

Priors Hardwick Village Meeting

Minutes of the meeting held on 27th October 2024

In the Church of St. Mary the Virgin

Present:

Gill Kinnear (GK), Chairman

Carolyn Bath (CB), Treasurer

Emily Darbishire (ED), Secretary

Ian Bath; Rob & Anita Barritt; Margaret Clarke; John Eustace; Stuart Hyde; Tim & Jenny Hoban; Paul & Rosemary Hobday; Derrin James; Callum James; Libby Jameson; Candy Kelly; Alan Kinnear; Christian Nessler; Joy Redfern; Chris Russon; Sue & Paul Sankey; Andrew Smith; Sue Talbot; Ann Ukleja; Steve Webb.

Apologies received from: Simon Darbishire; Hugh Darbishire; Christopher Hodgson; Sylvia Sutherland, Charles and Gail Holland; John Eustace; Ian Mercer; Rob Albury; Jago and Hollie Toner; Richard Cutt; Sarah Loble; Eddie Ukleja; Tonia Hicks; Alex McCudden

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1. Adoption of Minutes from the meeting held on 25th July:

- a. Proposed by Candy Kelly
- b. Seconded by Ian Bath

2. Matters Arising:

- a. The chair acknowledged the passing of Elizabeth Amor whose service to the village was much appreciated. Her funeral will be held on 11th November at 2.30pm in Oakley Wood.
- b. Standing orders – as we are not a Parish Council the chair raised formalising the business of the Village Meeting so as to be seen to be fair and transparent. A draft standing order has been circulated to the village and this was run through by GK to the meeting. The issue of confidentiality was discussed (point 8). SH proposed that the standing order was accepted and adopted by the village with a change to the confidentiality clause, subject to an annual review. This was seconded by Sue Talbot.

Votes for: 21

Abstentions: 1

Votes against: 1

3. Finance:

Current A/C: £3132

Reserves: £7857

Fete Money: £3896

Some Fete money was used at the Village Family Day - £120 for the bouncy castle and £100 donation to Air Ambulance for the band. Lafferty's pizzas also added £20 to the donation.

We have been successful in reclaiming VAT on larger expenditure over the last couple of years.

The large loan repayment for the Priors Hall ends this year. The village Precept currently stands at £2500 and it will be recommended it is reduced in January.

4. Councillor Update:

Nigel Rock was unable to attend the meeting. The Chair gave a short update on his behalf which has been circulated to the village.

MC – notice on notice board re winter fuel.

5. HS2 update following the 'mobile' visit in the afternoon of the 24th October (CK):

- Clearly still behind schedule, the parapets for the bridge are on their way and they are hoping to start over the winter. At the moment it is thought Leisure Drive will be closed in the Spring 2025. CK advised that they have to give us a two week notice letter, and it is unlikely they'll start until April 2025.
- There is a need for changes to the signs regarding access to the village.
- CB – Update on Welsh Road. Pushing for an upgrade but have to prove the road has deteriorated. GK explained that money has been allocated but it is up to Warwickshire CC how it is spent.

6. Planning:

- 2 applications in the village at the moment (Cutts & Tredwell), both of which GK submitted No Representation.

- At the last meeting there was concern over enforcement breaches (The Leys & Doe Bank Manor), NR is due to find out more. GK was not in a position to give updates.

7. Village Matters:

- a. Ride on mower talked about at the last meeting. Difficult because of storage. CR is obtaining quotes for a new contractor.
GK advised 3 quotes are needed, ideally by the January meeting so it can be put into place by the Spring.
- b. Clearing of the ground to the side of the Lych Gate and seeding:
The side of the Lych Gate was raised as it is difficult to keep it looking tidy.
Suggestion to make it more low maintenance and easier to mow, as it is Village land it does need Village agreement. GK asked if the meeting was in favour of clearing ground cover. It was agreed that the work to clear can be done.
MC also raised that the Spring by Pires graves is a hazard.
- c. Trees & Hedges, including No Man's Land:
Thank you to Joy and her team of helpers for their work on No Man's Land.
GK was liaising with Emma at Laburnum Cottage re cutting the laurel hedge and was obtaining prices (3 quotes). GK asked the meeting if we were happy to use Village money to cut the laurel hedge – majority agreed so the motion was carried forwards.
The tree by Ironstone is hanging over the road – GK has reported it to WCC.
- d. Security:
Emma the clerk at Priors Marston had some information from the Rural Crime advisors who want to bring a Community Crime Prevention toolbox event – no date as yet but the meeting was happy in principle to be a part of this.
SW offered some Police Top Tips – do not keep your house keys and car keys together and don't hide your car keys for your own safety.
- e. Highways:
Concern over flooding on London End spilling down onto the road. It was suggested an alert should be sent round when icy.
CB – new pot hole by the Hodgson's - it has been reported.
Concern over lorries coming into the village at 50 miles an hour and then braking suddenly.
GK also made a note that the cables across the road near Hardwick Hill are not monitoring speed, only counting vehicles.
- f. IT Update – Podcast – fantastic volunteers and guests so far. Aim to release one before Christmas, and then once a month going forwards.

If you would like to receive classified ads from the website you can visit the village website and fill in the contact form to receive these.

g. Fete 2025: 17th May 2025. Tonia offered to organise again this year.

8. AOB:

- PH – A year ago the village was trying to register No Man’s Land. IB explained there was limited progress, Natalie Gist had been out over the summer and he would pick it up with her again soon.
- AU – Village Hall Commitee looking for new members if anyone is interested.

Date of next meeting: **Tuesday 7th January 2025.**

AGM – **Thursday 8th April 2025.**

The meeting closed at 8.56pm.