Salford Priors Parish Council

Minutes of an Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council held in The Memorial Hall, Salford Priors, on Wednesday 16th. March 2011 at 7.30pm.

Present: Councillors, JR Stedman, (Chairman), L Wright, AW Wolfe, DC Penn, L Maude, and A Quiney.
Also in attendance: MJ Philpott, Clerk, County Cllr. P Barnes, District Cllr. B Slaughter, and 12 members of the public.

1. Apologies for absence
Council considered and agreed apologies for absence from Cllr. Francis due to illness.

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. Stedman declared a prejudicial interest in Item 14.1 as a contractor to theCouncil.

3. Open Forum
3.1 The Chairman moved that the meeting be adjourned for Open Forum and this was agreed.
3.2 Have your say: No under-18s were present.

3.3 Public Participation: Mrs Sharpe asked when the lights in Ban Brook would be discussed and was told this would be in April. She then asked if the speed visor in Evesham Road could be moved to School Road and was told that speed visors would be discussed under the Speed Aware item later. Mrs Seville reported a hole in the road at Abbots Salford and asked if the Planters on Ban Brook Green were to be removed. She also enquired if consent had been given to cut down the trees at The Old Forge and was told this was the case. Mrs Littleford enquired regarding a broken light at School Avenue and was told this was the responsibility of Orbit. She also asked why the whole parish had not been canvassed on their views regarding the damaged lights in the Ban Brook area. Mrs Corbett said that someone visiting from Rushford might be visiting someone in Ban Brook road and would have an opinion. Mrs Hartiss said that the hedge along the path between Ridsdale and School Avenue needed cutting and the Clerk was asked to write to the owner. Mrs Dare asked if information on the lights would be made public and the Chairman said the reports to Council would be in the public arena. Mr Neil Smith asked if the speed tests at Dunnington were available and the Clerk was asked to e-mail these to him. He also raised the issue of water emanating from the verge of Broom Bank on the C103 and running down the gutter as the road gullies are blocked. The Clerk was asked to contact WCC to carry out remedial works. Mrs Littleford said she strongly supported the need for affordable housing in the Parish. She said the criteria were wide and lots of young people would benefit. Mrs Band was concerned about the proposed site and said that the road junction at Tothall Lane and School Road was very dangerous.

3.4 Ward Members' Reports Cllr. Barnes said that the issue of speeding in School Road had been reported at the Community Forum and the police were proposing to carry out speed camera measurements for a period shortly. In respect of the buses he said that the 28 service had been secured with help from Worcestershire CC but the Johnsons late night bus was likely to be cut. He also said the Redditch bus from Bidford was vulnerable. Cllr. Barnes said that there would be deep

cuts in respite for handicapped children and he was trying to get a charity to fund some of this work. He also reported that changes in the police service could result in more police in cars and less visibility on the streets. However, he thought that co-operation with West Mercia police could have some benefits for Salford Priors. Commenting on planning matters, Cllr. Barnes insisted the Parish Council's planning observations were not consistent with the District Council's requirements as planning policies were not cited in detail in the observations and were therefore not considered by the planning officers. Cllr. Barnes said there would be a special Forum meeting to discuss the closure of Bidford library on 9th. May. Also, the Alcester police station, library, and all facilities in Globe House are to close. Cllr. Wolfe was very concerned about the concept of a "virtual library" and thought it could not possibly deliver the benefits of a real library.

Cllr. Slaughter said that the District Council Tax had been decided and the Clerk confirmed he had received details. He emphasised the importance of supporting the campaign to protect Bidford library. The Clerk reported receipt of a detailed report from Cllr. KA James outlining decisions at the District Council that had been distributed to Councillors by e-mail.

3.5 The Chairman closed the adjournment at 8.09pm.

4. Minutes

4.1 The Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council held on Wednesday 16th. February 2011 at 7.30pm at The Memorial Hall, Salford Priors, were approved and signed by the Chairman.

5. Clerk's Progress Report for consideration by Council

5.1 Overhanging bushes, Station Road

The Clerk reported that letters had been written to the residents concerned and the work had been completed.

5.2 Lay-bys, A46

In response to a question from Mrs Seville the Highways Agency had been informed of the two coned-off lengths of paving immediately adjacent to the carriageway near Anchor Lane opposite Harvington. The Agency had stated that the paved areas had been provided to accommodate Highways Agency Portable Message Signs to notify the travelling public of incidents, schemes or events. They were not intended for public use and this is why they had been coned off.

5.3 Support for Bidford library

The Clerk said that letters had been sent to Salford Priors Primary School and to Dunnington Primary School inviting the Head Teachers to write in support of Bidford library. Council agreed that the Clerk should draft a letter of support and send a copy to Cllr. Barnes. Council also recognised the importance of attending the Forum meeting on 9th. May.

5.4 Light at Shady Nook

Council noted that action from Central Networks to remove the pole was still awaited. The Chairman said that the Clerk should chase this job if it was not started within ten days.

5.5 Gritting of School Road

The Clerk said there had been no reply from WCC. Council agreed to escalate this issue again with support from Cllr. Barnes.

5.6 Sewerage along B4088

Previously the Clerk had informed the Council that employment of the team working on this project had been terminated by Severn Trent and that a new project manager had been appointed. This month the Clerk said that the original team had been re-employed by Hyder Consultants to work on the project. Keith Gardener and Brian Fitzpatrick had told the Clerk that they would be re-starting work within two weeks and this had occurred. Residents had been informed.

5.7 Evesham Road VAS

The Clerk said he had been informed by WCC that day that the work to install the sign and move the 40mph signs was imminent. The Clerk was asked to contact WCC if this work did not start before the end of March.

5.8 Mesh to bridge parapet

The Clerk reported that WCC had instructed their contractor to replace the missing mesh panel to the bridge over the River Arrow on the Bidford side of the A46 but the work had not been completed.

5.9 Parking at Dunnington School

The Clerk said that parents had raised complaints about the taking of photographs and he said he had written to the Head Teacher at Dunnington explaining why we are trying to get photographs of the dangerous parking near the cross roads by the School. Cllr. Wright was asked to speak to Mr Beamish to determine the best way forward.

5.10 Community Forum

Cllr. Maude reported he had attended the meeting in Bidford on 8th. March and described proposed changes to the police service. He reported that there was concern over the loss of local knowledge. Other items discussed included the cuts in staff at WCC (1855 jobs), the review of council property usage at Alcester, the effects of the Localism Bill, changes to the Health Service, and funding cuts to the Youth Service.

6. Planning general

6.1 TPO proposal for pine tree in School Road.

The Clerk reported that he had written to Stratford DC explaining the situation of Sandfields closing their packing operations at Orchard Farm and asking for re-consideration of the Council's request. Cllr. Wolfe said he was very disappointed by the way in which District Council planners had responded to a whole range of recent planning issues and called for a meeting with Ward Members and Planning officers to find out why the Councils views were being consistently disregarded. The Clerk was asked to arrange a meeting.

6.2 SDC policy for poly tunnels.

The Clerk had circulated information regarding the District Council's planning policy on Poly Tunnels. He said he had also obtained a copy of the judgement in the Tuesley Farm case and if any Councillors wanted a copy it would be provided. The Chairman noted that there was no real District Council planning policy and it was agreed this should be included in the proposed meeting referred to above.

6.3 Planning conditions for the Orchard Farm packing station

The Clerk had circulated information regarding the planning status of the Packing Station at Orchard Farm. The Chairman said there had been local gossip that a transport company might be seeking to take over the lease of the packing station and the Clerk was asked to refer this to SDC for

information. Again, Council agreed the enforceability of conditions for this site should be included in the agenda for the proposed meeting with Ward Members and Planning Officers.

7. New Planning Applications for Council's consideration

7.1 11/00389/FUL – Single storey side extension at 8 Garrard Close, Salford Priors, Evesham, WR11 8XG for Mrs Wendy Goldthorp.
Council considered the application details and resolved to make no representations.

8. Planning Decisions

8.1 11/00080/TREE – Arboricultural works at The Old Forge, Station Road, Salford Priors, Evesham, WR11 8UX.

No objection raised.

Councillors were very concerned that their views had been ignored by the planning officers. The Clerk was asked to refer the matter to Grant Shapps MP, the Minister for Housing and Planning, and copy to Nadhim Zahawi for his support, with a view to getting all planning issues for rural trees resolved at parish level under the new Localism Bill and Big Society considerations.

8.2 10/02673/FUL – Fit solar PV panels to roofs of no. 3 poultry houses at Salford Lodge Farm, Pitchill, Evesham, WR11 8SN, for P Hughes Ltd.

Permission granted

Council noted the decision of the Planning Authority.

8.3 11/00038/FUL – Proposed agricultural store at Shamba, Evesham Road, Salford Priors, Evesham, WR11 8UU.

Permission granted

Council noted the decision of the Planning Authority but was concerned that the Council's representations had been disregarded. This application would also be included in the proposed meeting referred to above.

9. Footway Lighting

9.1 Consideration of the Clerk's interim report.

The Clerk had circulated a report setting out the position to date in respect of the footway lighting issue and a separate paper dealing with the wooden poles. The Chairman led Council through the paper and following a public request agreed that it could be e-mailed to residents on request. Cllr. Wright and Cllr. Wolfe both expressed deep concerns regarding the issue of public liability as the Council's insurers, AON, indicated they will withdraw public liability indemnity on all the poles categorised as "suspect". The Clerk was asked to find out from the insurers what evidence they would require to demonstrate that the poles were safe and insurable. Also, would there be additional cost when the policy is renewed at the beginning of June? Council considered the situation if an accident occurred if the poles were not insured and noted that potential costs for personal injury or property damage would be far beyond the ability of the Council to bear and would have to be recouped by an additional precept from every council tax payer in the parish. In view of the possible need to remove all of the poles at short notice the Clerk was asked to consider provisional arrangements for carrying out this work including making the disconnections. Council also considered legal advice from NALC, further advice from BT Openreach pole inspector, and advice from UTEC, a national network pole integrity test service provider. The Clerk will collate a comprehensive list of relevant information for the Annual Parish Meeting and the Council's April meeting when further considerations will be made on the future of the lights.

9.2 Formal contract with PD Long for lighting maintenance.
Council agreed to bring this matter back to a later meeting.

9.3 Results of a residents' survey into repairs to concrete posts in the Ban Brook Road area.
The Chairman reported that 12 (46%) respondents requested the lights be replaced and 14 (58%) respondents requested they be removed. 30% of residents responded from the 86 questionnaires issued and 70% did not respond. Council agreed this information would be considered further at the April meeting.

10. Housing
10.1 Consideration of the proposal for affordable housing
The Clerk had circulated a report, with information from the WRCC Rural Housing Enabler, explaining the need aspect of the proposal and drawing attention to the process to date. Also circulated was a copy of the policy of the Housing Authority in respect of local affordable housing schemes. The Chairman said that it was necessary to decide if the Council still wished to support the development of affordable housing in the parish. Concerns about the actual site could be dealt with at the planning application stage. Cllr. Maude said that he accepted that there was a need but he felt the site was wrong. Cllr. Quiney agreed that he had concerns about the site. Some members felt that the site should be within the current boundary of Salford Priors but the Chairman said that the cost of land within the village envelope would make the scheme unaffordable and beyond the available financial resources. He said that the principle of affordable housing was based on the use of an exception site which is normally agricultural land on the periphery of the village development boundary that would not otherwise get planning permission apart from use for social housing for local people. Furthermore, the Homes and Community Funding Agency would only support a scheme where other local councils demonstrated support with preferentially priced land and a grant from the District Council. Regarding the road junction the Chairman said that improved sight lines would be provided under the scheme and these would make for improved safety by extending the visibility sightline well in excess of the highways planning requirement. Cllr. Wolfe said he was not confident of a good decision from SDC, he said there were rumours of an additional 300 houses in the parish, and that this development could open the floodgates.

Cllr. Penn proposed, Cllr. Wolfe seconded, and it was agreed unanimously, that a letter of support for the initiative should be sent. However, Councillors asked that the Clerk should express their concerns regarding the site and to say they would wish to re-visit the site selection process.

11. TOPs
11.1 Report of a meeting with representatives from TOPs Management Committee.
The Chairman reported that the main issue at the meeting had been the allocation of various payments for services and maintenance between the TOPs Management Committee and the Parish Council. Cllr. Wolfe referred to exterior decoration and maintenance; it was agreed that there was sufficient scope in the draft constitution at item 6.6 to agree the apportionment of costs where major items were concerned.

The Clerk reported that three quotations had been received for replacing the main exterior doors to TOPs. These were from Centurian, £894.17; New Look Conservatories, £734.02; and Jemm Property, £750.00. The Clerk said that the quotes from Centurian and New Look were for PVCu and Jemm was timber. There was an issue with expansion with PVCu but more risk of rot with wood. Council agreed that an order should be placed with New Look and that the cost would be borne by the Parish Council as previously agreed.

11.2 TOPs constitution
The Clerk had circulated a draft Constitution setting out the responsibilities of the Parish Council and the TOPs Management Committee in respect of the future operation of TOPs as a community building. Council agreed the terms therein and the new constitution will be signed by the appropriate chairmen and supersede all previous constitutions.

12. Playing Field
12.1 To receive the Playing Field weekly safety reports.
The Clerk said he had received reports from Cllr. Quiney dated 14.02.11, 21.02.11, and 27.02.11. Cllr. Quiney reported that he had flattened the mole hills and had collected a large number of cans and broken bottles from the skate park area. It was understood that a lot of the drinking was by lads from Alcester. Council agreed that a letter should be sent to the Police Sergeant at Alcester as the intervention by the local PCSO had failed to resolve the on-going problem. Also a further letter would be sent to the school regarding litter awareness. Cllr. Quiney reported two trees in the picnic area that appeared to be dead. The Chairman proposed that the trees could be removed by Mr Don Penn if there was no sign of life in a month's time.

12.2 Consideration of alterations to the solar lights
At the previous meeting Council had agreed to consider a proposal for PD Long to fit new controllers to the two solar lights leading to the Scout Hut at a cost of £160 per light. Council considered that more time should be allowed to confirm that the new controller on the light by TOPs was acting as planned. The Clerk was asked to bring this issue back to a later meeting.

12.3 To receive a report on mole control.
Cllr. Quiney reported that there were no new mole hills on the Playing Field and the problem had been dealt with.

13. Highways
13.1 Consideration of the provision of a bus shelter at Hedges Close.
The Clerk had circulated a detailed report and drawings showing the proposed new bus shelter at the Hedges Close stop in School Road. The Clerk drew attention to the quotation from Mr Hackling for the ground works who did not have public liability insurance. The Chairman said this was not an issue because the work he will be carrying out will be in the verge behind the footway. The Clerk will draw attention to the need to keep the footway clear for access when placing the order with Mr Hackling. Council agreed that the shelter should incorporate toughened glass panels and that end panels should not be included. Cllr. Wolfe proposed, Cllr. Wright seconded, and it was agreed unanimously that the shelter should be provided as set out in the Clerk's report, namely the quotation from Queensbury Shelters Ltd. for £2444.00 and the quotation from Mr Hackling for groundworks for £680.

13.2 WCC changes to its SpeedAware scheme
The County Council had informed the Parish Council that they were making significant cuts to the budget for their SpeedAware scheme. The County were offering two alternatives; a package involving County officers costing £250 to carry out a 2 week scheme; and a free scheme involving the loan of a Smiley SID flashing sign for a 2 week period requiring local volunteers to operate. Council agreed to make a bid for the first option costing £250 with covert speed surveys, and flashing speed signs; the tests to be carried out in the Spring or Summer in School Road.

13.3 Refurbishment of wooden seats

The Clerk had circulated quotations from M Hackling for four plain seats and the round seat at Iron Cross plus ironwork on the other seats. Cllr. Quiney had inspected the seats and said they were indeed in bad condition and the work needed to be done. In view of the cost of this work Council asked the Clerk to obtain a second quotation for consideration at the next meeting. Cllr. Quiney also said that a bench in the Remembrance Garden in the Churchyard, for which the PCC was responsible, was in need of repairs and the Clerk was asked to write to Ray Stanley, Church Warden, to inform him accordingly.

13.4 Street signage at Fern Close, Rushford

Cllr. Quiney said that a street sign was required at Rushford indicating the location of houses at Fern Close. He was asked to provide a sketch for the Clerk to order the sign from SDC. The Chairman also proposed a new street sign at the end of School Avenue with words reading "School Avenue leading to Priors Grange and TOPs Community Building". The Clerk was asked to put in a request to SDC.

13.5 Sewer blockage at Primary School

The Chairman reported there had been a sewer blockage at the Primary School resulting in the school being closed for several days. Severn Trent informed the Clerk that there was no link between this incident and the work done last year on the main sewer.

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

14. Planters

14.1 Changes to the contract

The Clerk had circulated a quotation from Limebridge Rural Services Ltd. regarding proposed changes to the Planter contract. Cllr. Wolfe proposed, Cllr. Maude seconded, and it was agreed, to accept the quotation to remove four planters; two at Ban Brook Green and two at Iron Cross and to grass over the Maureen Edmunds Memorial garden.

Cllr. Stedman returned to the room.

15. Communications

15.1 Newsletter for March

The Clerk had circulated a draft text for a newsletter in March. Council agreed that the Newsletter should include an extensive item on the footway lights and should cover four pages of A4. The Newsletter should also include items on dog fouling and the closure of the Bidford library. The Clerk was asked to circulate a further draft. The Chairman proposed that the Newsletter should be combined with the single sheet Newsletters from TOPs and the Memorial Hall and stapled together and distributed by Mr Hyde well before the Annual Parish Meeting.

15.2 Report of a meeting with Cllr. Maude and Richard Dare

Cllr. Maude reported that he had now taken over the uploading of material to the web site. Council was very appreciative of the work of Richard Dare who had helped the Council considerably in developing the web site. Council asked the clerk to write to Richard accordingly and also request his final invoice.

16. Rights of Way

16.1 Report from the Rights of Way Inspector.

Cllr. Quiney reported that the footpath at Mudwalls had been cleared but there was a damaged gate that presented a hazard to users. The Clerk was asked to write to Vicarage Nurseries and WCC regarding this issue.

17. Matters raised by Councillors

17.1 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.

17.2 Cllr. Wright – Potential access to land at Dunnington.

Cllr. Wright said that former market garden land opposite the Baptist Church in Dunnington was unfenced along Tothall Lane and the B4088. Residents were concerned that this could become an illegal travellers' site if action was not taken to prevent access. Council asked the Clerk to write to the Ragley Estate Manager to deter access until a new tenant had taken over.

17.3 Cllr. Quiney – Fete Committee

Cllr. Quiney reported that he had attended a meeting of the Fete Committee and he was very supportive of their plans. Council agreed to place this item on the Agenda for the next meeting.

17.4 Chairman – Annual Parish Meeting

The Chairman proposed that there should be a meeting of the F&GP Group to consider the detailed programme for the Annual Parish Meeting.

18. Consideration of Correspondence Received

18.1 SDC, Notice of referendum.

Council noted the information provided.

18.2 WCC, changes to bus services.

Council noted that the evening bus service in Salford Priors was likely to be withdrawn.

19. To Table

Councillors noted the following tabled items:

19.1 Clerks & Councils Direct, March 2011 Issue 74.
19.2 the Clerk, March 2011, Vol 43, No.2
19.3 LCR, Spring 2011

20. Finance

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

Council noted the income transactions in Appendix A1.
Council considered the expenditure transactions listed in Appendix A2. Authorisation for payment was proposed by Cllr. Wright, seconded by Cllr. Wolfe, and carried. Cheques were signed by Cllr. Wolfe and Cllr. Quiney. Council considered the Clerk's proposal to transfer £2000 from No.1 account to the Community account. Authorisation for transfer of funds was proposed by Cllr. Wright, seconded by Cllr. Wolfe, and carried.

20.2 Invoice for footway lighting energy from npower.

The Clerk reported that a refund had been received from npower in respect of the switch off of footway lights. Effectively, bills for £689.62 and £43.62 had been cancelled out and a credit of £43.86 remained for the next invoice. Council requested this information be included in the Newsletter.

21. Date of Next Meetings

Council confirmed the date of the next Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council on Wednesday 20th. April 2011 in the Memorial Hall, Salford Priors.
Councillors noted the date of the Annual Parish Meeting as Thursday 7th. April 2011 in the Memorial Hall, Salford Priors.

22. Closure of meeting

The Chairman closed the meeting at 10.16pm.

Signed..... Date.....

Salford Priors Parish Council

APPENDIX A
Finance

A1 Income transactions for approval

Tn. No.	Cheque	Gross	Vat	Net	Details
6461		4.38	0.00	4.38	HSBC, Interest No. 1 a/c
9004		0.04	0.00	0.04	HSBC, Interest No. 3 a/c
Total		**£4.42**	**£0.00**	**£4.42**	

A2 Expenditure transactions for approval

Tn. No.	Cheque	Gross	Vat	Net	Details
8679	dd	18.99	2.83	16.16	Plusnet, Office broadband connection.
8680	102377	50.00	0.00	50.00	Mrs Pat Dare, payment for litter picking at Playing Field. PC Meeting 21.04.10, page 1027, item 7.2 refers.
8681	102378	536.90	0.00	536.90	M J Philpott, Clerk's salary
8682	102379	477.71	0.00	477.71	HMRC, Employers'NIC and Tax
8683	102380	52.35	0.00	52.35	Severn Trent, Water supply, TOPs
8684	102381	100.00	0.00	100.00	Warwickshire CC, rent for allotments, 1.02.11 to 29.02.12.
8685	102382	210.00	0.00	210.00	TOPs Management Committee, replace exterior door and frame.
Total		**£1445.75**	**£2.83**	**£1442.92**	

A3. Transfers

Transfer £2000.00 from No.1 account to Community account.

A4 Account Balances at 8.03.11

Community a/c **£1,367.83**
No.1 a/c **£32,464.14**
No.3 a/c **£213.88**