

Salford Priors Parish Council

Minutes of an Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council held in The Memorial Hall, Salford Priors, on Wednesday 20th. January 2010 at 7.30pm.

Present: Councillors, KA James (Chairman), AW Wolfe, JR Stedman, RA Francis, and DC Penn.
Also in attendance: District Councillor D Pemberton, MJ Philpott, Clerk, and eighteen members of the public.

1. Apologies for absence

Council considered and agreed apologies for absence from Cllrs. RM Pane and M Myers, and District Councillor BW Slaughter all due to illness. Also from County Councillor P Barnes on other Council business.

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 interests in Item 20.2. payments 8515 and 8516 being prejudicial interests and payment 8521 being a personal interest.

Statement by Chairman

Cllr. KA James read a prepared statement to the meeting explaining his reasons for his decision regarding the removal of the planning application for the Marsh Farm Quarry extension from the agenda of the District Council Planning Committee without reference to any fellow Parish Council members and his decision to resign from the Council both as Chairman and as a Member of the Council. The text of Cllr. James' statement is appended to these minutes as Appendix B.

Following his statement Cllr. James immediately left the building.

Cllr. AW Wolfe as Vice-Chairman took the Chair and is hereafter in these minutes referred to as "the Chairman".

The Clerk read out a letter of resignation from Cllr. KA James.

3. Open Forum

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

3.2 Public Participation: Mr Beamish referred to a meeting of the South Warwickshire Environmental Association the previous evening and said there was much concern regarding the proposed extension to Marsh Farm Quarry, North of Broom Lane. Mr Wright said that they had attended the SDC Planning Committee and had been surprised to hear that this application had been withdrawn from the Agenda. They were particularly concerned about the absence from the meeting of their ward member, Councillor James, and wanted to express their deep dissatisfaction that elected representatives did not have the opportunity to comment on the proposal. He said a formal complaint had been made to the District Council Director of Planning. Cllr. Pemberton said that this complaint would be replied to but also said that some of the issues were not within the remit of the District Council and could only be determined by the County Council. Cllr. Stedman asked Cllr. Pemberton if the officers had made the decision to remove the item from the Agenda and Cllr. Wolfe said that he had contacted the legal department of SDC and had been informed that only the Planning Committee Chairman could do so. A member of the public said that the item had been withdrawn on the advice of the former Parish Council chairman and in so doing he considered he was not representing the views of local residents. He then asked if there was any action that could be taken.

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Cllr. Pemberton said that the parish Council could make representations to the District Council in view of the perceived procedural issues. Cllr. Wolfe replied that the Parish Council wanted the District Council members to support the very strong objection of the Parish Council to any more gravel extraction in the area. Another member of the public asked regarding the restoration plans for the existing Marsh Farm quarry. The Clerk intervened to say there was a real problem with no inert waste being, or likely to be in the future, available for infilling to the current restoration profile. This was why he had pressed CEMEX for a revised restoration plan which was still awaited. Cllr. Stedman said that the landowner, Ragley Estates, wanted the land restored to agriculture but this would be unlikely if no fill could be found. Mr Beamish raised a point regarding CEMEX's ability to finance the restoration and said he would be writing to the District Council about this.

Barbara Wood of the Old Granary, Rushford, raised an issue relating to building works on the adjacent stable block and asked for assistance in finding out the status of this work. Cllr. Pemberton said he would raise this directly with the Director of Planning on her behalf.

3.3 Ward Members' Reports Cllr. Pemberton said he had no other issues to raise. The Chairman proposed that Item 10.2 be moved forward to follow Item 4 for the benefit of members of the public and this was agreed by Council. The Chairman closed this section of the meeting at 8.40pm.

4. Minutes

The Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council held on Wednesday 16th. December 2009 at 7.30pm at The Memorial Hall, Salford Priors, were approved and signed by the Chairman.

10.2 Marsh Farm extension. (Item taken out of numerical order)

A report from Cllr. KA James explaining the situation in respect of the District Council's response to the CEMEX application had been circulated previously. Following the extensive discussion in the public participation section of the meeting Cllr. Wolfe said he felt the decision to remove the item from the SDC Planning Committee's agenda had damaged the Parish Council and he found the decision hard to understand. He considered that it would be to the advantage of the Parish Council to have elected District Councillors supporting the Parish Council. Cllr. Stedman said we needed to know how items could be removed and on what authority. Council agreed that the Clerk should send an urgent e-mail to the Director of Planning urging that no action be taken until he had considered a submission from the Parish Council covering the issues raised. The Clerk said he would draft a submission for approval by all Councillors with a view to getting it to the Director of Planning by Monday morning. Council also agreed that a Press Notice should be produced and that a short Newsletter should be produced for circulation around the parish.

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

5.1 Footpath between School Avenue and Ridsdale Close.

The Clerk reported that, as agreed at the recent meeting with the residents, the relevant officer of Warwickshire CC had been informed and it was understood that contact had been made in order to determine the location of the new fence to the property concerned.

5.2 Highways maintenance issues.

Routine maintenance had been non-existent during the bad weather. However, the Clerk had raised a lot of issues with WALC prior to the Parish Council Focus Group meeting and as these were put directly to the head of highways there had been a good response. As soon as the weather returned to normal the Clerk assured the Council he would continue to pursue these and in particular the blocked drainage pipes in School Road, the road edges in School Road and Broom Lane, and the footpath at Abbots Salford.

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5.3 Domestic Energy Efficiency.

The Clerk reported that Mr Alexander-Hope had been asked to suggest which house types and specific houses might be included in the first phase work agreed by Council. The Clerk was instructed not to place any orders on this project without further approval from the Council.

5.4 Street lighting.

The weather had delayed the Clerk's detailed inspection of each of the lamp columns that required remedial work and he reported this would be done as soon as possible.

5.5 Housing association issues.

The Clerk reported that Orbit had finally admitted that they were the owners of the Priors Grange land. They confirmed that the land was sold to South Warwickshire Housing Association in 2000 and that Orbit merged with SWHA in July 2008. However, as only four houses remained in shared ownership they were not sure whether or not they would seek to get the roads adopted by the County Council. Also, Orbit understood there were still problems with the pumping station that would prevent adoption. With regard to the street lighting the Clerk reported that he had forwarded copies of correspondence and schedules to Orbit and awaited their response.

Regarding the fence by the side of the path to the Playing Field the Clerk said that Orbit had spoken with the tenant and a new fence panel had been ordered. Orbit had been told that he did not think this would solve the problem and Orbit had said it would monitor the situation.

The Clerk reported that following the consultation with residents in Perkins Close asking for suggestions about the car park area and washing line area Orbit had received quite a lot of feedback and would be consulting further. The Clerk had confirmed that the Parish Council would wish to be involved in any consultation and it was agreed that Cllr. Francis should represent the Council at any future meetings.

5.6 Fence at allotments.

The Clerk reported that a further letter had been sent to Mr Hollis and Cllr. Stedman said that a fence had now been provided across the gap.

5.7 Trees at TOPs.

The Clerk said he had now written to the County Council regarding the weeping tree that overhung the roof of TOPs.

5.8 Precept, notification to Stratford on Avon District Council.

Following the decision made at the December meeting, the Clerk reported that notification of the proposed precept for 2010 – 2011 had been sent to Stratford on Avon DC.

Main Items**6.1 Communications survey**

The Clerk had circulated a report outlining proposals for a possible survey into the effectiveness of communications within the parish. Cllr. Stedman said the report was a good basis for moving forward and it was agreed that Cllrs. Wolfe and Stedman would meet with the Clerk to produce a definitive proposal with a view to implementation in April.

6.2 Website Map

The Clerk had circulated proposals for completing the website including new pages for the Homepage and the Parish Council. Council agreed that the meeting set up under item 6.1 should also consider the website proposals. Any other Councillors wishing to attend should inform the Clerk.

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

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The Clerk reported that inspection reports had been provided dated 21.12.09; 28.12.09; 4.01.10; and 11.1.10.

7.2 Independent inspection of play area.

The Clerk had circulated a summary of the independent inspection report of the play area and Council agreed that the works specified should be carried out by Anthony Hathaway with assistance from Cllr. Francis. Cllr. Stedman asked the Clerk to contact the insurers regarding items 10, 11, 12, and 13 to check that they were still insurable risks.

8. Communications

8.1 Newsletter

It was agreed that Council should aim to produce a Newsletter for the Easter period.

8.2 Website

Nothing further to report.

8.3 E-mail newsletter

Nothing further to report.

9. Rights of Way

9.1 Report from P3 Co-ordinator.

Nothing to report.

10. Planning general

10.1 Worcestershire Waste Core Strategy: Emerging Preferred Options consultation.

The Clerk had circulated a draft response to the waste strategy for consideration by the Council. Council agreed the Clerk's draft for submission to Worcestershire CC.

11. New Planning Applications for Council's consideration

11.1 None reported.

12. Planning Decisions

Council noted the following planning decisions:

12.1 09/02038/FUL Conversion of existing outbuilding to bedsit accommodation for a chef, including external alterations to the building at the Bell Inn, Salford Priors for Mr David Atkinson.

Permission granted with conditions

12.2 09/02312/FUL Remove existing car port and form new entrance under porch canopy. Add first floor extension over existing at 24 Garrard Close, Salford Priors, Evesham, WR11 8XG for Mr & Mrs Kenneth Gibbons.

Permission granted subject to conditions

13. Staffing – Power of Well-Being

13.1 The Clerk reported that he had received his certificate for the Power of Well-Being qualification and the Council now had everything in place to use the power.

14. Matters raised by Councillors

14.1 Cllr. D Penn – Weethley Road

Cllr. D Penn reported that the road to Weethley appeared to be undermined by badgers and was subsiding badly. The Clerk was asked to inspect the site and report to the County Council.

14.2 Cllr. JR Stedman – Grit bins

Cllr. Stedman reported that he had received requests for more grit bins on School Road and suggested that one be provided by the bus stop at Hedges Close. Cllr. Wolfe proposed, Cllr. Francis seconded and it was agreed that one new bin be purchased and that Limebridge Rural Services be

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asked to receive and locate the bin. Cllr. Stedman informed the Council that some parishes were taking on gritting responsibilities and the Clerk was asked to make enquiries of the County Highways department to find out what was involved.

15. Consideration of Correspondence Received

15.1 CPRE – Breach of planning at Shipston-on-Stour

Council noted the information provided.

15.2 SPATS – Thankyou for grant.

Council noted the information provided.

15.3 WCC – Community Forums.

Council noted the information provided.

15.4 WALC, Area Committees for the Stratford District Area.

Council agreed that they felt further committees were not necessary and the Clerk was asked to respond accordingly.

15.5 Warwickshire Best Village 2010.

Cllr. Stedman said that he did not consider the Council had any appropriate projects to put forward and Council agreed.

15.6 Salford Priors of the Royal British Legion – Result of Poppy Appeal 2009.

Council noted the information provided.

15.7 WALC – Nominations for attendance at a Royal Garden Party.

Council noted the information provided.

16. To Table

Council noted the following tabled items:

16.1 Decorum, Standards and Ethics, Issue 8, December 2009

16.2 “the Clerk”, January 2010, Vol. 42 No.1.

16.3 Clerk & Councils Direct, Issue 67, January 2010

17. Finance

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

Cllr. Stedman left the room.

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. Francis, seconded by Cllr. Penn and carried. Cheques were signed by Cllrs. Wolfe and Penn.

Council considered the Clerk’s proposal to transfer £3000 from No.1 account to the Community account. Authorisation for transfer of funds was proposed by Cllr. Francis, seconded by Cllr. Penn, and carried.

Cllr. Stedman returned to the room.

17.2 Bank Reconciliation for Quarter 3

Cllr. Wolfe checked the bank balances for the day the reconciliation was carried out and Council confirmed the reconciliation was correct.

18. Date of Next Meeting

Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council on Wednesday 17th. February 2010 at 7.30pm in The Memorial Hall, Salford Priors.

19. Closure of meeting

The meeting closed at 9.55pm.

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Signed.....

Date.....

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

Tn. No.	Cheque	Gross	Vat	Net	Details
6432		1913.76	0.00	1913.76	HMRC, VAT refund Quarter 3.
Total		£1913.76	£0.00	£1913.76	

20.2 Expenditure transactions for approval

Tn. No.	Cheque	Gross	Vat	Net	Details
8511	dd	18.58	2.42	16.16	Plusnet, office broadband
8512	102223	98.10	4.67	93.43	Npower, TOPs electricity
8513	102224	71.61	8.16	63.45	BT Payment Services Ltd, Office phone.
8514	102225	644.04	0.00	644.04	MJ Philpott, Clerk's salary
8515	102226	46.00	6.00	40.00	Limebridge Rural Services, Salt bin
8516	102227	258.75	33.75	225.00	Limebridge Rural Services, Fell trees at TOPs
8517	102228	85.95	12.80	73.15	Staples, office stationery
8518	102229	760.61	99.22	661.39	Npower, streetlighting
8519	101230	41.95	5.47	36.48	Digital Copier Systems
8520	101231	45.69	5.96	39.73	Severn Trent Water, allotments supply
8521	101232	756.50	0.00	756.50	Salford Priors Memorial Hall
Total		£2827.78	£178.45	£2649.33	

20.3. Transfers

Proposal to transfer £3000.00 from No.1 account to Community account.

20.4 Account Balances at 12.01.09

Community a/c	£939.38
No.1 a/c	£25732.55
No.3 a/c	£188.72

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APPENDIX B**Statement to Council by the Chairman, Cllr. KA James**

The reasons behind the decision on the Marsh Farm Northern Extension that was taken under executive powers are well documented in the papers before council this evening under additional pink papers Agenda Item 10.2. This matrix sets out why, after discussions with the clerk, who's advice and knowledge on County matters I have come to respect; it was felt appropriate to have our response to the district council's consultation dealt with under delegated powers by officers. I will now take council through the matrix and can stress that these are not my words, these are the words approved by members of this council and authorised by council for the Clerk to deal with.

Matrix:

I now return to my statement the Parish Council's position on the northern Extension of Marsh Farm Quarry are well documented it's response to the Minerals Core Strategy Revised Spatial Options clearly state:

Site 8 North of Broom Lane, Marsh Farm Quarry

SPPC has agreed in the past that this could be a suitable extension. However, we remain concerned that excavation should not commence until substantial restoration has taken place on the existing workings on the south side of Broom Lane. We understand that dumper trucks will cross directly over Broom Lane to take the gravel to the processing plant at Marsh Farm. In this case road strengthening will be necessary.

Our response to the County Council on the planning application again stresses that the principle objection is on landscaping issues and the slow restoration of the Northern Boundary of Marsh Farm. The Parish Councils **principal objections were not withdrawn**, the decision taken was to ensure that the five recommended conditions that were proposed by professional planning officers at Stratford were sent to the County Council. It was seen to our advantage to let SDC propose their five draft recommendations relating to the landscaping and let officers have the delegated powers to word their response as on amenity impact, noise and landscape they support our views. The issues of traffic generation/ highway safety, access, ecological and archaeological matters are issues which will be addressed by the County Council and therefore were not under consideration by the District.

We are aiming with professional officer support:

- to protect the local amenity
- less impact on the village of Broom than the extant permission to extract on the eastern boundary
- to do something about the lack of restoration of Marsh Farm Quarry Northern Boundary

The Parish Council's objection to the County Council reference this application still stands, however now we have added weight to our concerns on landscaping, as the DPA Officers have come up with five proposed conditions for the County to consider. The District Council is not making any comment on the principal of the proposal. The current position of the draft core strategy raises concern as the County Council has failed to meet its targeted schedule; however the West Midlands Regional Minerals Strategy and National Directives are the overriding factor that the County Council will have to comply with. The saved policies of the current minerals plan identify large areas of search from Iron Cross to Harvington, -Harvington, and Abbots Salford then to Salford Priors also large tracts of land towards Bidford on Avon. It is very feasible that these areas will be included in the final version of the core strategy or could come forward by the industry under existing planning policy whilst the County get their act together. This could have implications for this Parish as there appears to be a shortage of deliverable sand and gravel sites within the core strategy proposals. **Hopefully history** will prove me wrong for the sake of residents of this Parish & neighbouring Bidford. The Dunnington meeting centred on the Berry Coppice proposal, the concerns raised at the Annual Parish Meeting centred on the Berry Coppice proposal.

Putting the parish first doesn't mean doing the right thing according to conventional wisdom or the prevailing consensus or the latest snapshot of opinion, it means doing what you genuinely believe to be right, not saying things for headlines in the press or to be **Councillor Popular**, it's about assessing the issues and employing the right tactics to justify the end result. But above all to have one's integrity intact, not denying what the

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council have stated publicly. I have always put the residents of the parish first and will continue to do so as I have been doing for the last 26 years. Of course any decision even at Parish level gives one doubt, hesitation, reflection, consideration, and then again re-consideration, these are all the good comparisons of proper decision making but the ultimate obligation is to decide. One parish councillor even warned me last year about the group Envirowatch, that it was emotive and could have an impact on the gravel liaison group, and the Parish Council Did I take any notice of this advice NO – I spent 3½ hours talking with them discussing various issues. Twenty two years ago we were let down by the County Council when they failed to impose through the planning inspectorate a condition of time related expiry for the Marsh Farm Quarry hence we have minerals workings until 2042. We have learnt the hard way; make no mistake we will not be left hanging out again by the County, this also means that Ragley have the next 32 years to implement the extant permission for the eastern extension less than 100 metres from Broom.

The Parish Council has not changed its policy on any of the proposed sites:

Site 9 East of A46, Broom – Marsh Farm Quarry

Part of this proposed site already has the benefit of planning consent. However, parts of the site are very close to Broom and our earlier comments in respect of buffer zones apply

Site 10 Land at Millers Bank, Marsh Farm Quarry

As for site 9 a concern of Salford Priors Parish Council is with the transfer of the quarried materials to Marsh Farm which we anticipate would necessitate dumper trucks travelling on the road between Broom and Dunnington. This road is unsuitable in its present state for such traffic

and for Berry Coppice total opposition.

As Chairman of the Parish Council and a Dunnington resident given the choice which site would I tolerate, it's got to be Site 8 to ensure that we protect and strengthen our case against any inappropriate development of Berry Coppice, Rushford, Abbots Salford or neighbouring Bidford.

Finally, with the removal of the buffer zones (National Legislation) then **Site 8** at some 390 metres away to the nearest property in Broom **has to be a far better option** than two sites on the eastern boundary, the width of the River Arrow away from the built up boundary of the village or the development for Bidford residents of the preferred area of search in the saved policy.

With the emerging Regional Spatial Policy for Minerals, we need to ensure that all of our comments are based on sound planning policies, material planning considerations and foster good professional advice and use it to our advantage. I have been told that the act of withdrawal deprived 200 people who listed as supporters of an objection to this application with the District Council well that is not fact. The application is still live it will be decided by the Regulatory Committee of the County Council on the District Council Web Site and in the committee papers there were no letters from the public. 18 have sent letters to the County quite rightly as it will be the County that will decide this application. No ward member District or County commented to Stratford. My own views as District Councillor were sent direct to Warwick as they will decide the matter. This Parish Council can go to the meeting at Warwick armed with the knowledge that it has the backing of its concerns on amenity issues of the District Planning Authority through the five proposed draft conditions. The council has before it all the issues I stand by the decision taken after discussion with the clerk, some members of the public were denied their three minutes of speaking time in Stratford and councillors who didn't comment on the application denied a press opportunity.

But it's about ensuring the protection of residents in this parish from inappropriate development.

The council will debate this issue later, I have no further comment to make. I will now call on the Vice-Chairman to take the chair. Thank you.

20th January 2010