

## Priors Hardwick Village Meeting

Minutes of the meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> April 2024

In the Church of St Mary the Virgin

### Present:

Gill Kinnear (GK), Chairman

Carolyn Bath (CB), Treasurer

Emily Darbishire (ED), Secretary

District Councillors Nigel Rock (NR) & Nathalie Gist (NG)

Chris Bull; Margaret Clarke; Isobel Davies; Barbara Harvey; Tonia Hicks; Christopher Hodgson; Stuart Hyde; Charles & Gail Holland; Tim & Jenny Hoban; Paul & Rosemary Hobday; Derrin & Sally James; Callum James; Libby Jameson; Candy Kelly; Alan Kinnear; Lucie Penruddock; Miriam Price; Jane Richards; Mike Richards; Chris & Lesley Russon; Jago Toner; Sholto Toner; Miriam Price; Jane Richards; Mike Richards; Chris & Lesley Russon; Jago Toner; Sholto Toner; Eddie & Ann Ukleja; Miriam Price; Jane Richards; Mike Richards; Chris & Lesley Russon; Jago Toner; Sholto Toner; Miriam Price; Jane Richards; Mike Richards; Chris & Lesley Russon; Jago Toner; Sholto Toner;

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Gill Kinnear and Emily Darbishire both agreed to stand again as Chair and Secretary;

The Chair was proposed by Candy Kelly and seconded by Libby Jameson with a majority show of hands.

The Secretary was proposed by Isobel Davies and seconded by Eddie Ukleja with a majority show of hands.

The Chair invited Carolyn Bath to stand as Treasurer for another year, which she accepted. The Chair thanked CB for all that she does in her role.

### PRIORS HARDWICK QUARTERLY VILLAGE MEETING

1. Apologies were received from: Rob Albury; Anita and Rob Barritt; Richard Cutts; Simon & Angela Darbishire; Hugh Darbishire; Ivan Harvey; James Jameson; Diarmuid Kelly; Ian Mercer; Sylvia Sutherland; Ros White; Joy Redfern

2. The Minutes of the previous meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> January 2024 have been circulated and were taken as read with one amendment: 4a) Mis-spelling of Precept.

a) Adopt the minutes of the last meeting – Show of hands – Majority

3. Matters Arising:

a) In the last meeting GK asked people not to park on No Man's Land. Mr Taylor has emailed to say that No Man's Land is just that and the Priors Hardwick Village Meeting has no authority over it.

4. Finance:

CB presented the areas covered by the Annual Governance and Accountability Return for the year ending 31/03/2024.

4a) The Annual Internal Audit Report had been circulated before the meeting and was reviewed and noted. There were no issues raised.

4 b) 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 3/6/24 to 12/7/24.

4 c) The internal controls were considered effective, and approval of the Annual Governance Statement was proposed by CB, seconded by CH and agreed by the meeting.

4 d) The Statement of Accounts had been circulated for review before the meeting. CB highlighted that income for the year had been unusually high due to the fete which made a profit of £5500. Additional income was also received from The Fessey Fund (£200) which was used towards the purchase of the PA system, and the £450 National Lottery grant obtained by the Future Hardwick committee, which was used to part fund the village fish and chip night. The surplus for the year was £4674. Balances at the year-end were £3351 in the current account, £5810 in general reserves and £4532 remaining from the fete funds.

Going forwards this year's precept has been kept the same at £2500 which covers basic expenses. However, CB advised that the loan for the Priors Hall will be repaid this year, and this has been a substantial outgoing of £921. The village will need to consider whether it wishes to use these funds for an

alternative purpose or simply reduce the precept.

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

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

4 f) Fessey Charity (CB) - £122.64 in kitty as money used last year for the village sound system. In summary the Fessey Charity is money left by two village families to help the deserving poor with priority given to the old and infirm of the village. This has changed in more recent times, and last year funded the new sound system. The trustees will meet and expect to wait for a worthy cause.

5. Councillor Updates (NR) - Review of the Year – to be distributed independently.

6. Project Enable (CH) – driven by the PCC, to make use of the back of the Church. Quite a lot has been done since the last meeting. The plastering has been completed and the Hobdays have been painting, Ivan Harvey has done the skirting boards, Ros White has donated a shed. Elaine Barker has kindly agreed to pay for carpeting which is being organised by GK.

GK thanked CH for all his work coordinating the project.

7. HS2 - CK had nothing to report. GK followed up from the HS2 van visiting the village - when Stoneton Lane is cut off, the Welsh Road East is in a bad state and needs addressing. It is partly in Warwickshire and partly Northants. Gary Pettitt has advised to put it on the official Northants reporting page. At the very least it will need temporary passing places.

NR commented that the construction commission is coming to Warwickshire in May. Query whether we can do something to the road before the work starts as the project is delayed?

CB suggested we should write as a village and ask Christopher Kettle to come and talk to us. GK thought this was a good idea and offered to write.

8. Planning:

a) JR – Priors Hall – looking to install solar and improve heating. Needs investment of £40,000 with the aim of future proofing for future generations. Also need to

look at the ownership of the Hall, currently it is owned by Priors Hall Committee, whereas they would like it to be a village asset.

BH - need to co-ordinate with Priors Marston, the original loan was a 1/3<sup>rd</sup> share PH, 2/3<sup>rd</sup> share PM.

- b) Ironstone – current application 24/00771/FUL relates to the wall and hard landscaping at the front of the house, and a turning circle. ST explained that quite a lot of planting had been done to soften the wall, with further planting for a hedge in front of the wall planned.

After some debate it was decided that due to the planning applications being sent out to the village 36 hours before the meeting, it was felt that it was difficult to decide on the Consultee response tonight. A decision was made to call an Extraordinary Village Meeting on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> May at 7.30pm. As the Chair was not available on this date, SH was asked to chair the meeting,

which he accepted. This was proposed by TH and seconded CH.

## 9. AOB

A) JR - Defibrillator – with an electrician at a cost of £250 plus VAT. EU had already put some plywood into the phonebox to provide a base.

Put forward to use Fete money to pay for the installation of the defibrillator:  
Proposed by MC and seconded by CK.

B) CH thanked the village for helping with the tidy up day, 28 people attended in total. There is still some work to do and there is a second date of 4<sup>th</sup> May from 10am – 1pm for anyone who would like to help.

Mowing rota – There are still some gaps if anyone is yet to volunteer.

C) The chair thanked Natalie Bull for organising the Priors Hardwick Ladies meals at the Butchers Arms. There is a family day planned for the 14<sup>th</sup> September and it is proposed to use the same WhatsApp group to organise this.

D) Eddie Ukleja has been looking after the Priors Hardwick website and is now retiring from this role. Jenny & Tim Hoban have kindly offered to take over. GK thanked EU for his work and presented a gift of wine as a token of appreciation.

E) The chair gave a polite reminder to keep dogs on leads around the village.

The date of the next Meeting : Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> July 2024 at 7.30pm in the Church.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.45pm