PRIORS HARDWICK PARISH MEETING

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 15 October 2026 at 7.30 p.m., St Mary's Church, Priors Hardwick

Chair: Gill Kinnear

Minutes: Jenny Hoban, deputising for Sarah Lobley; preparation supported by the meeting recording

Attendees: Gill Kinnear; Alan Kinnear; Tim Hoban; Jenny Hoban; Anita and Rob Barritt; Eddie Ukleja; Libby Jameson; Gail and Charles Holland; Sue Talbot; Margaret Clarke; Steve Webb; Nick Ratcliffe; Cati Medina; Jane Richards; Derrin James; Jill and Mike Weaving; Christopher Hodgson; Barbara Harvey; Richard Cutt; Ann Ukleja; District Councillor Jake Beavan; County Councillor Christopher Kettle.

Apologies: Rolle Nieminen; Sarah Lobley; Candy and Diarmuid Kelly; Carolyn and Ian Bath; Simon and Angela Darbyshire; Sylvia Sutherland; Christian and Katie Nessler; Chris and Lesley Russon; Mark Tredwell; Joy Redfern; Stuart Hyde and Tonia Hicks; Graham Olver; James Mayne; Paul and Rosemary Hobday; Ivan Harvey; Cllr Natalie Gist.

1. Welcome and Apologies

The Chair welcomed residents and the two councillors. The meeting was recorded to assist preparation of the minutes, and speakers were asked to identify themselves.

The apologies listed above were received.

2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of 30 July 2026 had been circulated. Richard Cutt requested that the reference to land outside the Weaver's Cottage planning application retaining its "agricultural status" be amended to "existing status". This wording was accepted.

RESOLVED: The minutes of 30 July 2026 were approved subject to that amendment. Proposed by Derrin James and seconded by Richard Cutt.

ACTION: Secretary to incorporate the agreed wording in the approved July minutes.

3. Matters Arising

Weaver's Cottage: The agreed clarification to the wording of the previous minutes is recorded under item 2 above.

Yew tree on the Green

Following a site visit, Stratford-on-Avon District Council opposed felling the yew tree on the Green, but pruning was permitted. Shire Forestry is scheduled to carry out lateral and vertical pruning on Thursday 12 November 2026 at a cost of £550 plus VAT.

ACTION: Chair to oversee the scheduled pruning.

The Butcher's Arms

The Chair reported on representations and correspondence concerning the premises licence under the outgoing ownership. The outcome had not been as hoped, and clarification and corrections had been sought. Alex Williams was progressing the purchase, which had not completed at the date of the meeting. The premises licence remains attached to the premises.

ACTION: Gill Kinnear to invite Alex Williams to a future Parish Meeting to outline his plans for the pub.

4. Councillors' Reports

Both councillors' reports had been circulated before the meeting.

County Councillor Christopher Kettle

Cllr Kettle reported that the proposed gateway signage on Welsh Road was progressing, although no installation date had been confirmed. District Councillors Jake Beavan and Natalie Gist were also pursuing the scheme. A short traffic observation had recorded little traffic; residents were encouraged to report incidents and near misses. A damaged sign at Church End was reported, and the Chair agreed to send a photograph to Cllr Kettle for follow-up. A road closure between Priors Marston and Marston Doles was expected on 22 and 23 October, with traffic diverted through Priors Hardwick.

ACTION: Gill Kinnear to send Cllr Kettle a photograph of the damaged Church End sign; Cllr Kettle to pursue repair. Cllrs Kettle, Beavan and Gist to continue pursuing Welsh Road gateway signage; residents to provide road-safety evidence.

District Councillor Jake Beavan

Cllr Beavan was following up road markings at the crossroads and had been involved in the Butcher's Arms licensing matter. He outlined changes to planning decision-making which would mean fewer applications going to committee and reduced councillor call-in opportunities. Residents expressed concern about the implications for local representations and planning-officer capacity. Cllr Beavan said he would continue to work with case officers to convey community concerns. No planning resolution was taken.

ACTION: Cllr Beavan to continue pursuing the crossroads markings and representing village concerns within the revised planning process.

Financial report

The Treasurer reported total income for the previous quarter of £2,024.81, including £484.74 from the Village Pizza Night, and expenditure of £409.41. The Village Fund stood at £2,794.58, the Village Reserve at £3,453.58, the PET Grant at £10,875.23 and the Playground Reserve at £6,820.35.

HS2 update

The Chair reported on the HS2 liaison meeting of 9 October. Topics included construction traffic, road damage, fencing and future landscaping responsibilities. The Stoneton Lane Green Bridge was anticipated to be completed in summer 2027, rather than by a confirmed date. Concerns continued about the deterioration of Welsh Road, including displaced traffic and prolonged construction disruption. Cllr Kettle undertook to raise these matters directly with HS2. It was reported that £100,000 was available to support road repairs affected by HS2 across the wider area, not specifically allocated to Priors Hardwick.

ACTION: Cllr Kettle to raise Welsh Road damage and prolonged disruption with HS2; residents to supply photographs and videos where available.

5. Planning

Home Farm: Planning application 26/02322/COUQ, concerning change of use of an agricultural building to a dwelling, was reported as pending consideration by Stratford-on-Avon District Council. It was presented for information only; no Parish Meeting position or resolution was taken. Changes to planning decision-making were discussed under item 4.

ACTION: No formal action; residents may consult the circulated planning information.

6. Village Communication

Jenny Hoban updated the meeting on the village website, including news, events, the Community Recommendations page and the photo gallery. Residents were invited to recommend trusted local services, supply photographs (particularly historical images) and suggest improvements. A historical newspaper item supplied by Barbara Harvey was to be added. The Village Voices podcast featuring Adam Wood had been published that day; a War Memorial episode was in preparation. The Chair suggested gathering memories of past village Christmas celebrations for a seasonal episode. Thanks were expressed to all contributors.

ACTION: Website and podcast team to add the historical material, invite recommendations, photographs and Christmas memories, and continue the planned episodes.

7. Priors Sports & Social Club

Jane Richards introduced the request on behalf of the Priors Marston and Priors Hardwick Sports and Recreation Club. The club sought a contribution towards maintaining its shared grounds; annual grounds costs of approximately £6,000 were discussed. Residents sought a clearer breakdown of expenditure, income, contributions from users and the bar, the remaining funding gap, and how a request might be shared between Priors Hardwick and Priors Marston. The potential implications for the precept and households were also discussed. No contribution or apportionment was agreed.

AGREED: The financial case and precept implications will be considered at the January 2027 Parish Meeting, with a final decision potentially at the April AGM. No financial commitment was made.

ACTION: Club representatives to provide an itemised budget, income sources, funding gap and specific request; Chair and Treasurer to prepare the January discussion, including potential precept implications.

8. Community Speedwatch

Tim Hoban reported that six Community Speedwatch volunteers had been identified, but previous police authorisations had expired and renewed checks were being processed. Simon Skipp was expected to provide training in November 2026, with monitoring hoped to begin later that month. Police had approved a Welsh Road monitoring location opposite Derrin James's property, and permission to use the land had been obtained. Required equipment and safety arrangements were discussed.

ACTION: Speedwatch team to complete checks and training, obtain appropriate equipment and commence authorised monitoring.

9. Community Space

Christopher Hodgson reported that the necessary church permissions for the community-space improvements had not yet been obtained. A meeting with the Archdeacon and Stratford-on-Avon District Council representatives was scheduled for Monday 19 October, with water and improved facilities a priority. Jenny Hoban explained that, following an earlier unsuccessful grant application, the church had been invited to pursue a further District Council funding opportunity of up to £100,000; no award had been made. Funding from the Moore Trust had been secured for a projector, screen and associated technology. Wi-Fi was suggested, but no decision to install it was made.

ACTION: Project team to progress permissions, water and toilet proposals, and the potential funding application; report back at the next Village Meeting.

10. Village Fête

The next Village Fête was planned for Saturday 15 May 2027. The Chair proposed an open meeting on a Saturday in early January to gather ideas and volunteers, followed by a smaller organising committee. No specific date for the January meeting was agreed.

ACTION: Jenny Hoban to circulate details of the proposed open planning meeting once the January date is confirmed; Chair to progress formation of the organising committee.

11. Any Other Business

No Man's Land

The Chair thanked Joy Redfern and the volunteers caring for the area. Further wildflower planting and work on the laurel were planned.

ACTION: Volunteer group to continue planting and maintenance.

Open gardens

Candy Kelly's open garden event was announced for Sunday 6 June 2027.

ACTION: Publicise the event nearer the date.

Swift boxes

Following information supplied by Ian Mercer about experience in Napton, the Chair proposed inviting a representative of the Napton environmental group to advise on swift boxes.

ACTION: Gill Kinnear to contact the Napton environmental group through District Councillor Jake Beavan.

Village benches

Residents were invited to volunteer to maintain individual village benches. Carolyn and Ian Bath already care for two benches at London End. The possibility of meeting maintenance costs from village funds if volunteers could not be found was discussed, but no expenditure was approved.

ACTION: Chair to seek further volunteers and review any maintenance needs.

Parish magazine and new residents

Margaret Clarke outlined the financial pressure of printing and delivering the Parish Magazine. It was agreed to introduce an annual subscription of £10 per household for residents wishing to receive a printed copy; the magazine would remain available free online. Payment and delivery arrangements were to be publicised. A welcome pack or online information for new residents was also suggested.

ACTION: Magazine organisers and Chair to circulate subscription, payment and delivery arrangements and invite households to confirm whether they want a printed copy. Jenny Hoban to raise the possibility of information for newcomers through village email.

Playground

Jane Richards asked about progress towards a village playground. The Chair proposed approaching prospective pub purchaser Alex Williams about possible land associated with the Butcher's Arms. Other possible sites and ongoing maintenance and safety costs were discussed. No site was agreed and no expenditure authorised.

ACTION: Chair to approach the prospective pub owners about possible land and investigate site suitability and long-term costs before any proposal is brought forward.

12. Date of Next Meeting

The next Parish Meeting will be held on Thursday 7 January 2027 at 7.30 p.m. at St Mary the Virgin Church, Priors Hardwick. The Chair thanked residents for attending and for their contributions to village life, and closed the meeting.

ACTION: Chair and Secretary to confirm and circulate the next meeting arrangements.

Consolidated action summary

Item	Lead	Action
2	Secretary	Amend the approved July minutes to record “existing status” for the remaining land at Weaver’s Cottage.
3	Gill Kinnear	Oversee yew-tree pruning by Shire Forestry on 12 November; invite Alex Williams to a future meeting.
4	Gill Kinnear / Cllr Kettle	Send damaged-sign photograph and pursue repair.
4	Cllrs Kettle, Beavan and Gist / residents	Continue pursuing Welsh Road signage; provide incident and near-miss evidence.
4	Cllr Kettle / residents	Raise HS2-related Welsh Road damage and prolonged disruption, supported by photos or videos.
4	Cllr Beavan	Continue pursuing crossroads road markings and representing local planning concerns.
6	Website and podcast team	Continue website and podcast work; invite photographs, recommendations and Christmas memories.
7	Club representatives / Chair / Treasurer	Provide detailed financial case and consider precept implications in January, ahead of a potential April decision.
8	Speedwatch team	Complete renewed authorisations, November training and equipment arrangements before monitoring.
9	Community-space project team	Progress church permissions, facilities and potential grant application; report in January.
10	Jenny Hoban / Chair	Circulate January fête planning meeting once a date is agreed;

		seek volunteers and form organising committee.
11	Environment volunteers	Continue No Man's Land planting and seek bench-care volunteers.
11	Gill Kinnear / Cllr Beavan	Contact Napton environmental group for advice on swift boxes.
11	Magazine organisers / Chair / Jenny Hoban	Circulate agreed £10 annual paper subscription arrangements; consider newcomer information.
11	Gill Kinnear	Explore possible playground land with Alex Williams, including ongoing costs; no commitment made.
12	Chair / Secretary	Circulate next meeting details for 7 January 2027 at 7.30 p.m. at St Mary's Church.

Signed as a correct record: _____ Date: _____