

Minutes of the One Hundredth and Twenty-first Annual Parish Meeting held in the Memorial Hall, Salford Priors, on Wednesday 22nd April 2015 at 7.30pm.

**Present:** Parish Councillors Karen Littleford (Chairman), Lindsay Wright, John Stedman Kim James, Liam Maude and David Penn and twenty three parishioners.

**1. Apologies for absence** were received from Parish Councillor Melanie Muldowney, Warwickshire County Councillor Mike Brain and Stratford on Avon District Councillor Maurice Howse.

**2. Minutes of last meeting**

The Minutes of the previous meeting held on Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> April 2014 were read out by the Clerk to the Parish Council, Mr Paul Mills. There were no corrections. Proposed by Councillor John Stedman, 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. The Chairman summarised the responses to and current status of Matters Arising from the 2014 APM Minutes. These related to:

- a. **Speeding traffic in Station Road and Evesham Road Salford Priors.** Covert monitoring of traffic speed in these and several other roads in the parish had been carried out. The B439 Focus Group remained active.
- b. **Provision of Defibrillators in the Parish.** Defibrillators had been installed at the Memorial Hall Salford Priors. Defibrillator apparatus was to be registered with the West Midlands Ambulance Service (WMAS). The Clerk would make arrangements and publicise details of awareness training for interested parishioners to be delivered by WMAS staff in the use of defibrillators.
- c. **Broadband Download Speeds.** Superfast broadband was now available in some parts of Salford Priors meaning that many properties connected to it can now order the improved service. Information about provision and access to superfast broadband would be included periodically in Parish Council E-News and Newsletters.

**4. Parish Council - Annual Report**

The Chairman read out the Chairman's Annual Report for the year 2014–2015. The Chairman's report highlighted principal events and activities which had arisen during the period of the report. In particular, the Chairmen reflected appreciatively on the significant contribution of the Neighbourhood Development Planning Group in bringing together the Neighbourhood Development Plan, and upon the valuable support of Councillors Kim James and John Stedman in their undertaking of onerous extraneous responsibilities as Acting Clerk and Acting Responsible Financial Officer respectively throughout the year. Their continuing support of the new Clerk since he commenced administrative duties in November 2014 was greatly appreciated. A copy of the Annual Report is attached to these Minutes and will also be available on the community website.

**5. Presentation from PCSO Beccy Morris on "Neighbourhood Watch Schemes".**

**Introduction.** PCSO Beccy Morris introduced herself as a member of the Alcester South Police Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT). Before commenting specifically on Neighbourhood Watch Schemes she welcomed heightened SNT focus on crime prevention

activity made possible by a recent increase in staffing levels. During the last 12 months crimes committed in the Salford Priors area were relatively low compared to other neighbouring areas. Offences had been related to thefts from sheds and work vans with theft of domestic heating oil being becoming a more common occurrence. She highlighted the appointment of Lucy Lambert as WCC Rural Crimes Officer and the increased emphasis on tackling other types of offences associated with theft of bicycles, tools, plant machinery, horse tack equipment and occasionally of large vehicles such as tractors. The Rural Crimes Officer and the SNT were keen to promote property marking events where the emphasis was on 'overt' marking of items such as mobile phones, power tools, bicycles etc. The use of sealable spray would protect name inscription and postcodes making it more difficult to sell on items illegally. Property marking was a free service and PCSO Morris would be very pleased to support events proposed and conducted in the parish.

**“Neighbourhood Watch Schemes”.** Neighbourhood Watch Schemes were intended essentially to be the eyes and ears of the community in terms of monitoring and reporting suspicious persons or activity. Particular concerns centred on bogus callers when the elderly were especially vulnerable. Vulnerability was not confined to this group and the need to be vigilant and to check identity of unknown callers was essential. Anyone in doubt or having concerns should call 101. Neighbourhood Watch Group (NWG) emphasis was on prevention of crime and the provision of education and information to ensure proactive response when faced with potential crimes. The formation of a NWG is voluntary and independent but SNT advice and education would be available to support the activities of NWGs. Some of this support would be available through meetings organised by the SNT. Two meetings were targeted to take place in each year providing opportunity to exchange information and ideas and to explore other effective options to enhance crime prevention. Communication between NWG Leaders and group members was crucial, as indeed was the exchange of information between the NWG and the SNT. PCSO Morris encouraged the re-establishment of a Salford Priors NWG. However, if no formal group exists, individuals can sign up to receive alerts. Interested parishioners can leave their contact details with the Clerk to collate and forward these to PCSO Morris. A variety of literature and other NWG promotional items were displayed within the hall for the information of parishioners, including information which would facilitate NWG start-up. These items would be retained by the Clerk for future reference. The Chairman thanked PCSO Morris for a very informative presentation.

## **6. Presentation on the Salford Seven Neighbourhood Development Plan**

The Chairman invited Mr Alan Green to address the meeting on the progress of the Salford Priors Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP). Mr. Green explained that his presentation this evening was intended to bring the NDP, which was nearing the final stages of the consultation process, to the attention of residents of the parish. Its importance was emphasised since it provided valuable opportunity for residents of the parish to influence priorities concerning development in the parish over the next circa 20 years. Explanation and emphases in the powerpoint presentation followed on from the neighbourhood planning process defined in the previous Annual Parish Meeting. The evolution of the NDP had been an ongoing procedure which had engaged, at intervals, parishioners who had attended public consultation events held across the parish and also NDP Group members from neighbouring parishes. A copy of the NDP presentation to the APM will be available on the community website.

The Chairman thanked Mr. Green for his presentation.

## 7. Open Forum

The Chairman declared the meeting open to questions from the audience.

- a. **B439 Focus Group.** Concern was expressed regarding continuing vehicle speeding in Station Road/Evesham Road Salford Priors. In particular, 30mph speed limit signage on entry to Evesham Road and 40mph speed limit signage on exit from Evesham Road towards Abbots Salford had been missing for a much extended period of time. The Chairman confirmed that the B439 Focus Group remained active in its purpose of addressing speeding and parking issues. The Clerk acknowledged that replacement of signage was long overdue. Repeated contact with WCC Highways had been maintained since the New Year to progress this important requirement. Strong request for action to be taken would continue with the additional support of the WCC Ward Councillor.
- b. **Police Parking Posters.** A question was raised concerning the recent appearance of Police Parking Notice Posters in Salford Priors; was this activity particular to Salford Priors Parish? The Chairman invited the Clerk to reply to this question. The Clerk explained that this course of action was not confined to Salford Priors areas alone. Inconsiderate vehicle parking on pavements was a feature common to other neighbouring parishes as were routine notices in Newsletter, E-News publications highlighting parking issues. The Clerk further explained that where specific problem parking sites persisted, police notices were being displayed. It was likely that, in the first instance, cautionary discussions with vehicle owners would take place. Repeat offending might result in the issue of fixed penalty fines. Parish Councils were not in a position to act in a policing role. Interpretation of obstruction was subjective. Whilst we are advised that it is permissible to park on a pavement, it is illegal to obstruct a pavement. An earlier guide given by Warwickshire Police explained that it should remain possible for a pushchair/double buggy or wheelchair to remain on a pavement whilst walking past a parked vehicle. If that is not possible, then the pavement is obstructed. Salford Priors Parish Council will continue to seek the support of parishioners to park vehicles in a safe and considerate manner.
- c. **Fly Tipping in New Inn Lane.** A problem of persistent fly tipping in New Inn lane was reported with enquiry whether it would be possible to investigate details of the offender such that the person(s) responsible might be held to account. Incidents of fly tipping in other parish areas were also introduced by others at the meeting.

Matters introduced by parishioners under Open Forum 7 (a)(b)(c) will be included for discussion by Councillors at the next Ordinary Parish Council Meeting to be held on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> May 2015.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending the Annual Parish Meeting and, there being no other business, closed the meeting at 8.30pm.

Signed.....

Date.....