

Period of Report:

This Annual Report covers the work of Salford Priors Parish Council for the period commencing 1st April 2017 and ending 31st March 2018.

Chairman's Introduction:

Welcome to your Annual Parish Meeting. This is your meeting, providing all residents with the opportunity to voice their personal views, to ask questions and to make requests concerning future events and activities. Being a Parish Councillor is purely voluntary and councillors receive no monetary reward for their time and commitment to the parish council and therefore on behalf of all parishioners I would like to thank them for their continued commitment.

The last year once again has been a busy and productive year for this Council. I continue to feel very honoured and privileged to be chair of this very active and committed Council. This parish has nine dedicated councillors who endeavour to make the right decisions for the parish based on the information that they have to hand at the time. Of course as in life the decisions we make do not always please everyone all of the time.

In November the council accepted the resignation of Anthony Quiney who after many years of living in the parish moved to Evesham, the council wish him well in his new home. At the council's February meeting the council co-opted Paula Gordon, I'm sure Paula will be a valuable asset to the council and I'm sure she will find her time on the council as rewarding and interesting as we all do.

Parish Clerk:

On behalf of the Parish Council, I would like to thank the Clerk, Mrs Donna Bowles for all her dedication and hard work during the last year. Donna continues to attend training courses which benefit the Council and keep the council up to date with the new regulations. Donna has set up a Facebook page for the council and regularly posts information including the minutes of the parish council meetings on there.

Parish Council Meetings:

The Parish Council has held 10 Ordinary Meetings and a Budget Preparation Meeting. A total of 28 members of the public attended meetings. It was decided not to hold Ordinary meetings in August and December in 2017 as a trial and it was also decided to combine the Annual parish meeting and the April Ordinary meeting this year. Councillors attended various working group meetings and represented the council on various local outside bodies, a full list of working groups and group membership is available on the community website.

The Playing Field Working Group has been very busy this year and 10 tenders were received. After a lengthy review of all the tenders the group's recommendation to the March Ordinary Meeting was to award the contract to Kompan Ltd. It is hoped that the work will be finished at the end of June in time for the start of the school holidays. It should be noted that this is the largest single contract ever awarded by this Council.

A Nations Tribute Working Group are busy organising events to mark the 100th anniversary of the end of World War One. The Council and the Memorial Hall Committee are jointly funding a Memorial Garden project here at the Hall.

A new working group has been set up this year to monitor Warwickshire County Council Draft County Minerals Plan Consultation which has gone back to re-consultation including re-assessment of sites. The group met in early March and it should be noted that yet again the County Council failed to notify the Parish Council of its decision which was made in October 2017, it was only when a journalist from the Stratford Herald contacted us.

Attendance by Councillors:

Councillor's attendance at these meetings has been:

Will Godwin 11/11 Alan Green 11/11 Kim James 9/11 Karen Littleford 11/11

Liam Maude 9/11 David Penn 10/11 Anthony Quiney 6/7 Tony Shale 8/11

John Stedman 9/11 Paula Gordon 1/1

District Councillor M Cargill 4/11 County Councillor M Brain 3/11

Salford 7 Neighbourhood Development Plan:

On Thursday 4th May, 2017 the referendum took place, it was a simple yes/no vote on the question:

‘Do you want Stratford-Upon-Avon District Council to use the neighbourhood plan for Salford Priors to help decide planning applications in the neighbourhood area?’

The result was an overwhelming 86.8% in favour of the plan. Our plan is now forms part of the decision making process for planning applications at Stratford District Council.

There is now a NDP Working Group who are currently in discussion with neighbouring parishes on the feasibility of creating a safe cycleway.

Planning Applications:

Various Planning applications were considered during the last 12 months. These included extensions to existing homes, tree removal and pruning, change of use and included new offices for Alamo.

A full application for 14 houses to include additional parking spaces on Evesham Road and outline application for 68 houses, new village green, community car park and highway improvements have also been received.

Street Lighting:

The Working Group has recommended that all existing streetlights are changed to LED lamps over the next 12 months. This will reduce energy consumption and repair costs.

Speeding in the Village:

The council commissioned a road tube survey which took place during a week in October. The road tubes were placed just past the 30mph speed sign coming into Salford Priors from the A46, and again just past Ban Brook Rd to find out a) the speed of traffic and b) how many heavy goods vehicles are travelling through the village to Angus Soft Fruits and at what times.

The results showed that the worst speeding problems are in School Road and around school times. These results have been forwarded to the local police to see if they can arrange for their mobile speed vans to be placed along these roads. They also showed that no HGVs travelled over the road tubes between the hours of 21:00 and 06:00.

The Community Speed Aware Group is now up and running and will be targeting both of these areas along with other sites within the parish. They are looking for extra volunteers to keep this important group going.

Donations:

The Parish Council Community Grant Scheme received 5 applications this year, and granted donations of £1000 to the 1st Salford Priors Rainbows, Brownie and Guide Group, £200 to the Royal British Legion, £250 to the Summer Fete Committee and the purchase of 3 new trees and a forest school fire basket for Salford Priors Primary School, the Council has also pledged to fund 12 months’ rent for The Stay and Play Group and a £100 donation.

The Application Form is available to download from the website enabling any local community group to request funding for projects.

Precept, Amenity Provision and Communication:

The Parish Council precept for year 2018/2019 was set at the December meeting and has remained the same at £63,000. The precept pays for the following services: amenity mowing, verge mowing, planters

and flower displays, playing field inspection, maintenance and improvement, St. Matthews Churchyard extension, upkeep of parish notice boards, general maintenance tasks undertaken by the Lengthsman and footway lighting, as well as the following facilities: Allotments Gardens, TOP's Building and the Parish Office.

In closing, whilst it has been my honour to have been Chairman of this Parish Council for a number of years, I feel, it is now time for me to step down, and make room for a new Chairman to lead the Parish Council.