliberations with Mr Taylor. The meeting which Mr Taylor had requested as reported in the last minutes, had taken place, but Mr Taylor denied having requested it and stated that Mrs Kelly had made the request. Mr Taylor felt that the village was not supporting his application, but Mrs Kelly had pointed out that lack of progress was entirely due to Mr Taylor not following the due procedure laid down by the planners. The Planning Inspector had been involved. Mrs Kelly was continuing to work on this matter.

11. General Data Protection Regulations

Mrs Kelly had recently attended a course on this matter, for which legislation comes into force on 25th May 2018. Mr Towler explained further, that as a small village here, we're not strictly bound by the regulations, but suggest some good practice to put into place. Two main principles govern the regulations: firstly that the individual must be in control of their own data and must give permission for any use that is made of it; and secondly that organisations must take great care of the personal data they keep.

Further details of how this might be achieved in Priors Hardwick are given in a report from Mr Towler, a copy of which is kept with these minutes.

CCTV Mrs Kelly pointed out that regarding privacy, the use of CCTV cameras, which some people may be contemplating following the recent spate of burglaries, is also governed by similar regulations.

Drones Mrs Kelly asked those who own and use drones be also vigilant regarding the privacy of their neighbours. Regulations are already in place for the larger, heavier models, and additional regulations governing smaller models are expected.

The Village Website Mr Towler reported that the website is being used to keep people informed of coming events, and asked people to keep him informed of any new events. Mr Towler should be contact for such matters via his link on the website itself, on the News and Diary page.

12. HS2, The Community Fund and the Community Area Questionnaire

Mr Hodgson reported on a community meeting held in Wormleighton with the engagement officers for Eiffage Kier and HS2. Details of the meeting are contained in Mr Hodgson's report a copy of which is kept with these minutes.

Mr S Darbshire enquired about the apparent excess of equipment and personnel involved in the present project near to the T junction with the Boddington-Wormleighton Road. Mr Hodgson suggested that Mr Darbshire should contact the Engagement Officer, Nisha Mejer.

The meeting was pleased to hear that the PHAG was now in contact with the corresponding Boddington Group, so that any suggestions about ameliorating action/work could come from both groups.

Application for funds from the HS2 Benefit Fund The application had been sent and a reply received with suggestions as to how it could be made more cogent. One matter was that the village would have to make a formal statement of intent to continuity of commitment to the project and an undertaking to maintain it in good condition in accordance with ROSPA requirements. Mr Hodgson proposed, Mr S Darbshire seconded and the meeting agreed to this.

Mrs Kelly signed the letter, a copy of which is kept with these minutes.

Secondly, PHAG who were currently keeping the funds raised for the project, would have to undertake to donate any funds already collected to a charity which was working for a similar purpose/project, if for any reason the current project did not go ahead.

Priors Hardwick Village Meeting 26.04.18 page 5

Mr H Darbshire enquired as to the situation regarding any excavation involved in the installation of equipment in the area, in view of regulations governing excavation on the Ancient Monument (the site of the original village). Mr Hodgson explained that it was felt best to secure the funding before making a planning application and contacting English Heritage.

In order to raise more funds for the village contribution to the cost of the Community Area, Mr Darbshire was offering the refreshment tent on The Open Farm Sunday to the Community Area FR team.

Mr Hodgson thanked warmly Ms Price who was kindly leasing the land to the village for the Community Area.

13. Fessey-Herrick Charity

Mr Harvey reported that with the help of Mrs Bath, all was in order.

14. A.O.B.

Speeding in London End

Mrs Flanagan had brought this matter to the attention of Mrs Kelly who had referred it to Cllr Stevens. Cllr Stevens had contacted Patch Bryne who had emailed a response suggesting five means whereby he could make the junction more prominent. To introduce a speed limit would be costly and Mr Byrne preferred to try this solution first.

Mrs Harvey and Mrs White also spoke of speeding vehicles in Lower End. It was however, thought that currently this could be in some attributable to the diversion in place due to the closure of the Doles bridge.

Mrs Kelly had suggested that Mrs Flanagan might lead group who would like to apply for a speed restriction, since such an application would bear more weight coming from the village itself. Mrs Flanagan had agreed to do this and had agreed that her email address to be sent round the village for people to offer to join her 'campaign'.

Parish Magazine

The magazine was now available in PDF form and Mrs Kelly had opted for this as opposed to a hard copy. She thus proposed, in future, to send it to all those on her emailing list. Mr Towler would also be adding it to the website. Those who prefer to receive hard copies would of course still be able to do so.

The Village Green

Mrs Wilkin had repaired and seeded a small area of the village green near to the entrance to her property.

This was just one area of the green spaces in the village which are being eroded by traffic and careless drivers.

Mrs Kelly asked all members of the meeting to observe Mrs Wilkin's work and to report to the next meeting any other places where verges are being damaged.

15. THE DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING WOULD BE THURSDAY 26TH JULY AT 7.45PM NB later start time to allow for wedding rehearsal earlier.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.15pm