

Salford Priors Parish Council

Minutes of an Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council held in The Memorial Hall, Salford Priors, on Wednesday 5th. January 2011 at 7.30pm.

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

1. Apologies for absence

Council considered and agreed apologies for absence from Cllr. Francis due to illness and District Cllr. D Pemberton for medical reasons. Also from Cllr. B Slaughter.

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 prejudicial interests in Item 5.4, Light at Shady Nook, and in payment Item 14.2 TN8652, as a contractor to the Council. Also, a personal interest in Item 5.10, meeting with Memorial Hall representatives.

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: Karen Littleford referred to item 7.1 on the Agenda and asked why further lights were being switched off before the trial was completed. The Chairman said these lights were on the original schedule but had not been disconnected.

Pat Dare referred to reported cuts in the Youth Service by WCC. She said that there was an e-petition on the WCC website and encouraged everyone to oppose these cuts. The Chairman agreed to include reference to the petition in the proposed Newsletter. In response to a question from the Chairman Mrs Dare said the grant from WCC was about £2000 per year.

Mrs Hartiss reported that a resident had had to walk from the A46 roundabout into the village because of the diversion of the buses in the snowy weather. She said this was particularly dangerous because of the lighting switch-off. Mrs Corbett enquired regarding the number of lighting poles and did they all belong to the Parish Council? The Chairman said that each pole needed to be assessed individually in order to determine the cost of remedial works. Some poles carried other services and were the property of others but most of the poles belonged to the Council. Where replacement steel poles were provided new rules required that they be served by underground cables and the cost implications were of a major order. Cllr. Wright asked what the additional costs might be and the Chairman said that the costs in another parish for one connection had been in the order of £2500. Mr Fenlon said it was important to evaluate the whole situation properly and Councillors agreed.

Karen Littleford reported that many of the grit boxes contained solid lumps of grit. The Chairman asked the Clerk to arrange for Mr Hackling to attend each box and break up the lumps. Mrs Littleford also requested that a grit bin be considered for Priors Grange. The Chairman asked Mrs Littleford to find a suitable site for the requested bin and report to the Clerk for further consideration.

Salford Priors Parish Council

Mr Maud asked if the white lines on the junction by the Toll Cottage on the Weethley Road could be re-painted. It was also agreed to ask for the lines at Dunnington crossroads to be re-done.

3.3 Ward Members' Reports Cllr. Barnes reported on changes to the Police service and also the appointment of Peter Bowen as WCC Risk Manager for flooding. Cllr. Barnes said he objected to the letter sent regarding gritting and that WCC were unable to meet every request from Parish Councils. Councillors and residents refuted Cllr. Barnes comments and it was agreed to consider the matter again at the next meeting.

The Chairman moved the closure of the adjournment at 8.10pm and this was agreed.

4. Minutes

The Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council held on Wednesday 1st. December 2010 at 7.30pm at The Memorial Hall, Salford Priors, were approved and signed by the Chairman.

5. Clerk's report

5.1 Resignation of Cllr. Myers and appointment of new councillor.

The Clerk reported that a letter had been sent to Cllr. Myers expressing the appreciation of the Council for her service on the Council. SDC had been informed of the resignation and the appointment of the new Chairman and Vice Chairman. Notices were posted on 8th. December informing residents that any 10 electors could request an election. The closing date for this stage of the process was 30.12.10. The Clerk reported that the Council could now co-opt a new councillor. The Chairman said that the vacancy would be advertised in the Newsletter and any residents interested in the position should contact the Clerk. In due course the Council would consider any submissions received and selection would be by secret ballot.

5.2 Parking at Dunnington.

Mr Beamish had undertaken to obtain more photographs illustrating the problems at the cross roads and as soon as these were available the Clerk will be writing again to WCC. Cllr. Wright agreed to speak with Mr Beamish.

5.3 Sewerage along B4088.

The Clerk reported that Severn Trent had informed him that they had started visiting individuals along the B4088.

5.4 Light at Shady Nook, Station Road.

This item was deferred to the end of the meeting.

5.5 Affordable housing consultation.

The Clerk confirmed that the consultation exhibition will take place on Saturday 22nd. January from 10.00am to 2.00pm. at TOPs. The meeting will be attended by the necessary persons from WRCC, Warwickshire Rural Housing, and the Architect. Publicity for the event will be provided through the proposed Newsletter.

5.6 Mowing Contract.

The Clerk reported that Tenders were due to be returned on 6th. January. The tenders are to be opened in the presence of Cllrs. Wolfe, Wright and Quiney on 10th. January.

5.7 Playing Field lighting.

Salford Priors Parish Council

The Clerk reported that PD Long had now fitted a new control system to the light near TOPs. However, there have been difficulties as discussed with the Chairman and Mr Long and further work is necessary. In the meantime users of TOPs are asked to inform the Clerk of when the light is on.

5.8 Minutes on web site.

The Minutes of Council meetings are up to date on the web site. The draft Minutes for the meeting held on 1.12.10 were also uploaded. These will be replaced by the approved Minutes.

5.9 Hedge at Salford House.

The Clerk reported that a letter had been written to the Manager of the Salford Residential Home requesting the hedge be cut along the Station Road footway boundary. Cllr. Quiney reported that the work had been completed.

5.10 Meeting with Memorial Hall representatives.

It was agreed that the meeting with the Memorial Hall representatives would take place on 10th January, Cllrs. Wright and Wolfe to attend.

5.11 Gritting of School Road.

The Clerk reported that a letter had been sent to Warwickshire County Council urging that School Road be included in the regular gritting schedule. A copy was sent to Cllr. Barnes asking for his support. The Clerk had also written to the MDs of Sandfields and Stagecoach asking for their support. He said that Stagecoach had raised the issue in a meeting with WCC. Following remarks made by Cllr. Barnes it was agreed that this matter would be considered again at the next meeting when further information would be requested from Stagecoach and the County Council officers.

5.12 Light at entrance to Sandfields Packing Station.

The Clerk reported that a letter had been written to Derek Wilkinson of Sandfields requesting they consider a light at the entrance to their packing station in School Road. A response was awaited.

5.13 Unmetered supply certificate.

The Clerk reported that a revised schedule of lights had been sent to EON showing the lights switched off. The total annual energy consumption was reduced from 18716.42 kWh to 11217.34 kWh.

5.14 Yew Tree in Ban Brook Road

As a matter of urgency the Clerk placed an order with Limebridge Rural Services to remove a branch of the Yew Tree in Ban Brook Road which had fallen down and blocked the road. The sum agreed was £45.00. It was subsequently noted that the branch had been removed by a third party and the original order was cancelled.

5.15 Broom Lane

The Chairman reported that the closure of Broom Lane was due to be lifted on 6th January.

6. Main Items

6.1 Consideration of the Budget for 2011 – 2012.

A report by the Clerk with detailed budget proposals had been circulated to all councillors and to residents attending the meeting. The Chairman led the meeting through each item in turn and adjustments were made to some of the items. With regard to income there was particular concern that the Stratford DC contribution to mowing might be reduced. On the expenditure side, reductions

Salford Priors Parish Council

were proposed for the planter contract and newsletters but there were increases for highways signs and particularly for TOPs. Councillors agreed to hold a sum of £10,000 for “Projects” to be allocated during the course of the year. The nett result of these changes was negative and councillors were concerned that the overall balances at year end should not be reduced. The Chairman said that it was generally recommended that the funds available to the Council should equate to the precept but in the case of Salford Priors the end of year balance was just half this amount. The Clerk said that a reduction in the precept of, say, £2000, would result in a saving to residents in a Band D property of just 8p per week. The Chairman called for an in-principle proposal as the final decision will be made at the 19th. January meeting when further financial information will be available. Cllr. Wright proposed, seconded by Cllr. Wolfe, that the precept should be frozen at £47,000. There being no amendments, this proposal was agreed unanimously.

7. Urgent Items

7.1 Switch off of surplus lights in Ridsdale Close and School Avenue.

The Chairman stated that two lights, one at the bottom of Ridsdale Close, and the other at the roundabout in School Avenue, had been scheduled for switch off originally but this work had not been carried out. Council agreed that there are sufficient other lights in the vicinity of these particular lights and the Clerk was instructed to place an order with PD Long to disconnect these two lights as part of the trial.

7.2 TOPs electricity bill

The Clerk had circulated a report regarding the £2886.19 electricity bill for TOPs. The Clerk explained that previous bills had been based on estimated readings for nearly three years, he had checked back all the bills and a reading had been made in December that confirmed the accuracy of the bill. Council agreed that the bill (TN 8661) had to be paid. The Clerk explained that npower had offered a reduced rate if the Council would enter into a three year contract. Cllr. Wright suggested that alternative suppliers should be considered and the Clerk was asked to investigate this and report to the next meeting. The sustainability of TOPs was discussed and it was agreed to hold an F&GP group meeting in the near future to enable a sustainability and structural report to be formulated for Council’s consideration.

8. Communications

8.1 Consideration of draft format for a regular Newsletter.

The Clerk and the Chairman had circulated a draft newsletter to be delivered to all residents. Council agreed to include reference to the WCC proposals in respect of the youth service. Council agreed the general format of the Newsletter and the Clerk was asked to incorporate the changes discussed and to print and distribute the Newsletter as soon as possible. Council considered that there should be at least four Newsletters each year but that issues should generally be produced as necessary.

9. New Planning Applications for Council’s consideration

9.1 10/02588/AMD Non-material amendment to application 08/02630/FUL – change windows to full height screens on south west and north west elevations at 6 Fern Close Cottages, Rushford, Evesham, WR11 8SL for Mr & Mrs Kevin Harrison

The Clerk reported that, following circulation by e-mail to councillors, a statement of “no representations” had been made to the planning authority.

9.2 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.

Salford Priors Parish Council

The Clerk reported that, following circulation by e-mail to councillors, a statement of “no representations” had been made to the planning authority.

9.3 10/02534/TREE Proposed T8 ash: reduce end weight on limb by reducing back to 3.0m. T9 ash: reduce back left section of stem to height of 1.80m. at Brook House, 5 Ban Brook Copse, Salford Priors, Evesham WR11 8GW for Mr Thomas Alexander-Head

The Clerk reported that a meeting had been held with the Chairman and the District Council Tree Officer and, following discussion, a strong letter of objection had been submitted.

Council approved the actions taken in respect of these three planning applications.

10. Matters raised by Councillors

10.1 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. Wolfe referred to the very poor postal service over the Christmas period and the Clerk was asked to write to the Post Office expressing the Council’s concerns.

Cllr. Quiney referred to the increase in dog fouling in Salford Priors since the last meeting and Council agreed to include reference to this in the Newsletter.

Cllr. Stedman, having declared an interest in the following items, left the room, and Cllr. Wright took the chair.

11. Finance

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

Council noted the payments made between meetings on 15.12.10 in Appendix A, Item 14.2, and the accompanying File Note and approved the action taken.

Council considered the expenditure transactions listed in Appendix A, Item 14.3. Authorisation for payment was proposed by Cllr. Wolfe, seconded by Cllr. Wright and carried. Cheques were signed by Cllr. Wolfe and Cllr. Penn.

Council noted the bank transfer made between meetings on 15.12.10 in Appendix A, Item 14.4, and the accompanying File Note and approved the action taken.

Council noted the Clerk’s request to transfer a further £3000.00 from No.1 account to Community account. Authorisation for transfer of funds was proposed by Cllr. Wright seconded by Cllr. Wolfe, and carried.

5.4 Light at Shady Nook, Station Road. (deferred from Clerk’s report)

The Clerk reported that quotations had been sought from EON, PD Long, and Limebridge Rural Services Ltd. for the removal of the ivy from this lamp pole. The Clerk had also met Mrs Whan and explained what is proposed. EON had declined to quote stating concerns regarding the proximity of the overhead lines. Council considered the quotations received and decided that the pole and light should be completely removed. The Clerk was instructed to seek a quotation from PD Long for the removal of the pole as this had already been provided by Limebridge Rural Services Ltd. The Clerk was also asked to find out if there would be any charge from Central Networks for making the disconnection and to report to the next meeting.

Cllr. Stedman returned to the meeting.

12. Date of Next Meeting

Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council on Wednesday 19th. January 2011 in the Salford Priors Memorial Hall.

Other Ordinary meetings: 16th. February; 16th. March; 20th. April; 18th. May; 15th. June.

Annual Parish Meeting: Thursday 7th. April.

Salford Priors Parish Council

Annual Meeting of Council: Wednesday 18th. May.**13. Closure of meeting**

The meeting closed at 10.06 pm.

Signed.....

Date.....

14. Finance**14.1 Income transactions for approval**

None to report

14.2 Expenditure transactions approved between meetings

Tn. No.	Cheque	Gross	Vat	Net	Details
8652	102352	1056.80	157.40	899.40	Limebridge Rural Services Ltd.
8653	102353	10.00	0.00	10.00	MJ Hyde
8654	102354	100.00	0.00	100.00	MJ Hyde
8655	102355	477.51	0.00	477.51	HM Revenue & Customs
8656	102356	536.90	0.00	536.90	MJ Philpott, Clerk's salary December
8657	102357	99.09	14.76	84.33	GBD (Evesham) Ltd.
8658	102358	804.88	119.88	685.00	DCM Projects
Total		£3085.18	£292.04	£2793.14	

14.3 Expenditure transactions for approval

Tn. No.	Cheque	Gross	Vat	Net	Details
8659	dd	18.99	2.83	16.16	Plusnet Broadband
8660	102359	76.44	10.04	66.40	BT Office phone
8661	102360	2886.19	429.86	2456.33	Npower, TOPs electricity
8662	102361	302.33	45.03	257.30	EON Street lighting maintenance
Total		£3283.95	£487.76	£2796.19	

14.4. Transfers

Transfer from No.1 account to Community account approved between meetings £3000.00

Approved by Chairman and Cllr. Wolfe on 14.12.10.

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

14.5 Account Balances at 29.12.10

Community a/c	£1807.80
No.1 a/c	£36256.86
No.3 a/c	£188.84