

Priors Hardwick Village Meeting held on 8th January 2026 at 7.30pm

In The Church of St. Mary, Priors Hardwick

Chair: Gill Kinnear

Treasurer: Carolyn Bath

Secretary: Emily Darbshire

Present: Candy Kelly, Hugh Darbshire, Sue Talbot, Ian Bath, Tim and Jenny Hoban, Ian Mercer, Steve Webb, Richard Cutt, Derrin James, Charles Holland, Rob and Anita Barritt, Alan Kinnear, Christopher Hodgson, Paul Hobday
County Councillor Christopher Kettle

The weather was snowy, very windy and the roads slippery.

The Chair welcomed the village to the meeting and acknowledged the generous contribution by the congregation on Christmas Eve with a collection of £680. It was a great community event and very well attended by local residents and their families.

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from:

Margaret Clarke, Isabel Davies, Simon and Angela Darbshire, Diarmid Kelly, Libby Jamieson and James, Sarah Loble, Ann Ukleja, Gail Holland, Jago Toner, Christian Nessler, Mark Tredwell, Councillor Nigel Rock, Sylvia Sutherland, Rosemary Hobday

2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting held

The minutes of the meeting held on 23 October 2025 were reviewed and agreed as an accurate record.

Proposed by: Ian Bath

Seconded by: Sue Talbot

3. Matters Arising

Matters arising from the October meeting were reviewed. Items still in progress were addressed later in the agenda, including traffic matters, HS2 and the war memorial.

4. Finance

Carolyn Bath presented the financial report.

Funds remaining from the last two village fêtes total £3,559, with some of this earmarked for the war memorial project.

£312 has been spent from general funds on the Welsh Road speed survey.

Current balances were reported as:

- £3,559 – fête reserves
- £3,469 – current account
- £7,933 – general reserves

The War Memorial Trust has agreed to fund 50% of the restoration costs, amounting to £2,900 of an estimated £5,800 total.

Additional donations of £1,000 have been received, £500 each from the Royal Warwickshire Regiment and the Royal Fusiliers.

The precept was discussed and it was proposed, seconded and unanimously agreed that the precept remain at £2,500 for the coming year.

Proposed by: Carolyn Bath

Seconded by: Christopher Hodgson

5. Speed Survey Results and Action Plan

Tim Hoban presented the results of the two-week speed survey carried out on Welsh Road in November.

The survey recorded an average traffic flow of 435 vehicles per day.

71% of cars and 76% of light goods vehicles exceeded the 30mph speed limit.

A small but concerning proportion exceeded 50mph, including 2.3% of cars and 3% of vans.

Given the lack of pavements and the nature of the road, the results were considered particularly serious.

Possible next steps discussed included engagement with Warwickshire Police, involvement of councillors, reviewing signage and road markings, and exploring advisory speed measures.

It was agreed that Tim Hoban would arrange a meeting with councillors and police representatives to discuss options.

6. War Memorial Work

Steve Webb presented an update on the war memorial restoration.

Work is being carried out by Martin Power, with some delay due to weather conditions. Funding has been secured from the War Memorial Trust along with donations from the Royal Warwickshire Regiment and the Royal Fusiliers.

Steve explained that research is ongoing into the names on the memorial, which commemorates those who served as well as those who died.

Early discussions are taking place regarding a possible unveiling event, potentially involving regimental representatives and combined with a village gathering.

7. Councillor Reports / HS2 Update

Christopher Kettle and Candy Kelly provided a detailed update on HS2.

Ongoing concerns were raised regarding road safety, signage, gritting routes and delays to the Green Overbridge, which was originally described as a two-year closure.

Continued correspondence with HS2 leadership and councillors was confirmed.

Residents noted the significant impact on access, safety and daily travel.

8. Project Enable – Plans and Possible Grants

Christopher Hodgson and Jenny Hoban updated the meeting on Project Enable.

The PCC has recently spent over £10,000 on urgent church works including the Chancel window repair.

Positive progress has been made with Stratford District Council's 2025 Community Grant Scheme, with confirmation that the Parish Meeting is eligible to apply. The grant application deadline is 28 February. A £1,000 grant has been awarded by the Priors Educational Trust for children's activities. St Mary's Church has also received £500 from the Trust for similar purposes.

9. Web Page and Podcasts

Jenny Hoban gave an update on the village website and podcasts. Feedback has been very positive, with residents enjoying hearing local voices and stories: <https://priorshardwick.org.uk/podcasts-2>. The podcasts are proving a valuable way of keeping people informed and engaged. Thanks were expressed to Tim and Jenny Hoban for the technical work and ongoing support behind the scenes.

10. Planning

Gill Kinnear reported that there are currently no new planning applications, only minor matters such as tree work. A large tree on the green was discussed and it was agreed that quotes would be obtained from a tree surgeon. Concerns were also raised regarding delays in planning enforcement and Gill confirmed she would be following this up with the Head of Enforcement.

11. Any Other Business

Grass cutting volunteers were thanked. Residents were reminded that the grass-cutting rota is available on the Church tab of the village website: <https://priorshardwick.org.uk/church>

We are looking for a volunteer or someone to be paid to mow the area around the bus shelter on the Welsh Road. Rosemary Hobday kindly did this last summer but cannot continue. If anyone can help please contact Gill Kinnear directly.

With no fête planned this year, there was interest in holding a non-fundraising village get-together, potentially combined with the war memorial unveiling. The 9th/10th May was suggested to coincide with VE Day, more to follow.

The Butcher's Arms is due to go to auction on 22 January, and the village remains keen to see it return as a viable business.

Date for your diary – 31st May – Hardwick Hill Open Gardens

The next meeting, which will also be the AGM, will take place on Thursday 30 April at 7.30pm in the Church.

The Chair thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 8.42pm.