

## PRIORS HARDWICK VILLAGE MEETING

Minutes of the meeting held at 7.30pm on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> January 2023

In the Church of St Mary

### Present

Stuart Hyde (SH), Chairman

Carolyn Bath (CB), Treasurer

Margaret Clarke (MC), Secretary

District Councillor Nigel Rock (NR)

Isabel Atkins prospective District Councillor

Rob and Anita Barritt; Ian Bath (IB); Christopher, Nathalie and Bella Bull; Richard Cutt(RC); Isabel Davies; John Eustace (JE); Ivan(IH) and Barbara (BH) Harvey; Tonia Hicks (TH); Charles and Gail Holland; Paul (PH) and Rosemary Hobday; Derrin James (DJ); Callum James; Libby Jameson (LJ); Daniel Line; Sarah Lobley (SL); Ben Marsh-Lazell; Ian Mercer; Sue Talbot; Jago Toner; Ann and Eddie Ukleja (EU)

### 1. Apologies were received from

Rob Albury; Simon and Angela Darbshire; Hugh and Emily Darbshire; Evelyn England; Christopher Hodgson (CH); Diarmaid and Candy Kelly; James Mayne; Joy Redfern (JR); Sylvia Sutherland; Mike and Jill Weaving.

2. The Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> November 2022, having been circulated were taken as read. It was proposed by RC, seconded by BH and generally agreed that these were a correct record of the meeting.

### 3. Matters Arising

The Website EU reported that at present all was well and he invited new ideas and/or information for the website.

Break-in There had been a serious theft from the barn conversion belonging to DJ on the Welsh Road . This had been reported personally with the Police, but with no satisfactory outcome. NR had also followed this up with the Rural Crime branch of the Police, with the local Safer Neighbourhood Team and with the Police Responder Team but promises to respond had not been fulfilled. NR had also been informed of a recent break-in at the church at Napton but there appeared to be no connection. Our local Police Officer is PC Donna Parry.

Registration of land adjacent to St Mary's Close (No Man's Land) SH had been at pains to confirm with the Land Registry that the land had now been registered to the Village, the Trustees being the Village Chairman and a senior member of the District Council. He had been informed that there had been a recent objection from a source which could not be disclosed and the case would now have to be reviewed by the Land Registry Legal.

### 4. Councillors' Reports

County Councillor Christopher Kettle was absent from the meeting.

District Councillor Nigel Rock introduced Isabel Atkins and her assistance dog Rambo. Isabel is a prospective candidate for District Councillor, alongside NR, in the elections coming up in May. This election would be for the 're-formed' District stretching from Shotteswell to Shuckburgh to Bishops Itchington. NR also reminded the meeting that for the first time Photo ID would be required to vote in these elections. He advised any who were unable to supply such documents to apply for a Postal Vote! And to apply early!

New Local Plan This was a very long and complex document stretching to 1,200 pages and NR had asked for a shorter, simpler version, for public use and consultation. Two major features in the plan for the Stratford-on-Avon District were an increase in the number of houses to be provided from 530pa to 830pa; and for a second new village. However, in respect of the second village, there were doubts about its viability in view of the current difficulties in completing the first new village at Lighthorne. The matter of establishing a Doctors' Surgery was a proving to be a serious challenge.

Road Works planned for HS2 The Wormleighton to Boddington road would be closed from 13<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> February to the left of the T junction and there would be traffic lights on the Southam to Leamington road (A425) on 16<sup>th</sup> and 17 February.

Police contact and response DJ asked what NR could advise in the light of such a poor response to the reports of his break-in. NR suggested that the next step would be to report the whole incident to the Police and Crime Commissioner, Phillip Seccombe. PH enquired as to the nature of the initial call to report the crime – which was to a call centre, and DJ had been given a crime number, which he would pass to NR.

#### 5. Finance

CB updated the meeting on the current financial position. The Current Account balance is £2936 and the Deposit Account £5500. In addition, £450 is being held from the National Lottery grant to the Future Hardwick project. Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funds of £563 have also been received in respect of Elmers Farm. CIL money has to be spent on infrastructure and will require the District Councillor's approval. CB suggested the village think of projects that the money could be used for.

#### 6. Agreement of The Precept

The Precept represents the amount of money we need to raise in order to run and maintain the village amenities. This amount is then added to and collected with the Council Tax and is returned to the village during the year. The Precept for the current year to April had been set at £3,000 including an additional sum to cover the cost of the plants for and professional laying of the hedge along St Mary's Close. The running costs apart from this had been £2,000. CB thus proposed that we set a precept for the year 2023-24 of £2,500. The proposal was seconded by LJ and agreed nem.con.

#### 7. Commemorative Bench

SH read a note from CH reminding the meeting of the offer from IH to make, for the village, in memory of Queen Elizabeth II's Platinum Jubilee, a bench similar to that on the green to the right of the Lych Gate, which commemorates the Silver Jubilee. The new bench would be sited to the left of the Lych Gate forming a pair with the bench on the right which commemorates the Silver Jubilee; the Lych Gate itself commemorates the Coronation. A cherry tree on the green opposite commemorates the Golden Jubilee. IH confirmed that the cost of the timber would be £250. CH would supply a plaque at his own expense and a concrete base for the seat would need to be provided. CB advised that some of the CIL ((Community Infrastructure Levy - April '22) money received earlier in the year might be used to fund the base. It was proposed by EU, seconded by LJ and generally agreed that we go ahead with this project, using some of the CIL money.

8. No Man's Land Maintenance Report JR had sent a report on work completed during the autumn and plans for 2023. A copy of her report would be issued with the minutes of the meeting. Of note was the suggestion that some professional help might be required occasionally, but it was felt that the cost would be small. The cutting back of the laurel hedge had been well advertised but only two couples had in fact taken part. It was hoped that more people might eventually take part – but perhaps a day other than Sunday might prove more popular.

9.a. Planning updates

No Man's Plot – Mr Taylor's appeal had been refused.

Ironstone House – the appeal had been refused

Doe Bank – a decision on the appeal is pending

Byfield Surgery The application had again been refused and time had now run out. JE told the meeting that there was no further news of what the partners at the surgery had in mind but advised that the surgery in Southam was making an exception to its usual regime and was accepting new patients.

9.b.Pre-planning consultation – Home Farm DJ introduced this matter on behalf of Callum James, Mr and Mrs Jago Toner and himself. A folder of photographs and plans had been in the church during the previous week for residents to view in advance of the meeting and copies had been emailed to village residents. DJ reminded the meeting of his family's wide and long association with the village spanning five generations. The plans for discussion were those of his Pre-Planning submission to the District Council but no advice had yet been received. DJ invited feedback from the village.

IB wished to confirm the precise boundaries of the Conservation area relevant to Plot C and that the farm house was in fact within the Conservation Area. This was in fact the case. He wished also for information as to how this building would be treated. DJ responded that its general condition was such that the only option would be to take it down and rebuild on the footprint. However, the exterior would finally be clad using the existing exterior stones, thus leaving the appearance very much as it is at the time of this meeting. Thirdly, IB enquired about the proposed provision of a large quantity fencing and that permission would be sought from Historic England for any fencing. DJ responded that this would not involve fences of any significant height, rather of a structure consistent to farming style fences, and confirmed that they would seek permission from Historic England.

Regarding the seven outbuildings DJ thought that most of them could be developed, but he stated that he genuinely did not want to turn them into dwellings. There was a possibility that under Class Q the big stone barn might be developed as a dwelling.

BH noted the newly enlarged entrance to the property opposite No 1 Agricultural Houses and her concern for road safety in this area. DJ responded that the Highways Department has specific criteria in place to determine risk/safety in such situations.

As to future development DJ invited members of the meeting to offer their opinions or to have a guided tour of the whole area. SL responded positively to this offer.

10. Village Fete TH informed the meeting that the fete is scheduled for Monday 1<sup>st</sup> May (public holiday) and that plans were being made for the event and that she had set up a What's app group to facilitate communication. TH would shortly send out a questionnaire to enlist all appropriate and available talent for the day. There would be a dog show, various competitions, a raffle and various stalls. Food to purchase and eat on site was also being arranged. TH made a strong plea for people to take part in the organisation and running of the event.

## 11. Highways

The flooding on the Leisure Drive on the corner below Hardwick Hill The flooding had been persistent and only relieved to a large extent by a channel being dug to allow water to flow into the adjacent field. Once again the jetting machine would be required to flush out the drains, but due to its size the road would have to be closed requiring official permission, which takes time. This matter would also be complicated by the variety of road closures around the area due to HS2.

HS2 Road Bridges NR was due to attend a consultation meeting with Jeremy Wright on 27<sup>th</sup> January. One of the subjects would be the parapets of the bridges over the line which, it was discovered were too close to one another to allow passage for really large vehicles – like the jetter!

Surface Road signs NR had spoken to Cllr Christopher Kettle regarding these but so far had received no response. Cllr Kettle had also been informed of the damage to the 30mph sign at the Lower End junction with High Lane End and the destruction of the Lower End sign. This had occurred about 2 weeks before the meeting, apparently by a vehicle out of control, and had been reported to the Highways Department. SH encouraged all members of the meeting to report to the Highways Department any further such incidents.

Abandoned Road signage MC advised the meeting of a report she had made to the Highways Department of signage which had been used to warn of works at the Boddington crossroads about six months previously. They had lain on the verge and then had fallen into the ditch. The report was made on 12<sup>th</sup> December, but the signs had not been moved by the date of the current meeting. The Reference number for the report is 471257946.

## 12. A.O.B

1. SH reminded the meeting that the next meeting on 27<sup>th</sup> April would begin with the AGM at which he would be standing down as Chair. He encouraged the meeting to find some means of sharing the workload, with the suggestion of a co-chair approach managing the role and work.

2. Coronation celebration with the Village Fete on 1<sup>st</sup> May, there was a brief discussion as to whether the village should hold a celebration in the form of a picnic on the green. The discussion favoured a separate event to the Village Fete, taking place over the weekend of the coronation, being held on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> May (public holiday).

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.50pm