

Salford Priors Parish Council

Minutes of an Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council held in The Memorial Hall, Salford Priors, on Wednesday 22nd. September 2010 at 7.30pm.

Present: Councillors, M Myers (Vice-Chairman), JR Stedman, DC Penn, RA Francis, A Quiney, and L Wright.

Also in attendance: MJ.Philpott, Clerk, District Cllr. B Slaughter, twenty seven members of the public, and Sarah Hickinbotham from The Evesham Journal.

In the absence of the Chairman, Councillor M Myers, Vice-Chairman, took the Chair.

1. Apologies for absence

Council considered and agreed apologies for absence from Cllr. Wolfe and County Cllr. P Barnes due to other commitments.

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 a prejudicial interest in Item 7.4 as a contractor to the Council.

Cllr. M Myers declared a prejudicial interest in Transaction 8617 as she had made an emergency payment for hazard tape.

3. Open Forum

The Chairman moved that the meeting be adjourned for Open Forum and this was agreed.

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

3.2 Public Participation: The Chairman welcomed residents to the meeting and said that all correspondence and e-mails regarding the switch off of footway lights had been circulated to all councillors. She said that all debates concerning lighting had been on the published agenda and held in public. However, it was now felt, with the benefit of hindsight, that consideration should have been given to advising residents of the trial period and she apologised to anyone who had been offended by this. The Chairman then invited residents to raise any additional points.

Jane Corbett asked why the lights had been switched off without consultation, without a risk assessment, and without consulting the police. She said she had a petition objecting to the switch off signed by 174 persons.

Joan Rutherford said she was concerned over road safety and the danger from cars at the junction of New Road and Tothall Lane. She also commented on the issue of the school bus drop off after dark.

Dilys King said she was in favour of the switch off but asked why all the lights had not been switched off. As a resident of Garrard Close where the lights were still on she would have preferred all the lights to have been switched off.

Phillip Dare said that the police did not recommend the switch off as it generated more crime. He also said that there had been three accidents since the lights were switched off and that the precept

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had been put up by £5000 to repair the lights and not to enable them to be switched off. He also questioned the health and safety responsibility in switching off the lights.

John Webber from Dunnington said he was particularly concerned about children having to walk home from the school bus in the dark. He also said that he had just returned from Brecon where a decision had been made to switch off every other light.

Mrs Allen said that not everyone drove cars and many people did go out for a walk in the dark. She asked if the meeting would change the decision.

Ian Ballantyne acknowledged the apology made by the Chairman. He said his children used the cheap evening bus into Stratford and he was concerned that when they came back late at night they would be in complete darkness. He claimed it would be a burglar's charter. He said that there were trip risks and overhanging branches and that the decision discriminated against those who did not have cars. He appealed for the lights to be turned back on.

Lesley Simon considered the fact the decision had been made without consultation was extraordinary. He said it was now dangerous to walk along Station Road as it was in complete darkness and cars drove faster in the dark.

Pam Seville commented on the Parish Council's failure to consult the parish before the switch off.

Pat Dare enquired about the inspection of the lights in July by Councillors and was informed that it had been carried out in daylight. However, an earlier inspection had been made in darkness in order to identify gaps in the coverage of the lights.

Philomena Mohan suggested the lights could be switched off late at night and Mr Ballantyne said this should be after the last bus from Stratford.

It was further suggested that the lights could be switched off after midnight or dimmed for part of the night.

Yvonne Hartiss said there were too many lights on the roundabout in School Avenue and the Clerk said this matter was being addressed.

John Fenlon said that in Dunnington residents always carried a torch as the lights had not given a continuous path. He also stated that the parish notice boards carry the PC Meeting notices and these listed the footway lighting item for the August meeting.

Mrs Paulette Harris asked whether alternate lights could be left on, (a point also made by John Bradfield in his written observations.)

Mike Dare said that the Councillors had been elected to represent residents but there had been no consultation.

Jane Corbett gave a quotation from the WCC website in favour of streetlights and presented her petition to the Chairman.

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The Chairman said that all elements of Council expenditure were being examined and Cllr. Stedman said that the lighting on the “estate areas” was generally newer by some 20 years and with less problems than that in the outlying areas where the lights and poles were about 50 years old.

On another matter, Peter Sharp said that the hedge between Ban Brook Road and the School still needed cutting.

The chairman suggested to the meeting that in view of the very many comments put to the meeting and a petition being presented it would not be acceptable to try and consider all the comments and the content of the petition without the information being clearly documented by the Clerk and presented to members in a meaningful format; therefore any further discussion on Streetlights would be deferred to the October meeting. Mrs Jane Corbett said all the audience were there to hear the council’s debate and was disappointed in the proposal. Cllr Stedman suggested that the Clerk’s documentation of the comments should be made available to the public before the October meeting.

3.3 Ward Members’ Reports Cllr. Slaughter commented that he lived in a village without street lights or the benefit of footways. He warned the audience that, in the District Council, every item of expenditure was being reviewed and serious cuts, including many staff redundancies, were being made in order to make significant savings.

The Chairman moved the closure of the adjournment at 8.14 pm and this was agreed.

4. Minutes

The Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council held on Wednesday 18th. August 2010 at 7.30pm at The Memorial Hall, Salford Priors, were approved and signed by the Chairman.

5. Clerk’s report

5.1 Hedge cutting.

The Clerk reported that letters were sent to EVG Growers and Sandfields on 23.08.10 regarding hedges that required cutting. Work had been carried out on the hedge between Abbots Salford and Salford Priors but the hedge along School Road remained an obstacle to pedestrians walking between Ban Brook Road and the school. The Clerk was asked to write again to EVG and refer the matter to the County Council if no action was taken.

5.2 Minutes on website.

The Clerk reported that Minutes and Agendas were now up to date on the website. Pictures from the 2010 Fete had also been uploaded. It was hoped that work would start soon on the Young Salford section of the site.

5.3 Parking at Dunnington School.

The Clerk said he would contact Katrina Pedlar to arrange a site meeting to inspect the parking at Dunnington School.

5.4 Planning Policy for Poly-tunnels.

The Clerk reported that nothing had been received from either Cllr. Pemberton or the Planning Officer and he was asked to continue to chase this item.

5.5 Main Sewer in School Road.

The Clerk reported that the work had been completed in School Road. A message had been received from Fraser Pithie of Severn Trent confirming that School Road would be re-opened on 5th.

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September. In total 20 metres of sewer had been completely replaced and renewed. There was now a satisfactory gradient within the sewer and all collapsed pipework found had been completely removed. He had commended his Sewerage team and his contractor, North Midland Construction, for the focus and commitment they had demonstrated in getting on with this work and overcoming the problems that arose from time to time. Finally, Mr Pithie passed on his personal thanks, as well as that of Severn Trent's, towards the community in Salford Priors and its representatives. He said the support and co-operation he had received whilst carrying out the work had been very much appreciated by all concerned. He hoped the village could get back to normal and he said he was pleased that several issues that existed with the sewerage pipework system in the village had now been resolved. Council agreed that a formal letter of appreciation be sent to Severn Trent.

5.6 Noise Issues at Dunnington.

A letter was sent to Mr Grainger of Ragley Estates on 23.08.10 and a copy of his response was circulated to Councillors. Information regarding the coach that visits the site each day and also reports of pickers trying to pickup wireless internet connections in Dunnington was passed to the planning enforcement officer. Council agreed that the police should be formally informed of this further illegal activity.

5.7 Hedges Close sign.

It was noted that a new sign had been erected by Stratford DC. Whilst not the promised "finger post" it clearly identified the location of the houses.

5.8 CLA Gamefair.

The Clerk reported that he had been informed that the Gamefair will be held at Blenheim Palace in 2011, Belvoir Castle in 2012 (3 weeks early due to the Olympics) and will return to Ragley Hall in 2013

6. Main Items

6.1 Immediate response to the switch-off of footway lights.

The Chairman said that it was important that all Councillors had the opportunity to review all the options and the further comments made regarding the lights and the Clerk was instructed to collate this information and circulate it to Councillors accordingly. In view of this consideration the Chairman proposed that the item should be deferred to the next meeting of the Council and this was agreed unanimously.

Council agreed that it was important that all persons who had contacted the Council should be kept informed of the process by the Clerk. Information should also be placed on the Parish notice boards.

6.2 Speed limit consultation in Evesham Road/Station Road.

The Clerk had circulated a letter from WCC confirming that no objections had been received to the extension of the 30mph limit towards Abbots Salford. The letter confirmed that a new permanent vehicle activated sign facing traffic approaching from Abbots Salford would be attached to the street lamp column opposite "Newlands". Cllr. Stedman queried the location of the VAS and suggested a better location would be where the original chicane had been built. The Clerk was asked to inform WCC accordingly. Cllr. Stedman also queried the WCC cost for a VAS and said he believed one could be obtained at a significantly lesser price.

7. Environment - Amenity, Highways, Allotments, and TOPS

7.1 Playing Field safety reports.

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The Clerk reported that inspection reports had been received from Cllr. Francis dated 23.08.10, 6.09.10, and 13.09.10 and from Cllr. Quiney dated 29.08.10 and 18.09.10. In order to properly repair the areas under the swings Stratford SDC had been asked to advise regarding approved contractors and details of three companies had been provided. The Clerk said these companies would be contacted forthwith. Councillors reported that the swings had been put out of action until the repairs were completed and warning notices had been posted. Council agreed that this was an emergency item and authorised the Clerk to proceed when an acceptable quotation had been received. The Clerk was also asked to obtain replacement “No Dogs” signs for the play area.

7.2 Refurbishment of the wooden parish notice boards.

The Clerk reported that quotations for refurbishing the wooden parish notice boards had been requested from Neil Stedman and M Hackling. A quotation from M Hackling in the sum of £120 for cleaning, rubbing down, and applying two coats of exterior varnish, had been received but there had been no response from Mr Neil Stedman. Cllr. Stedman proposed, Cllr. Wright seconded, and it was agreed that Mr Hackling’s quotation should be accepted.

7.3 TOPs working group.

Cllr. Myers reported on progress of the TOPs working group. She reported that the working group had met with TOPs representatives on two occasions and proposed to inspect the property with the Clerk to determine whether or not a full structural assessment was needed. Cllr. Myers indicated that a TOPs financial and sustainability report was underway.

Cllr. Stedman, having declared a prejudicial interest, left the room.

7.4 New mowing contract.

The Clerk reported that a meeting had been held on 24.08.10 with Cllrs. Myers, Penn and Wright to consider changes to the mowing contract. Councillors considered ways in which the financial burden of the contract could be reduced and also what effect this might have on the parish. The two contractors who tendered for the current contract had been invited to comment on the contract and had both made suggestions regarding possible changes. The Clerk said he had also met with Veolia, the international contractor who held the contract for Stratford DC, and had received independent advice on the suggestions made. Council agreed to reconvene the working group to consider the detailed changes proposed by the Clerk prior to the next meeting.

Cllr. Stedman returned to the room

7.5 Playing Field lighting.

The Clerk said that he had instructed Advanced LEDs to amend the switches on the solar lights to switch off at 10.30pm. but their response was desperately slow. Both the police and the youth club had been asked to comment on the proposal to provide a light at the youth shelter and both were supportive of the proposal. Council agreed that the possibility of providing an additional light by the Youth Shelter should be deferred until January owing to the heavy workload of the Council in the next few months.

7.6 Stratford DC Litter Bin and Dog Waste Bin Protocol.

Council noted the new protocol for litter and dog waste bins from Stratford DC that had been circulated. Cllr. Stedman queried if the District Council had the power to charge for emptying litter bins but the Clerk said that this was meant to be only for additional bins.

7.7 Sewerage at along the B4088

The Clerk was asked to check on the progress of the application for sewerage along the B4088.

7.8 Outfall from School Road drainage

Cllr. Stedman said he had inspected the outfall after a period of heavy rain and it was working satisfactorily. However concerns remained regarding the lack of a clear route to the river and the Clerk confirmed he would be writing to the Environment Agency about this issue.

7.9 Possible collapse of drainage pipe in School Road

Cllr. Stedman reported a possible collapse of a storm water drainage pipe next to the entrance to The Elms in School Road. The Clerk was asked to write to WCC and ST regarding this issue.

8. Communications**8.1 Newsletter**

Councillors expressed concern that the Newsletter had not been forthcoming and asked that the whole issue of Communications, together with a letter from Mrs Dare, be placed on the Agenda for the next meeting. Cllr. Stedman requested that the posting of draft minutes on the website be re-considered.

8.2 Website

Nothing further reported.

8.3 E-mail newsletter

The Clerk reported that information regarding the switch-off of the street lights and of Ragley fireworks events had been circulated during the month.

9. Rights of Way**9.1 Report from Rights of Way Inspector**

Cllr. Quiney reported that he had inspected the proposed changes to the route of AL8 and AL8a with Cllr. Stedman. He said that the new route was satisfactory but required much better signing and improvements where it was overgrown, particularly by the footbridge. No objection was raised to the proposed route changes.

Regarding AL6 the Clerk was asked to remind Sandfields to restore the definitive route now cropping had been completed.

10. Planning general

Nothing reported.

11. New Planning Applications

11.1 10/01587/TREE – Proposed T1 ash: fell at Brook House, Ban Brook Copse, Salford Priors, Evesham, for Mr Thomas Alexander-Head.

Council noted that strong representations objecting to this proposal had been made following e-mail consultation with councillors.

11.2 10/01804/FUL Proposed timber shed at The Old Forge, Station Road, Salford Priors for Mr & Mrs P Rigler.

Councillors inspected the plans and decided to make no representations.

11.3 10/01620/FUL Installation of conservatory to the rear of the property at 11 Priors Grange, Salford Priors, Evesham, WR11 8XP for Mr B Green.

Councillors inspected the plans and decided to make no representations.

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12. Planning Decisions

Council noted the following planning decision.

12.1 10/01587/TREE – Proposed T1 ash: fell at Brook House, Ban Brook Copse, Salford Priors, Evesham, for Mr Thomas Alexander-Head. **No Objection by SDC**

Councillors were disappointed that SDC had completely ignored the Parish Council's objections. The Clerk was instructed to seek an explanation from the planners.

13. Staffing

Nothing reported.

14. Matters raised by Councillors

14.1 Councillors were invited to use this opportunity to report minor matters of information not included elsewhere on the Agenda and to raise items for future agendas.

Cllr. Francis asked that the question of dog fouling on the Playing Field be placed on a future agenda.

14.2 Cllr. J Stedman, Domesday Book.

Cllr. Stedman said he had recovered the Council's copy of the Warwickshire edition of the Domesday Book and it was agreed it should be securely locked in the Parish Office for safe keeping. As it is a limited edition number 246 the Clerk was instructed to ensure that it is listed in the Council's asset register and covered by insurance.

14.3 Cllr. J Stedman, Dead elm trees on the B4088 Limebridge bank road side.

Cllr. Stedman said that several elm trees along the right hand side of B4088 between Iron Cross and Limebridge were dead and a potential hazard to traffic. He said that Sandfields had been informed and asked the Clerk to follow up with the company and with WCC as they own the land.

14.4 Cllr. A Quiney, emergency equipment

Cllr. Quiney requested that the Clerk should hold a small supply of chains, hazard tape, and padlocks and this was agreed.

15. Correspondence Received**15.1 WALC Newsletter ADH\89 July 2010**

Council noted the information provided.

15.2 WALC Annual General Meeting.

Council noted the information provided.

15.3 WALC training course, responding to planning applications.

Council noted the information provided.

15.4 WCC, Concessionary travel consultation.

Each Councillor was asked to complete the consultation document. The Clerk was asked to circulate it to all residents on the e-newsletter circulation list.

15.5 WCC, Notice of rent review for TOPs.

Council noted the information provided.

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16. Tabled Documents

Councillors noted the following tabled documents:

- 16.1 WALC 61st. Annual Report.
- 16.2 Clerks & Councils Direct, September 2010, Issue 71
- 16.3 the Clerk, September 2010, Vol. 42 No.5.
- 16.4 LCR, Autumn 2010.

17. Finance

Cllr. Myers, having declared a prejudicial interest, left the meeting.

Councillors nominated Cllr. Stedman to take the Chair.

17.1 Consideration and approval of the payments and transfers listed in Appendix A.

Council considered the expenditure transactions listed in Appendix A Items 20.2. Authorisation for payment was proposed by Cllr. Wright, seconded by Cllr. Francis, and carried. Cheques were signed by Cllr. Wright and Cllr. Quiney. Council considered the Clerk's proposal to transfer £2000.00 from No.1 account to the Community account. Authorisation for transfer of funds was proposed by Cllr. Wright seconded by Cllr. Francis, and carried.

Cllr. Myers returned to the meeting and re-took the chair.

18. Date of Next Meeting

Council noted the date of the next Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council on Wednesday 13th. October 2010 in the Baptist Church Hall, Dunnington.

19. Closure of meeting

The meeting closed at 9.25pm.

Signed.....

Date.....

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

None reported.

20.2 Expenditure transactions for approval

Tn. No.	Cheque	Gross	Vat	Net	Details
8610	dd	18.99	2.83	16.16	Plusnet broadband
8611	102314	477.51	0.00	477.51	HMRC Income tax & NI
8612	102315	536.90	0.00	536.90	MJ Philpott, Clerk's salary
8613	102316	582.80	86.80	496.00	PD Long, switch-off lights
8614	102317	944.21	140.63	803.58	GBD (Evesham) Ltd.,
8615	102318	73.84	9.65	64.19	BT, office phone
8616	102319	25.00	0.00	25.00	MJ Hyde
8617	102320	9.78	0.00	9.78	M Myers
Total		£2669.03	£239.91	£2429.12	

20.3. Transfers

Proposal to transfer £2000.00 from No.1 account to Community account.

20.4 Account Balances at 1.09.10

Community a/c	£2445.75
No.1 a/c	£24645.80
No.3 a/c	£188.78