

PRIORS HARDWICK VILLAGE MEETINGS

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 27th April 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)

Anita Barritt; Ian Bath; Richard Cutt; Simon Darbishire; Ivan (IH) and Barbara Harvey; Tonia Hicks (TH); Paul (PH) and Rosemary Hobday; Christopher Hodgson (CJH); Charles Holland; Candy Kelly (CK); Victor and Robynne Lobley; Joy Redfern (JR); Sue Talbot; Jago Toner; Eddie (EU) and Ann Ukleja;

In attendance – Nathalie Gist

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

SH welcomed everyone to the meeting. He was pleased to announce the arrival of a new sound system which had been set up by CB and IB. The provenance of this would be announced later in the meeting.

At the end of the meeting held on 26th January both SH and MC had announced that they would be resigning from their posts. This had been well advertised in the village, but no applications for either post had been received. CJH proposed and JR seconded that both should continue for the present meeting and until the day before the next meeting. This was agreed unanimously.

CJH thanked both for their contributions to village life – SH as Chair for 2 years (he'd liked to have done one more year, but other commitments now prevented this) and MC for 20 years- since July 2003.

NR would consult the District Constitution Officer regarding regulations in the case of there being no nominations to fill the posts.

PRIORS HARDWICK QUARTERLY VILLAGE MEETING

1. Apologies were received from:

Rob Albury; Rob Barritt; Hugh Darbishire; Simon Darbishire; Isabel Davies; John Eustace; Gail Holland; Libby Jameson; James Mayne; Ian Mercer; Ros White.

2. The Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday 26 January 2023 had been circulated and were taken as read. It was proposed by EU, seconded by CB and agreed nem. con. that these were a correct record of the meeting.

3. Matters Arising

Planning Applications –

'Tin City' Marston Doles and Weavers Cottage: 'No response' had been made in both cases.

SH had been advised an appeal had been made in respect of Ironstone House, and this was 'pending'.

Community bench

CJH reported that IH had made a magnificent seat and LJ had offered to supply materials and labour for a base for the seat.

It had been agreed at the last meeting that a plaque to be attached to the seat attributing it to the celebration of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, and CJH had offered to finance this. However, with further thought and in view of the imminent Coronation, CJH had had the plaque inscribed for the Coronation. After discussion it was agreed that a second plaque be added to commemorate also the Platinum Jubilee.

4. Councillor Updates

District Councillor NR distributed copies of his report, much of which, he said, was repeated in the May edition of the Parish Magazine. As this was the end of his current term of office, NR had produced something of an 'end of term report' covering the work completed over the past year.

NR reported on:

- The proposed, but failed merger of Stratford-on-Avon and Warwick District Councils
- New arrangements for recycling
- Planning
- HS2
- Policing
- Case work, including, over 4 years, in Priors Hardwick, alone 69 Planning Applications
- District and Parish Council Elections
- Boundary Changes

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

5. Finance

CB presented the areas covered by the Annual Governance and Accountability Return for the year 2022/2023.

5.1 The Annual Internal Audit Report had been circulated before the meeting and was reviewed and noted. There were no issues raised.

5.2 The internal control measures in place were described and reviewed by the meeting. These include the exercise of electors' rights to inspect the books during a given period. This year the inspection period will be from 6/6/23 to 14/7/23.

5.3 The internal controls were considered effective, and approval of the Annual Governance Statement was proposed by CB, seconded by IH and agreed by the meeting.

5.4 The Statement of Accounts had been circulated for review before the meeting. CB highlighted that the surplus for the year of £1035 covers the deficit in the preceding year due to hedge laying costs for No Man's Land, which were recovered from this year's precept. £545 from the Community Infrastructure Levy was received during the year and £258 of this has been spent on the jubilee/coronation bench. The bank accounts were moved from HSBC to Lloyds during the year, which will avoid bank charges being incurred.

Approval of the Accounting Statements was proposed by CB, seconded by CK and agreed by the meeting.

5.5 The Parish Meeting qualifies for exemption from external review and CB proposed that we certify ourselves exempt. This was seconded by EU and agreed by the meeting.

6. The Fessey Charity

Having agreed at the last meeting that there was no-one currently in the village 'aged, infirm or deserving' poor' who qualified for proceeds from the charity, the Trustees had agreed to invite applications from young people up to the age of 25 for grants towards education/training. No applications had been received.

In discussions which followed, therefore, it had been decided to use the funding currently available to purchase a sound system which could be used in the church and outside. This would be of appreciable assistance to older people both in church and elsewhere in the village including outside. The meeting supported the purchase.

IH explained the origins and use of the Fessey Charity, noting that this had originally been the income from two separate family bequests the Herrick family as well as the Fessey family.

7. Website and Village Digital Communications Update

EU reported that the day-to-day management and running was working well, but he now needed technical advice relating to 'SSL'. RC was willing to supply the required information.

8. No Man's Land

JR had sent a written report which SH read to the meeting. Since the winter 'tidy-up' snowdrops and daffodils had been flowering and also spring violets.

The area will be left to grow through spring and summer, with a central path for walkers maintained. More flowering plants will be introduced eg cowslips, ox eye daisies. The grassless area near the end of St Mary's Close will be re-seeded, and may well need attention to remove pernicious weeds.

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

RC reported that he had recently received from Mr Taylor (the owner of the plot for which planning permission had been refused at appeal), an invoice for £1,000. SH had also received an invoice for the same amount. Both were not responding to the unsolicited request.

Registration of the Plot to the Village During the two weeks before the meeting SH had received from The Land Registry notification that the request had been refused and the money refunded. RC felt that that the village should not give up at this stage and further advice was being sought, with assistance also from CK.

9. The Village Fete

TH spoke of the various attractions to be offered at the Fete including the Dog Show, a Silent Auction teas and live music from 5.00pm. Bids were already being received in the silent auction and preparations were well in hand for many other attractions.

TH was warmly thanked for all their efforts.

10. Priors Marston & Priors Hardwick Coronation Party.

It was agreed that with the event being arranged in Priors Marston to which Priors Hardwick was invited, there would be no celebration here on Sunday 7th. £50 from Priors Hardwick had been donated towards to The Big Tea Party in Priors Marston and all were invited to attend, from 3.00pm bringing a plate of savouries: tea and cakes would be provided.

11. HS2

A period of more invasive and disruptive work was about to begin in the area adjacent to the T junction near the HS2 depot. The mobile information unit which visited on 7th March would be returning, as it was envisaged that we would be one of the worst affected areas. So far there were no plans to delay this work. It was possible that this major disruption would last for as long as two years, and there had been major concern from local farmers about any disruption to the harvests.

12.AOB

Dog fouling

This was becoming an issue once more, repeatedly on grass verges, wide mown grass in front of houses and in the churchyard. Please could all dog walkers ensure they are well equipped with bags before they leave home and keep dogs well within sight at all times.

Informal Meeting

SH invited anyone interested in exploring the possibilities of finding a new chairman and secretary for the Village Meeting, to meet at Rose Cottage on Tuesday 9th March at 5.00pm

PH thanked SH and MC for all their work for the village.

The Date of the next Meeting would be Thursday 20th July at 7.30pm in the Church

There being no further business the meeting closed shortly before 9.00pm