

Salford Priors Parish Council

Minutes of an Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council held in the Memorial Hall, Salford Priors, on Wednesday 16th. September 2009 at 7.30pm.

Present: Councillors, KA James (Chairman), AW Wolfe, JR Stedman, RJA Francis, RM Pane M Myers and DC Penn.

Also in attendance: County Councillor P Barnes, District Councillors BW Slaughter and D Pemberton, MJ.Philpott, Clerk, and six members of the public.

1. Apologies for absence

There were no apologies for absence.

2. Declarations of Office and Disclosure of Interests

2.1 Register of Interests: Members were reminded of the need to keep their register of interests up to date.

2.2 Declaration of Interests: Members were reminded that they were required to declare and disclose any personal or prejudicial interests in items on the agenda. Councillors with a prejudicial interest were required to leave the room for the relevant agenda item.

Cllr. KA James declared a personal interest in payment 8461.

Cllr. JR Stedman declared a prejudicial interest in item 5.3, Memorial Hall, item 6.2, Housing provision and also in payment 8456.

Before taking the Open Forum the Chairman proposed, and it was agreed, to consider **item 5.9, Bidford Fire Station.**

The Clerk had previously circulated a letter from the Chairman to the Chief Executive of WCC and also copies of the Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Authority Improvement Plan Consultation.

Cllr. Barnes informed the meeting that dramatic cuts were proposed for the Fire Service under the banner of service improvements and he urged that there should be utmost opposition to the proposals to close the station at Bidford. He produced excerpts from election addresses where assurances had been made that the station would not be closed. Cllr. Barnes said that the existing stations in the area at Studley, Bidford and Alcester all cost in the region of £100,000 per year to operate whereas the new proposals for Alcester would cost around £1,000,000. In addition a rescue boat was to be provided but in flood conditions this might not be able to access the bridge at Bidford. He also referred to the types of vehicle in operation stating that only the Dennis vehicle based at Bidford was able to operate on flooded roads. Cllr. Barnes said that a similar number of properties in Alcester and Bidford were affected during the floods and he emphasised that a non-emotional, well-argued case needed to be made if the Chief Fire Officer was to reconsider his position. Finally, he noted that whereas Studley and Alcester could call on the Redditch station in an emergency, Bidford had no alternative since the Evesham vehicle was always on standby for Long Lartin.

Cllr. James agreed that any case made had to be factual and referred to available professional help. The River Avon was seen as being of unique importance. He referred to a forthcoming presentation by the Fire Service at Bidford on 19.10.09 and also an important meeting of the Community Forum on a date to be arranged. Cllr. Pemberton said that the forum would allow for questions and debate and that the MP might attend. Cllr. Wolfe asked if the Cabinet would make the final decision and the Chairman said that the County Solicitor had ruled that a full Council decision would be required. Cllr. Wolfe also enquired about the need for a boat and the Chairman explained that rescue from inland waterways was a Fire Service responsibility. Cllr. Stedman, Cllr. Myers, and the Clerk all referred to the lack of information and the lack of a properly reasoned report justifying the proposals

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and said that what had been made available was very light-weight and seemed to be designed to deal with what should be management issues. Further discussion confirmed the need for an overall response not based just on costs. The Chairman referred to the Fire Reform Acts and also that the proposed new station at Pebworth would act as the main station for Long Lartin. Cllr. Myers mentioned the large numbers of thatched properties requiring a rapid response. Cllr. Pemberton said that the Parish Councils needed to work together and this was generally agreed. All residents were urged to complete the consultation document on the WFRA website.

3. Open Forum

3.1 Have your say: No under 18's were present.

3.2 Public Participation:

A deputation of residents attended to seek support for the formation of a football team in the village. They sought use of the Playing Field, storage facilities, and use of TOPs as an away changing room. The Chairman was generally supportive of their aspirations and it was agreed that they would meet the Clerk on the following Friday in order to consider the detailed requirements.

Mr Gascoigne spoke to express concerns regarding the slow restoration of Marsh Farm quarry and the possibility of alternative restoration plans being adopted. The Chairman explained that Warwickshire County Council was responsible for monitoring the restoration progress but the Parish Council had expressed strong views in full accordance with Mr Gascoigne's concerns.

3.3 Ward Members' Reports

Cllr. Barnes reported that the full grant to the Youth Club had been made. He also invited Councillors to the Chairman's reception.

The Open Forum closed at 8.15pm.

4. Minutes

The Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council held on Wednesday 19th. August 2009 at 7.30pm at The Memorial Hall, Salford Priors, were approved and signed by the Chairman.

5. Matters arising from the Minutes - Clerk's report for consideration by Council

5.1 Post box at Dunnington School.

The Clerk reported that Dunnington School had been requested to cut the hedge around the post box and the work had been carried out satisfactorily.

5.2 Delivery of petition regarding Berry Coppice to County Council.

The Clerk reported that copies of the petitions received had been bound together for presentation to the Chairman of the County Council. The Chairman confirmed that he had been advised to present the petition at a meeting in December.

5.3 Meeting with Memorial Hall representatives.

Cllr. Stedman left the room.

The Chairman reported on a meeting with Memorial Hall representatives on 27.08.09. A revised rent had been discussed and the Parish Council agreed to forego the car parking spaces at the rear of the Hall. Cllr. Myers queried the amount of the proposed reduction in rent and the Chairman said this had been based on current commercial office rents. A copy of the proposed amendments to the Agreement had been circulated for consideration by the Council and was agreed.

Cllr. Stedman returned to the room.

5.4 Footpath between Abbots Salford and County Boundary, Harvington.

It was noted that WCC had not started this work.

5.5 Proposed quarry North of Broom Lane.

The Clerk confirmed that a further letter had been sent to WCC endorsing the Council's earlier views. A consultation had also been received from SDC and was discussed under item 11.1. Cllr.

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Wolfe queried as to whether the application could be determined before the new strategy was agreed. The Chairman said that it could be determined under the current plans.

5.6 Bin on Playing Field.

Cllr. Francis had reported that the inside liner had been returned and the Clerk said he was investigating the cost of replacing the outside only. Council noted that the excess on the insurance policy was £125. Council agreed not to pursue the insurance issue but advised that if a new outer could not be obtained then a complete bin should be purchased.

5.7 Dog on allotment.

The Clerk reported that the dog warden at SDC had been contacted but further information had been requested. It was agreed that without detailed dates and times no further action could be taken

5.8 Footpath between School Avenue and Ridsdale Close.

The Clerk reported that letters have been sent to the residents of numbers 12 and 13 School Avenue regarding the overgrown hedge and the fence bordering the footpath between School Avenue and Ridsdale Close. The Clerk was asked to refer the matter to the County Council if action was not forthcoming within ten days.

5.9 Bidford Fire Station

Item considered earlier.

5.10 HM Government, vetting and barring scheme

The Clerk reported that copies of the Government letter had been circulated to village organisations. Council noted that there had been reports of some changes by the Government since the publication of the scheme. Cllr. Pane asked for advice regarding the scheme's applicability to older people and the Chairman said she should contact the Social services department.

5.11 Telephone box at Iron Cross.

The Clerk reported that BT and SDC had been informed that the Council did not wish to adopt the phone box. A resident had asked if she could have the phone box for her garden and had been referred to BT. Subsequently, the Clerk had been informed that as the Parish Council did not wish to adopt the box the equipment would actually remain in place in working order but might be subject to a removal scheme at a later date.

5.12 Meeting with School Council.

The Clerk reported that a reply was still awaited.

6. Main Items

6.1 Speed limits

The Clerk reported that he had written to the Speed Aware team requesting specific information on the exact location of their speed measurements, the timing of a full traffic speed survey on Evesham Road, and the re-location of the SID post from outside Alamo to near the Salford Hall Hotel. The Clerk said he had also passed on an e-mail from Mr Cane for WCC comment. The Chairman reported that residents on Evesham Road were very dissatisfied and also that it appeared there were more HGVs using the road. Both Cllr. Wolfe and Cllr. Myers believed that for residents of Cleeve View, the new chicane had aggravated problems.

6.2 Housing provision

This item was considered at the end of the meeting.

6.3 Parish Community Emergency Plan

The Clerk said that he had substantially completed the Emergency Plan and all councillors were asked to send any further information to the Clerk within a week. The Clerk was authorised to send the plan to WCC and provide copies for each councillor.

6.4 Report on NALC Conference

A report by the Chairman and Cllr. JR Stedman had been circulated to all members. The Chairman said there were questions to be asked regarding the location, administration, and the role of County Association members and these would be taken up with WALC. Otherwise the conference had been very useful and Mr Matthew Taylor had made a particularly good presentation on making communities sustainable. The Chairman said that further reports would be forthcoming on particular issues.

7. Amenity, Environment, Highways, and TOPS

7.1 Playing Field weekly safety reports.

Council noted that Cllr. Francis had provided inspection reports dated 23.08.09; 31.08.09; 7.09.09; and 14.09.09. Cllr. Francis reported that he had repaired a swing that had been vandalised and this required checking. The Clerk reported that the annual independent inspection had been requested from SDC.

7.2 Report on expenditure items approved at previous meeting

The Clerk reported on the progress of the expenditure proposals agreed at the previous meeting:

Storage area at TOPs

TOPs Management Committee had been asked to provide a shed with a contribution of £300 from the Parish Council. The position of the shed to be agreed with the Council.

Replacement windows for TOPs

An order had been placed with Centurian Home Improvements Ltd. of Bidford on Avon in the sum of £3574 for windows in white PVCu with 28mm. sealed units in Pilkington K glass. It was anticipated the work would commence within two weeks.

New dog bins

An order had been placed with Broxap for 2 bins to be delivered to Limebridge Farm.

A further order had been placed with Limebridge Rural Services Ltd. to receive the bins and place them in position. The company had also been asked to remove and dispose of the old bin past the allotments.

Salt bin by School

An order had been placed with Glasdon for a slimline grit/salt container and this had been delivered to Limebridge Farm. A further order had been placed with Limebridge Rural Services Ltd. to receive the bin and place it in position.

New planters

An order had been placed with Limebridge Rural Services to supply five new planters including delivery, placing in position at the time of the winter planting, lining the planters with polythene, and filling with compost.

Additional water tank at allotments

An order to provide the additional tank was placed with Limebridge Rural services on 17.07.09.

Street lighting report

Discussions were in progress with Peter Long as agreed at the last meeting. Mr Long was producing an estimate for the physical tests but suggested that the street lighting officers at WCC might be better placed to advise on the energy issues. The Chairman agreed to provide information where the energy checks could be made.

Painting railings at Abbots Salford

An order had been placed with PPI Ltd. of Ardens Grafton to carry out this work.

7.3 Replacement lantern PL16 in St Matthews Close

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The Clerk reported that E.ON UK had inspected the broken lantern and a replacement lantern was required. A quotation had been received for a new lantern at a cost of £355 plus VAT. Council instructed the Clerk to place an order.

8. Communications

8.1 Newsletter

Council agreed that the Newsletter should now be produced for late October and should feature the fire station issue but that other items should be included. All members were urged to provide information and articles to Cllr. Wolfe as soon as possible.

8.2 Website

The Clerk reported that he had met with the Chairman of the Bidford and District History Society and had agreed new pages and links for the website and these had now been uploaded. The arrangements of Minutes on the site had also been improved. Cllr. Myers suggested that some of the historic photos should be added to the site.

8.3 E-mail newsletter

It was reported that the Chairman had produced an E-Newsletter covering the expenditure decisions made at the previous meeting. The fire service reports had also been circulated. The Clerk said that the mailing list needed to be increased and this would be advertised in the printed Newsletter.

9. Rights of Way

9.1 Report from P3 Co-ordinator.

The Chairman said a marker post on the road to Marsh Farm was incorrectly placed and Cllr. Penn agreed to bring this to the attention of the P3 Co-ordinator.

9.2 Report by Cllr. Myers on meetings with landowners

Cllr. Myers reported she had met with Sandfields and they had agreed to unlock the pedestrian gate on AL6 and also to provide dog waste bins at the junction with New Inn Lane and by the packing station. Sandfields would arrange for emptying these bins. Also, a meeting had been held with Alamo and they had agreed to place hardcore on the route of AL17 where heavy rutting had occurred. Members of Council expressed their appreciation of Cllr. Myers efforts on behalf of walkers in the village.

10. Planning general

10.1 Nothing to report.

11. New Planning Applications for Council's consideration

11.1 **09/01491/COUNTY**, Extraction of minerals with restoration to agriculture and a pond at Marsh Farm Quarry, land North of Broom Lane, Dunnington, for CEMEX UK Minerals Ltd. Council agreed the response proposed by the Clerk.

12. Planning Decisions

12.1 None to report

13. Staffing

Nothing reported.

14. Matters raised by Councillors

14.1 Cllr. KA James - Outside Fitness - A Gym in the Playing Field for all ages, Exploration of Ideas

The Chairman reported on a range of outside gym equipment supplied by Fresh-Air Fitness suitable for teenagers and adults. The cost was reasonable and it was sturdy and relatively vandal-proof. The Chairman said that funding might be available through the District Council.

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14.2 Cllr. KA James - Precept 2010/11 Participatory Budgeting - Open Meeting to be held in November 2009

The Chairman had circulated a paper designed to involve residents in the budget-making process. Council agreed this was a good idea and it was proposed that a public meeting should be held in November to try out the proposal. The Clerk was asked to propose suitable dates.

14.3 Cllr. KA James – Request for a donation from Salford Priors Amateur Theatrical Society, (SPATS)

Following discussion regarding a request from SPATS for a donation of £180 to provide new stage curtains, Cllr. James proposed and Cllr. Francis seconded that the donation be made. Council agreed the proposal by 5 votes to 2.

15. Consideration of Correspondence Received**15.1 WALC, Annual General Meeting.**

Councillors wishing to attend the AGM were asked to advise the Clerk as soon as possible.

15.2 Vitalise, request for funding.

Council decided not to make a donation to this national organisation.

16. To Table

Council noted the following tabled items:

16.1 Clerk's & Councils Direct September 2009, Issue 65.

16.2 WALC 60th. Annual Report.

16.3 the Clerk, September 2009, Vol. 41 No.5.

Cllr. Stedman left the meeting.

6.2 Housing provision (Item deferred from earlier in the meeting)

Councillors had been circulated with reports from SDC planning department and the WRCC Housing Enabler regarding potential sites for a small scale development of affordable homes for local residents. Councillors considered that sites numbered 4 and 6 on School Road between the Primary School and Banbrook Road could create a precedent for a larger development in the area. They also considered that development over the recently created allotments, site numbered 3, should not be supported. Councillors supported the further investigation of site 7 opposite Park Hall on Tothall Lane and site 2 at Iron Cross and the Clerk was instructed to inform WRCC accordingly.

17. Finance**17.1 To consider and approve the payments and transfers listed in Appendix A.**

Council noted the income transactions in Appendix A Item 20.1

Council considered the expenditure transactions listed in Appendix A Item 20.2. Authorisation for payment was proposed by Cllr. Wolfe, seconded by Cllr. Myers and carried. Cheques were signed by Cllrs. Wolfe and Penn.

Council considered the Clerk's proposal to transfer £3500 from No.1 account to the Community account. Authorisation for transfer of funds was proposed by Cllr. James, seconded by Cllr. Myers, and carried.

17.2 HMRC Penalty Payment

The Clerk reported that a penalty payment notice had been received from HMRC due to the Annual Return having been submitted five days late due to the relevant forms not being available. Following representations the payment had been cancelled by HMRC and written confirmation was awaited.

18. Date of Next Meeting

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Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council on Wednesday 14th. October at 7.30pm in the hall at Dunnington Baptist Church.

Councillors were also asked to note that a Training Session on the Power of Well Being would take place on Wednesday 21st. October in the Memorial Hall, Salford Priors at 7.30pm. It was essential that all Councillors attended.

19. Closure of meeting

The meeting closed at 10.03pm.

Signed.....

Date.....

APPENDIX A**20. Finance****20.1 Income transactions for approval**

Tn. No.	Cheque	Gross	Vat	Net	Details
6422		3.88	0.00	3.88	HSBC Bank, Interest No.1 a/c
6423		0.03	0.00	0.03	HSBC Bank, Interest No. 3 a/c
Total		£3.91	£0.00	£3.91	

20.2 Expenditure transactions for approval

Tn. No.	Cheque	Gross	Vat	Net	Details
8453	Dd	18.58	2.42	16.16	Plusnet
8454	102169	10.00	0.00	10.00	Simon Dance
8455	102170	65.28	0.00	65.28	HMRC
8456	102171	92.00	12.00	80.00	Limebridge Rural Services Ltd.
8457	102172	644.04	0.00	644.04	MJ Philpott
8458	102173	138.30	18.04	120.26	Staples
8459	102174	948.06	123.66	824.40	GBD (Evesham) Ltd.
8460	102175	3.90	0.00	3.90	R Francis, keys to Playing Field gate
8461	102176	690.00	90.00	600.00	NALC
8462	102177	151.42	19.75	131.67	Glasdon

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8463	102178	291.82	38.06	253.76	E.ON.UK Energy Services
8464	102179	419.64	0.00	419.64	KA James
8465	102180	60.00	0.00	60.00	AR Hathaway
Total		£3533.04	£303.93	£3229.11	

20.3. Transfers

Proposal to transfer £3500 from No.1 account to Community account.

20.4 Account Balances at 9.09.09

Community a/c	£1125.47
No.1 a/c	£26557.15
No.3 a/c	£163.69