

Salford Priors Parish Council

Minutes of an Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council held in The Memorial Hall, Salford Priors, on Wednesday 18th. November 2009 at 7.30pm.

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

Also in attendance: District Councillors D Pemberton and BW Slaughter, MJ.Philpott, Clerk, and nine members of the public.

1. Apologies for absence

Council considered and agreed apologies for absence from Cllr. AW Wolfe due to being out of the country and from County Councillor P Barnes on civic duties.

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. JR Stedman declared an interest in Item 7.2 as a contractor.

3. Open Forum

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

3.2 Public Participation: Mr J Fenlon reported that the inaugural meeting of the South Warwickshire Environmental Association had been held at Dunnington on the previous meeting. He handed a copy of the minutes to the Clerk and posed a series of questions to the Chairman. Regarding the possibility of having a representative on the CEMEX liaison committee the Chairman said that this had been set up by the Secretary of State following the planning inquiry under a Section 52 legal agreement and could not be changed without reference back to the SoS. Mr Fenlon asked if the Parish Council budget contained an item for hire of professional services and the Chairman replied in the negative; the funds provided for Berry Coppice having been an extraordinary item. In respect of the likely date for WCC considering the Marsh Farm extension the Chairman replied that the meeting would probably take place in January. Mr Fenlon then asked if a reduced scale Berry Coppice site would have its own processing plant; the Chairman said this depended on who was the developer. The next topic was the possibility of a vehicle weight restriction on the B4088 and the Chairman said this was not feasible. Finally, Mr Fenlon mentioned the County Landowners and Business event to be held at Ragley with possible visitor numbers approaching 150,000. The Chairman said that the CLA Game Fair event would require a licence from the District Council and the Parish Council would be consulted then. Mr Fenlon thanked the chairman for his responses and the Parish Council for the additional flower planters provided at Dunnington; he reported that these had been adopted by local residents.

3.3 Ward Members' Reports Cllr. Pemberton referred to the Fire Service review and said that the Bidford Action Group proposals were being seriously considered by the County. Cllr. Slaughter endorsed these comments and said he thought there was the likelihood of changes coming forward. Cllr. James said that the Long Marston master plan had been delayed and he also referred to a proposed development of around 140 new homes at Kinwarton Farm Road, Alcester. An exhibition of the development was to take place on 21.11.09 at Alcester High School. 35 per cent of the houses would be affordable housing.

4. Minutes

The Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council held on Wednesday 14th. October 2009 at 7.30pm at The Baptist Church Hall, Dunnington, were approved and signed by the Chairman.

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

5.1 Speed limits, meeting with WCC, and Speed Indication Device.

The Clerk reported that Richard Elbourne, WCC Highways Engineer, had attended a site meeting with Cllrs. Wolfe and Myers and the Clerk. He had agreed to review the position of the "Give Way" sign by the build out and to arrange for the hedge by "Newlands" to be cut back. Regarding the placing of speed warning signs by the Parish Council he said there were no restrictions. He agreed to arrange for a speed survey (with two rubber strips for two weeks) to be carried out on Station Road by the Old Forge and in Abbots Salford. During the site meeting speeds were not generally excessive but Richard Elbourne agreed to come out again when the results of the speed survey were available. In response to a query about the use of the road by heavy lorries he proposed some police enforcement activity. Cllr. Myers said it was unfortunate that the meeting took place during half-term and she had also noticed that vehicles slowed down when they saw the speed strips. The Clerk had also circulated a cutting about flashing speed alert signs in Worcestershire and a quotation from Radarlux for a flashing sign that could be moved around by the Parish Council and would also store data for later analysis. Council agreed that this item should be included for consideration at the Participatory Budget meeting.

5.2 Footpath between School Avenue and Ridsdale Close.

The Clerk reported that he had spoken to Mrs Sally Spiers, the owner of the fence and he felt that a site meeting together with Mrs Spier's contractor was the best way forward. He said that Mrs Spiers was particularly concerned about damage to the fence when it was completed. Council agreed that Cllr. JR Stedman and the Clerk should meet with Mrs Spiers and her contractor and report back.

5.3 John Alexander-Head, Domestic Energy Efficiency.

A meeting was held with Mr Alexander-Head, the Chairman and the Clerk and notes of the meeting were circulated. The Chairman said that the project was in accordance with a specific statement in the Parish Plan and that powers were contained in Section 20 of the Climate Change and Sustainable Energy Act 2006. The Chairman explained the three options he had developed:

1. To support a trial energy audit of six properties at a cost of £120.00. To hold a public meeting to explain the results.
2. To set up a Green Communities Programme starting with a trial energy audit of six properties at a cost of £120.00. To hold a public meeting to explain the results and actively support the community on energy saving projects with an ongoing financial commitment.
3. To note the report and take no further action.

The Chairman explained that the outcome of options 1 and 2 would:

1. Help residents to reduce their carbon emissions and impact on the environment.
2. Help to reduce running costs and carbon footprints of community buildings
3. Improve the ability of families to reduce their fuel bills.
4. Maximise the take up of grants for individuals and groups for energy improvements.
5. Help the local community to reduce their environmental impact.

Council agreed that the option 2 of setting up a trial energy audit of six properties followed by a public meeting and then active support including a financial commitment be considered at the budget meeting. The Clerk was asked to explore the further costs of the project.

5.4 Parking outside school.

Council noted the e-mail from the Head Teacher outlining the measures she was taking to control parking outside the school.

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5.5 Winter maintenance.

The Clerk reported that he had written to WCC as requested at the last meeting regarding gritting to the centre of the village. A copy of WCC's reply had been circulated and the Chairman said he was very disappointed with their response; he agreed to raise the issue at the next Community Forum.

5.6 Footpath between Abbots Salford and County Boundary, Harvington.

This work had still not yet commenced. The Clerk said he would be referring to the issue in the WCC survey on highways maintenance.

5.7 Meeting with School Council.

The Clerk reported that he had contacted the School and awaited a call from the teacher responsible for the School Council. The Headteacher had intimated that she still wished a meeting to take place.

5.8 Housing Provision.

The Clerk reported that the housing enabler, Phil Ward of WRCC, was contacting the landowners in respect of Sites 7 and 2 and his reply was awaited.

5.9 Power of Well-Being.

The Clerk reported that the training session was successful and all Councillors would receive certificates of attendance. The Clerk's paragraph on the power had been prepared for assessment. Council agreed to meet the full cost of the Clerk's assessment of fifteen pounds.

6. Main Items**6.1 Approval of response to consultation on Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Service review.**

The Clerk had circulated a final draft of the response for approval by Council. Council was supportive of the draft and the Chairman proposed, and it was agreed, that any further comments should be provided to the Clerk by 23.11.09. The Clerk would then send the response to WCC having agreed any changes with the Chairman.

6.2 Proposed dates of meetings in 2010

The Clerk had circulated a schedule of proposed dates of meetings for 2010. Council agreed dates as follows:

Day	Date	Month	Meeting type
Wed.	20 th .	January	Ordinary meeting
Wed.	17 th .	February	Ordinary meeting
Wed.	17 th .	March	Ordinary meeting
Thurs.	15 th .	April	Annual Parish Meeting
Wed.	21 st .	April	Ordinary meeting
Wed.	19 th .	May	Annual Meeting and Ordinary meeting
Wed.	16 th .	June	Ordinary meeting
Wed.	21 st .	July	Ordinary meeting
Wed.	18 th .	August	Ordinary meeting
Wed.	22 nd .	September	Ordinary meeting
Wed.	13 th . or 27 th .	October	Ordinary meeting
Wed.	17 th .	November	Ordinary meeting
Wed.	15 th .	December	Ordinary meeting

7. Environment - Amenity, Highways, Allotments, and TOPS**7.1 Playing Field weekly safety reports.**

The Clerk reported that inspection reports had been provided dated 16.11.09; 9.11.09; 2.11.09; and 19.10.09. Also, that the annual independent inspection had been carried out on 13.11.09. Cllr.

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Francis said he was still concerned about debris under the skateboard equipment and the multi-tractor.

Cllr. JR Stedman left the room having declared a prejudicial interest as a contractor.

7.2 Report on bins and planters

The Clerk had circulated a note of a tour of inspection with the Chairman, Clerk and Contractor in attendance. In addition notes from the Chairman and also Cllr. Wolfe had been circulated. In respect of dog waste bins Cllr. Myers proposed that the bins at Cleeve View and School Road should be swapped for capacity reasons. The Clerk was asked to write to Alamo and Sandfields to thank them for their assistance in providing new bins and also for their work to improve the rights of way on their land. It was also suggested that an item be provided for the newspapers with a photo of the bin at AL17. Cllr. Myers suggested that the bins produced by Alamo were of excellent quality.

In respect of the planter at Evesham Road by Victoria Cottage, the Chairman said that over the years requests had been received for both planters, between the T-junction with School Road and The Bell Inn, to be relocated to the other side of the road (the north-west side) for various reasons as follows:

1. Poor Display due to the height of the hedge and the positioning of the planter.
2. Difficulty in attending the planter.
3. Difficulty in watering the planter.
4. Better positioning of the visual display.
5. The loss of the flowering display to one side of planter because of proximity to the hedge.
6. Restriction in the height of display due to the hedge.

The Chairman explained that the planter had not been moved previously because:

1. The planter was not in good condition.
2. To move it would require the peat to be completely emptied.
3. The cost of moving it.

However this year, due to one of the planters having to be replaced completely, the Chairman considered it was an ideal opportunity to reposition the planter at no extra cost to the Council and the contractor was instructed accordingly.

Cllr. Wolfe, in his note, had asked for it be moved back to the Church side of the road and Cllr Myers strongly supported this proposal; both councillors were of the view that the Council had not made a decision to move the planter to its new location. Cllrs. Penn and Francis proposed it should stay in its present position and Cllrs. Myers and Pane proposed it should be moved. On the Chairman's casting vote it was agreed the planter would remain where it was.

Cllr. JR Stedman returned to the room.

7.3 Report of physical testing of street lights

The Clerk reported that PD Long had carried out physical testing of all the street lighting columns and fixings and that several matters required attention. The summary report had been circulated and the estimated cost of repair or replacement was in the region of £5000. In view of the possible cost implications Council agreed that the Chairman, Cllr. Stedman, and the Clerk should prepare a more detailed report for Council. The costs would need to be included in the budget meeting. The Chairman expressed concern that the report had noted defects in the stability of some of the wooden telegraph poles and instructed the Clerk to notify Central Networks accordingly as this problem could have serious consequences for power poles throughout the Parish.

7.4 TOPs, replacement doors.

The Clerk reported that an estimate had been received from Centurian to replace the two side doors at TOPs. The cost was £1073.92 plus VAT. Council agreed this item should be referred to the budget meeting and that, if it was decided to proceed, then alternative quotations should be sought.

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7.5 TOPs Management Committee report

Council noted the report received from the TOPs Management Committee

8. Communications**8.1 Newsletter**

The Clerk reported that Cllr. Wolfe had completed the Newsletter and it had been collected from the printers on 11.11.09. Mr Hyde had received the copies together with three inserts on the following day and distribution had commenced very shortly afterwards. The Clerk and Cllr. Francis were asked to check that copies had been delivered to Perkins Close. Council agreed to the payment of delivery costs including outstanding costs presented by the Clerk that had not previously been claimed by Mr Hyde.

8.2 Website,

The Clerk reported that several village organisations now had pictures added to their entries and the Parish Council Minutes and Agenda sections were up to date. The text of a section on local history had been provided by Mr John Alexander-Head and Mrs Arlene Band was in process of writing a new front page. The Chairman expressed continuing concern regarding the site and it was agreed that he, Cllr. Wolfe, and the Clerk should meet Mr Dare as soon as possible.

8.3 E-mail newsletter

The clerk reported that two e-mail newsletters had been circulated on 30.10.09 and 17.11.09. The Clerk drew attention to the latter and the item on progress on the County Minerals plan. Cllr. JR Stedman asked that a survey of residents to identify the usage of the electronic communications and the newsletter be discussed at a future meeting.

9. Rights of Way**9.1 Report from P3 Co-ordinator.**

Nothing to report from Cllr. Penn. Cllr. Myers reported that the Palacci Brothers had started repairing the surface of AL17 and hoped to complete it before the end of the year. Also, that Sandfields had cleared part of the route of AL6. Cllr. Myers also expressed concern that the caravan on AL10 was still there and the Chairman said that Enterprise Inns had been asked to clear it.

10. Planning general

10.1 Nothing to report

11. New Planning Applications for Council's consideration

11.1 09/02038/FUL – Conversion of existing outbuildings to bedsit accommodation for a chef, including external alterations to the building at The Bell Inn, Evesham Road, Salford Priors for Mr David Atkinson.

Council resolved to support the development subject to a condition that the bedsit accommodation was ancillary to the employment use of The Bell public house and not be used as a private residence.

11.2 09/02312/FUL Remove existing car port and form new entrance under porch canopy. Add first floor side extension over existing at 24 Garrard Close, Salford Priors, WR11 8XG for Mr & Mrs Kenneth Gibbons..

The Clerk reported that an extension of time until the next meeting had been requested as the papers had not yet been received. Council agreed to examine the application at the Budget meeting on 2.12.09.

12. Planning Decisions

Council noted the following planning decision:

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- 12.1 09/01887/TREE** – Proposed G1 group of cypress: Fell; at 1 Meadow View, Evesham Road, Salford Priors, Evesham, Worcestershire for Mr G Beamish. **Permission Granted**

13. Staffing

- 13.1 Nothing to report

14. Matters raised by Councillors**14.1 Cllr. JR Stedman – Fence at allotments.**

Cllr. Stedman reported that items had been stolen from Mr Hackling's property due to a gap in the hedge that permitted vehicular access by the allotments. The Chairman reported that the Clerk had written to Mr Hollis who was responsible for the hedge and his reply was awaited.

14.2 Cllr. M Myers - Trees in conservation area.

The Clerk explained how the Stratford DC Tree officer had inspected the cherry trees that had been severely cut back and had decided that a warning letter should be sent to the perpetrators. The Chairman said that further action at the time was not appropriate because the trees were not of significant value. He urged that action needed to be taken very quickly when any such vandalism was observed.

15. Consideration of Correspondence Received**15.1 Salford Priors Fete Committee.**

Council noted the information provided.

15.2 Salford Priors Amateur Theatrical Society.

Council noted the thanks of the group for the grant awarded.

15.3 WALC, Parish Council and WCC Focus Group

Councillors were asked to inform the Clerk if they wished to attend.

16. To Table

Council noted the following tabled items:

- 16.1 LCR Autumn 2009
- 16.2 In2 Sport, SDC Leisure Services Team, Issue 12.
- 16.3 The Clerk, November 2009, Issue 41 No. 6.
- 16.4 SLCC, Conference and Training Programme.
- 16.5 Clerks & Council Direct

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. Myers, seconded by Cllr. Pane and carried. Cheques were signed by Cllrs. James and Penn.

Council considered the Clerk's proposal to transfer £5000 from No.1 account to the Community account. Authorisation for transfer of funds was proposed by Cllr. Myers, seconded by Cllr. Francis, and carried.

18. Date of Next Meeting

Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council on Wednesday 16th. December at 7.30pm in The Memorial Hall, Salford Priors.

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Councillors were also reminded of the Participatory Budget meeting on Wednesday 2nd. December at 7.30pm at The Memorial Hall, Salford Priors.

19. Closure of meeting

The meeting closed at 9.08 pm.

Signed.....

Date.....

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

Tn. No.	Cheque	Gross	Vat	Net	Details
6425	BACs	953.38	0.00	953.38	HMRC, VAT refund Quarter 2
6426	Cheque	150.00	0.00	150.00	TOPs Management Committee, service charge.
6427	Cash	60.00	0.00	60.00	Allotment rent and deposit, Plot 2, Ms B Palmer.
Total		£1163.38	£0.00	£1163.38	

20.2 Expenditure transactions for approval

Tn. No.	Cheque	Gross	Vat	Net	Details
8484	dd	18.58	2.42	16.16	Plusnet, broadband connection
8485	102198	408.25	53.25	355.00	EON Energy Services, replacement lantern
8486	102199	50.00	0.00	50.00	WALC, training fee
8487	102200	125.00	0.00	125.00	Warwickshire CC, TOPs lease
8488	102201	100.00	0.00	100.00	Royal British Legion, donation
8489	102202	70.00	0.00	70.00	MJ Hyde, mowing and strimming TOPs
8490	102203	19.00	0.00	19.00	Royal British Legion, wreath
8491	102204	114.04	0.00	114.04	Mark Vondrak, clearing outside TOPs
8492	102205	644.04	0.00	644.04	MJ Philpott, Clerk's salary
8493	102206	1273.77	166.14	1107.63	GBD (Evesham) Ltd., mowing contract

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8494	102207	110.40	14.40	96.00	PD Long, electrical repairs at TOPs
8495	102208	205.28	26.78	178.50	HSBC Invoice Finance (UK) Ltd., Swintex bin tops
8496	102209	1376.55	6.75	1197.00	PD Long, physical testing of street lights
8497	102210	51.74	6.75	44.99	BDR, replacement of laptop power unit
8498	102211	309.54	0.00	309.54	AON, public liability insurance, TOPs
8499	102212	72.00	0.00	72.00	S Pearson, refund of allotment deposit
8500	102213	40.50	0.00	40.50	WRBT90 LTd., printing of newsletters
8501	102214	115.00	0.00	115.00	MJ Hyde, delivery of newsletters.
8502	102215	15.00	0.00	15.00	SLCC-CiLCA Management, assessment fee
8503	102216	10.00	0.00	10.00	MJ Hyde, Mowing at TOPs
Total		£5128.69	£449.29	£4679.40	

20.3. Transfers

Proposal to transfer £5000.00 from No.1 account to Community account.

20.4 Account Balances at 10.11.09

Community a/c	£1098.92
No.1 a/c	£34160.53
No.3 a/c	£163.69