

Priors Hardwick Village Meeting
Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 7th January at 7.30pm
In the Church of St. Mary the Virgin

Present:

Gill Kinnear (GK), Chairman

Carolyn Bath (CB), Treasurer

Emily Darbishire (ED), Secretary

District Councillor Nigel Rock (NR)

Anita Barritt; Ian Bath (IB); Chris Bull (CB); Margaret Clarke (MC); Simon Darbishire; Isobel Davies; John Eustace (JE); Paul Hobday (PH); Ivan & Barbara Harvey; Jenny & Tim Hoban; Christopher Hodgson (CH); Derrin James; Libby Jameson; Christian Kessler; Dan Line; Joy Redfern; Jane Richards; Chris Russon; Ann Ukleja(AU); Steve Webb.

Apologies were received from:

Rob Albury; Rob Barritt; Richard Cutt; Hugh Darbishire; Candy Kelly; Alan Kinnear; Sarah Lobley; Rolle Niemenen; Jago Toner, Sylvia Sutherland.

1. **The minutes of the previous meeting** held on 27th October 2024 have been circulated and were taken as read.

Proposed by: Carolyn Bath

Seconded by: Ann Ukleja

2. **Matters Arising:** None

3. **Finance (CB):**

It is now time to agree the precept for the next financial year, currently set at £2500 which equates to around £35 per household per annum. The loan for the Priors Marston Village Hall is now paid off so we could reduce the precept, or leave it as it is and transfer the surplus to a community fund. The surplus would be approx £1000 per annum with the general idea to fund some sort of community area.

CH – Prudent to save for a community asset. Proposed the precept remains the same.

JR – Could we spend it on CCTV for the village? CB agreed this was a possibility and the use of the surplus funds will be reviewed annually.

The Chair asked for a show of hands – All were in favour of retaining the precept at £2500 and reviewing annually.

Current balances:

Current A/C: £3091

General Reserves: £7871

Fete Reserves: £3903

The General Reserves include an amount of £4500 set aside for a playground that was to be funded by HS2 which didn't happen as a suitable site couldn't be found at the time. CB proposed to put this into the same community pot as the precept. There is also a further sum of ~£2000 in the HS2 Action Group account that was raised for the same purpose. CBU felt a playground was important as

this was what the money had been fund raised and allocated for. The Chair proposed to put the playground on the April Agenda so this could be revisited.

4. **Councillor Update:** NR and NG's report had been circulated to the village in advance of the meeting. NR updated the meeting and answered questions.

PH raised the issue of information missing from E-Planning. NR shared his concern and was on the case.

5. **Project Enable** – CH – Aim to make the back of the church more of a community asset. Chairs were ordered at the end of July which have now arrived. Keen to facilitate a water connection, which needs permission from the Diocese of Coventry. They have inspected and weren't very pleased that the PCC had not sought permission for what was already done, and a retrospective faculty will now be required. The PCC had a meeting the next day to discuss this and the way forward.

Funding options – We could approach the National Lottery for a grant of up to £250,000 for alterations to provide water, a server and accessible toilet. This would be supported by the Diocese.

CH went on to explain that the some of the windows in the church need urgent maintenance and a quote had been obtained for approximately £12,000. This posed a dilemma for the PCC who were keen to push on with Project Enable but have maintenance issues to contend with.

The meeting briefly discussed the location of a loo within/ outside the Church – CH and the PCC will look at all options but plans are constrained by the Church.

6. **HS2** – NR – Spoke to Jeremy Wright's office before Christmas – the re-routing of Stoneton Lane was discussed, the object being to improve the road to Boddington before it's further churned up. They said they'd go away and think again and NR is trying to get another meeting with them.

General update – 27/ 89 parapets on the Banbury Road have been completed and they are working 7 days a week. The Wormleighton Road traffic lights are likely to be there until late February.

7. **IT Update** – JH – In December there were 2600 unique visitors to the village website, this is increasing gradually over time. On Christmas Day there were 460! Podcast Update – CH's podcast had been well received. The 3rd Podcast about the Millenium Way was due to be released shortly, followed by Sylvia's podcast about the churchyard.

Ian & Tim are developing a gallery page for the website; if anyone has any interesting pictures of the village please do share them so they can be included.

8. **Village Matters Update:**

A. Mowing & Clearing – The laurel hedge behind Miss England's house along No Man's Land requires work . Nigel Whitehead had quoted

£550 for one day's work for 2 people to tidy this up and remove all the debris. GK was happy with this and would ask Nigel to complete the work.

One quote had been received so far for the mowing of the green, the Churchyard and the noticeboard grass. No alternative quote was available at the moment. AK indicated that he would be available now to mow the Green for this season as he did last year.

Village mower – various discussions have taken place re servicing, where to keep it, insurance etc, and it was difficult to reach a definitive answer.

CBU suggested that there may be children in the village who would like to earn some pocket money mowing?

GK – need to be mindful of age, would need to be over 16 and supervised by an adult – GK will circulate an email in the Spring.

B. Highways – MC raised some concerns over sharp edges on Lower End. GK is aware but at the moment Highways won't come out but hopefully they will in the Spring.

MC has noticed some fly tipping along the Welsh Road. NR recommended using the Stratford DC app to report it; he understood it worked very well.

C. Village Fete – 17th May – Tonia Hicks will set up a Whatsapp group soon to get plans underway.

D. Hardwick Hill Open Gardens – 1st June. Candy Kelly is planning a bigger event this year with cakes etc.

E. Planning – no particular issues.

- Ben Nichols – planning withdrawn
- Richard Cutt – Woodbine Cottage. RC has indicated that he will share plans with the village before the next meeting.
- Dan Line – submitted planning to replace a wooden framed building with a steel framed building at Tin City. This is needed due to increasing the size of their suckler herd and need somewhere to put the cows over the winter.

9. AOB

A. JE – Hellidon Oil Buying Scheme – local consortium where you can buy your oil to keep the cost down. John has left information by the door in the Church if anyone is interested.

B. JE – Raised the hunt coming through the village on the 7th January and that he felt they were not properly supervised.

The meeting closed at 8.49pm.

The date of the next meeting is Tuesday 8th April at 7.30pm.