

Minutes of the One Hundredth and Twentieth Annual Parish Meeting held in the Memorial Hall, Salford Priors, on Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> April 2014 at 7.30pm.

**Present:** Parish Councillors John Stedman (Chairman), Karen Littleford, Kim James, David Penn and Lindsay Wright,

Warwickshire County Councillor Mike Brain, Stratford on Avon District Councillor Maurice Howse and twenty one parishioners.

**1. Apologies for absence** were received from Parish Councillors: Liam Maude and Melanie Muldowney, District Councillors: Daren Pemberton & Jonathan Spence

**2. Minutes of last meeting**

The Minutes of the previous meeting held on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup>. April 2013 were read out by the Acting Clerk to the Parish Council, Councillor Kim James. There were no corrections proposed by Mrs Pam Seville, seconded by Councillor David Penn, it was agreed, they be accepted as a true record. The Minutes were signed by the Chairman.

**3. Matters Arising from the Minutes**

The Chairman reported that any matters arising from the Annual Parish Meeting are dealt with at the next meeting of the Parish Council and are discharged through this process.

**4. Parish Council - Annual Report**

The Chairman invited the Clerk to read out the Chairman's Annual Report for the year 2013 – 2014. A copy of the Annual report is attached to these Minutes. The Chairman commented on how during the last six months that council had been without a paid clerk and financial responsible officer but it had maintained the day to day administration and running of the council, he went on to say that the council would be appointing a clerk to start on the 1<sup>st</sup> of June 2014.

**5. Presentation on the Neighbourhood Development Plan**

The Chairman invited Mr. Alan Green to address the meeting on the progress of the Salford Priors Neighbourhood Development Plan. Mr. Green outlined the work of the NDP Group and the neighbourhood planning process.

He made comment with regard to the first consultation exhibition held in the Memorial Hall on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> April over 120 people attended. The group were currently analysing the findings of the 105 completed exit questionnaires.

A grant of £6,300.00 had been awarded by Localities towards the work of preparing the plan. Specialist planning consultants Kirkwells had been appointed to provide planning advice and expertise.

An application had been made to the Stratford of Avon District Council to designate the Parish of Salford Priors as a Designated Neighbourhood Plan Zone; a decision on the application would be made by the District Council's Cabinet on the 16<sup>th</sup> of June.

Mr. Green explained the synergy between the District Council's proposed core strategy and the Neighbourhood Plan and the need for conformity.

The Chairman thanked Mr. Green for his presentation.

**6. Open Forum**

The Chairman declared the meeting open to questions from the audience

- a) County Councillor Mike Brain gave an overview concerning the current debate if Warwickshire should become a Unitary Authority. Cllr Brain outlined the current position of 6 councils (County Council and 5 District Councils) represented by some 240 councillors, duplicate administration practices, a multi million pound budget, efficiency savings with streamlined processes. Whilst the other view of less councillors representing a growing population would distance councillors away from those that they serve losing local contact. Cllr. Brain stated at the present time no firm view had been taken on unitary status, but in the current economic climate, change whether unitary or more co-operative working between local authorities was inevitable to address the financial pressures being faced.
- b) Mr Barlow expressed disappointment over the latest ward newsletter published by the three district councillors representing Salford Priors that they failed to mention any parish issues within the newsletter. He had received an apology and assurance that this would be addressed in future newsletters.
- c) Mr. Stokes requested an update on improvements to the provision of superfast broadband to the parish, whilst it was being rolled out in other villages why was Salford left waiting to 2017 was there anything residents could do to bring pressure on British Telecom to deliver the service quicker. The Chairman acknowledge the concerns and stated that the issue would be discussed by the Parish Council.
- d) Mr. Wolfe expressed concerns that the speed of traffic on Evesham Road Salford Priors was getting worse, the speed limit is totally ignored at times. Mr Green agreed stating in his opinion that the general speed of traffic in Station Road / Evesham Road was between 40 to 50 mph, the speed limit of 30mph is not being enforced. There was a need for traffic calming measures; any new development within the village should contribute to traffic calming measures. The Chairman acknowledge residents concerns and assured the meeting that speeding traffic throughout of the Parish was taken seriously by the Parish Council. He explained to the meeting that the council had just commissioned a covert speed survey for Rushford following residents concerns.
- e) Mr. Bradfield asked if the environmental group of the Neighbourhood Development Plan would consider looking at the county minerals plan and assess what future impacts could have on the parish.
- f) Mr. Barlow asked why the restoration of Marsh Farm quarry had slipped, how many more years was the restoration going to take to complete. The Chairman explained that the restoration was proceeding in accordance with the revised plan and timetable however it was constantly monitored by the Marsh Farm Liaison Group.
- g) Councillor Brain explained how some of the parishes within both his District & County ward were providing defibrillators he offered his advice should Salford Priors consider providing one and that grants were available. Cllr Wright thanked him for the offer and suggested that the matter is discussed by the Parish Council.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and there being no other business closed the meeting at 9.25 pm.

Signed.....

Date.....