

Salford Priors Parish Council

Minutes of an Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council held in The Memorial Hall, Salford Priors, on Wednesday 17th. March 2010 at 7.30pm.

Present: Councillors, AW Wolfe (Chairman), JR Stedman, RA Francis, and DC Penn.

Also in attendance: MJ.Philpott, Clerk, District Cllr. D Pemberton, and 17 members of the public.

1. Apologies for absence

Council considered and agreed apologies for absence from Cllr. Myers on recuperative leave, and from County Cllr. P Barnes and from District Cllr. BW Slaughter 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 payment 8535 and in item 7.2 as a contractor to the Council.

3. Open Forum

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

3.2 Public Participation: Karen New asked for the Council's support in seeking mains sewerage for Rushford, Pitchill and Iron Cross. She explained the very difficult situation with the septic tanks and the considerable costs involved for all the residents. The Chairman said the Council would support the residents and it was agreed that the Clerk should meet Karen with a view to putting together a report describing the whole situation. Stephen Roberts said that there were various possible solutions and Lindsay Wright referred to the communal collection tank at Dunnington that was serviced by Severn Trent.

Mrs Seville enquired why the parish precept was so much greater than Welford. Cllr. Stedman explained that Welford had no street lights, no planters, and only a very small grassed area to mow. The Chairman also explained how there was a large liability arising from the age of the street lighting in the parish. Mrs Seville then asked if redundant posts opposite the bottom of School Road could be removed and one at Marriage Hill.

John Fenlon reported on a site inspection meeting with CEMEX and said that the area of Marsh Farm visible from Broom Lane should be filled by the end of 2010. Cllr. Stedman said that CEMEX had obtained a significant contract to remove soil from Long Lartin.

Liam Maude asked if poly tunnels required planning consent and the Clerk was asked to get a definitive response from SDC.

3.3 Ward Members' Reports Cllr. Pemberton offered his support in obtaining a response to the Council's complaint regarding the Marsh Farm extension.

4. Minutes

The Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council held on Wednesday 17th. February 2010 at 7.30pm at The Memorial Hall, Salford Priors, were approved and signed by the Chairman.

5. Matters arising from the Minutes - Clerk's report for consideration by Council**5.1 Highways maintenance issues.**

The Clerk reported that work on the footpath between Abbots Salford and Harvington had now been started, also that copies of the correspondence had been sent to Cllr. Barnes. Cllr. Stedman reported

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he had seen the work being carried out on a Sunday with a JCB with an over-width bucket and with no road signs. The Clerk was asked to find out when the work would be completed.

5.2 Street lighting.

The Clerk reported that EON had carried out a further inspection of the streetlights and provided quotations for remedial works. A copy of their letter had been circulated. Prysmian had also been asked to quote for replacing concrete columns. EON had questioned the seriousness of the cracks in the concrete columns and the Clerk said that Council might wish to consider whether to arrange with Peter Long for a further inspection with Councillors present in order to verify the seriousness of the situation. Councillors decided that in view of the different opinions expressed they would inspect all the lights later in the summer and form their own opinion as to whether or not it was necessary to replace them.

5.3 Domestic Energy Efficiency.

John Alexander-Head had produced a list of properties that could be used for the first stage of the Domestic Energy Efficiency project. Council decided it no longer wished to proceed with this project.

5.4 Speeding issues.

The Clerk reported that the County Council had now decided that the build out by Mr Seabourne's property should be removed. The officers had confirmed that there was not a suitable alternative location so other methods of speed control would be introduced. There would then be further tests and the measures escalated if found necessary. Council was very concerned that the County had not consulted on this change as was previously understood and asked the Clerk to stop the work and seek a site meeting. The visor post, currently outside Alamo, is to be re-located by the Salford Hall Hotel. The Clerk said he had asked for a full speed survey in School Road opposite the top entrance to Ban Brook Road but because of the results from last year's survey WCC would only carry out a covert survey initially. If this showed there was a problem they would then consider a full speed survey. The results of detailed speed measurements taken in Broom Lane between the School and Dunnington Court showed 15 per cent of vehicles travelling at more than 35 mph. The Clerk was asked to seek further tests in May and find out about the implications of the figures provided. A resident said that the tests had been carried out when there was snow on the ground.

5.5 Annual Parish Meeting

The Clerk said that both Sergeant Wild and Derek Wilkinson had confirmed their attendance at the Annual Parish meeting. Mr Wilkinson intended to make a short power point presentation. The Clerk asked Council if they wished to circulate a flier around the parish and it was agreed that the Chairman and the Clerk should design an A4 Newsletter incorporating details of the Annual Parish Meeting and other matters. This item was further discussed under item 8.1.

5.6 Housing Association, fence at Playing Field

The Clerk reported that Orbit had now agreed to replace the fence around the house alongside the access to the Playing Field that was in very poor condition. Council asked that Orbit be advised of the date of the Village Fete and be urged to complete the work before that date.

5.7 BT Broadband problems.

The Clerk said that a letter had been written to BT complaining about the poor Broadband service in recent months and requesting information on proposed upgrades to the Bidford Exchange.

5.8 Septic tanks at Iron Cross.

As instructed, the Clerk had written to Fraser Pithie at Severn Trent regarding septic tanks at Iron Cross. It was proposed that copies of the reply be circulated to all residents in Iron Cross, Pitchill and Rushford together with a pro-forma asking for details of problems in individual properties. This should lead to a meeting with Severn Trent at which Councillors would also be present.

5.9 Reply to Fete Committee.

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The Fete Committee had been informed that Cllr. Francis had been appointed as the Council's representative on the Committee and a raffle prize had been offered.

5.10 Affordable Housing.

Phil Ward, the Housing Enabler of WRCC, had informed the Council that WCC were interested in selling a plot of land at the corner of Tothall Lane and School Road. Mrs Houghton, with the plot at Iron Cross, had not responded and in any case the problems with sewerage in the area remained to be addressed. If the Parish Council was minded to support the WCC site he would arrange for the Warwickshire Rural Housing Association to prepare a draft site layout. The Clerk was instructed to inform Mr Ward that it wished to proceed.

5.11 Insurance of Multi-tractor.

Despite chasing by the Clerk a reply from the insurers was still awaited. Cllr. Stedman proposed that a further letter should be written stating that the Council considered it remained fully insured in view of the lack of a response.

5.12 Solar lights

The Clerk reported that an engineer from Advanced LEDs was to meet Peter Long and the Clerk on site to consider alternative timer controls and discuss the performance of the lights. This item was further discussed under item 7.5.

6. Main Items

6.1 Membership of the Parish Council

The Clerk reported that three nominations had been received for the two vacancies on the Parish Council and accordingly an election would take place on Thursday 8th. April. Council asked that the date of the election be put on the website.

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

7.1 Playing Field weekly safety reports.

The Clerk reported that inspection reports had been received from Cllr. Stedman dated 22.02.10 and 7.03.10 and from Cllr. Francis dated 1.03.10; 8.03.10; and 15.03.10. He said that he had received quotations from the mowing contractor to repair the goal mouth, including relocating the goal sockets, and the ruts in the playing field, for the sums of £175.44 and £242.67 respectively. Council decided not to proceed with these offers and instead proposed that a metal detector be utilised to locate alternative goal post sockets already installed. It was agreed to ask Mr Hackling to decompact the goal mouth with a digging fork and move the goal posts to a new location. The Clerk was asked to arrange for a mole catcher to be employed to clear the moles from the field. Cllr. Stedman proposed, and it was agreed, that the litter bin by the car park should be repaired but the bin by the skate park should be abandoned. Cllr. Francis said that over £700 had been spent in recent years on replacing these bins. The Clerk was asked to seek quotations for a litterpick each month in the summer and every two months in the winter. The Clerk reported that the mowing contractor had queried lowering the height of the hedge to Priors Grange from 3m to 2m. in order to avoid the use of a side arm flail cutter with consequent safety implications. The cost of reducing the hedge by 1m. would be £864. Council decided not to proceed with this option. Finally, the Clerk was asked to arrange for a canopy lift of weeping ash trees along the School boundary and for brambles to be removed along the School Avenue boundary.

7.2 Gritting.

The Clerk reported that he had met Mr. JR Stedman and discussed the possible contractual arrangements for providing a gritting service. He would bring a proposal to a future meeting of the Council.

7.3 Dogs on Playing Field.

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The Clerk reported that he had been in contact with the Animal Welfare Officer at SDC and circulated a report explaining some of the issues; particularly the difficulty of enforcement. Council decided it wished to see a total ban on dogs from the Playing Field and the Allotments and asked the Clerk to inform SDC accordingly.

7.4 Allotments.

The Clerk reported that he had advertised the vacant allotment plots on all the noticeboards. He had obtained a quotation from the mowing contractor to mow the grass around the perimeter and between the plots using a flail mower for a cost of £51.80 per visit to coincide with cutting the highway verges. He had also received a quotation for trimming the hedge along the Priors Grange boundary for the sum of £85.00. Council instructed the Clerk to accept these quotations. Following a report of motor cycles and quad bikes accessing the allotments site from the Scout hut area council agreed to have a post and three rail wooden fence erected in the gap between the two sites. The Clerk was instructed to have this work carried out as soon as possible.

7.5 Playing field lights – complaint from Laurie-Mo Gullachsen

The Clerk had circulated a complaint from Laurie-Mo Gullachsen of 28 School Avenue regarding the solar lights being on beyond 10.00pm and the behaviour of local young people late at night. He had informed Ms Gullachsen that this would be treated as a formal complaint. The Clerk said he had already adjusted the lights so that they would turn off four hours after sunset but in addition he was investigating the possibility of a new controller that would switch the lights off at 10.00pm. regardless of the hour of sunset. The Clerk said he had also informed Sgt. Wild of the problems with the behaviour of people on the playing field late at night and this would be further discussed at the Annual Parish Meeting. Council agreed with the measures already taken and proposed that an extension to the hours to 10.30pm be sought from SDC by a variation to the planning conditions applied to the lights.

7.6 Condition of Broom Lane.

The Clerk reported that he had received complaints regarding the condition of Broom Lane where the road edges were in very poor condition with channels being formed by water running down the road and washing soil and debris thus undermining the road even more. A particularly dangerous situation had developed in the freezing weather. The Clerk further reported that the drainage grips and ditches were in poor condition. Council instructed the Clerk to inform Cllr. Barnes and the County Officers and ask that the lane be inspected with a view to remedial works being carried out. However, Council considered it was unlikely that funds would be forthcoming.

Cllr. Stedman also requested that the condition of the road opposite the shop in Salford Priors be inspected and remedial works requested.

7.7 TOPs structural condition.

A letter was circulated from Mrs Pat Dare expressing concerns regarding the structural condition of TOPs due to the installation of the new windows. The Clerk reported that he had met Steven Holloway, Consulting Structural Engineer, from Bidford, at TOPs. Mr Holloway had confirmed that there was no reason to close the building but agreed that simple precautions to stop people throwing themselves at the windows were advisable. He was asked to supply outline designs and estimates for permanent remedial works. Council agreed with the measures taken and also that when details of the remedial works were available Centurian should be asked to meet Councillors at TOPs to discuss possible reimbursement.

8. Communications

8.1 Newsletter

Council agreed that an A4 two-sided newsletter with information on the election, the precept and the Annual Parish Meeting should be circulated to all residents by Michael Hyde.

8.2 Website

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The Clerk reported that the latest Minutes and Agendas had been uploaded to the website. He had arranged a meeting with Richard Dare to incorporate all the changes agreed at the meeting with the Chairman and Cllr. Stedman in January. Cllr. Stedman asked for the link to the SDC planning portal to be fixed, members details updated, and also that the election should be referred to on the site.

8.3 E-mail newsletter

The Clerk reported that he proposed to circulate an e-newsletter to advertise the Annual Parish Meeting. He said he had held back from circulating newsletters regarding vacancies on the Council because this might be construed as being discriminatory. Council considered that the e-mail newsletter could now be re-started.

8.4 Questionnaire

At the previous meeting of the Council members had been asked to try out a draft survey on parish communications. Cllr. Myers had queried if the questionnaire was worth circulating and felt any prize should be limited to £20. Cllr. Stedman proposed, and it was agreed, that two prizes of £20 should be provided. Cllr. Stedman then proposed a series of amendments to the questionnaire and the Clerk was asked to incorporate these into the document.

9. Rights of Way

9.1 Report from P3 Co-ordinator.

Nothing to report.

10. Planning general

10.1 Marsh Farm Quarry Liaison Committee, SPPC representatives, proposed meeting dates, and associated issues.

The Chairman referred to the representation of the Parish Council on the Liaison Committee and proposed that Cllr. Stedman together with the Chairman should be the Council's two representatives. This was seconded by Cllr. Francis and agreed. The Clerk reported that following discussions with all parties involved it had not proved possible to arrange an early meeting of the Liaison Committee. The Clerk had circulated a copy of the note of the inaugural meeting of the committee in 1989 but Cllr. Barnes claimed to have further legal documentation which laid down different rules from those agreed at the inaugural meeting. The Clerk said he had asked Cllr. Barnes for this documentation and a response was awaited. The Chairman proposed, Cllr. Stedman seconded, and it was agreed that the Clerk should try and arrange the next meeting for the 13th. May.

10.2 SDC response to complaint by Parish Council.

The Clerk reported that he had received an e-mail from the District Council Planning Officer stating that a response to the Parish Council's formal complaint would be forthcoming by 16th. March. So far no response had been received. Council was very concerned that SDC had not responded to the official complaint and instructed the Clerk to refer the issue to the Local Government Ombudsman.

10.3 SDC Consultation on Core Strategy.

The Clerk reported that the District Council had circulated letters regarding consultation on a further draft of the Core Strategy and noted that the deadline for responses had been extended to 22nd. April. It was proposed that all Councillors examine the strategy on the SDC website and that the Clerk prepare a report for the next meeting.

11. New Planning Applications for Council's consideration

11.1 10/00440/FUL, Proposed Insertion of one rooflight to the front elevation and 2 rooflights to the rear elevation, at 5 Priors Grange, Salford Priors, Evesham, Worcestershire WR11 8XP, for Mr N Sellors. Councillors examined the application and resolved to make no representations.

12. Planning Decisions

12.1 10/00084/FUL Proposed one and a half storey side extension to provide garage and home office over, at The Bungalow, School Road, Salford Priors, Evesham, WR11 8XD for Mr J Cox.

Refused

Council noted the above decision of the Stratford on Avon District Council.

13. Staffing**13.1 Clerk's salary.**

A report setting out the Clerk's salary due for 2009/10 and 2010/11 had been circulated and was agreed by Council.

14. Matters raised by Councillors**14.1 Cllr. Myers – Enforcement action in respect of caravan at The Bell Inn.**

The Clerk reported that Cllr. Myers had expressed concern that enforcement action had not yet been taken regarding the caravan at the back of The Bell Inn. The Clerk was asked to refer the matter to SDC.

14.2 Cllr. Myers – Litter Bins on School Road.

The Clerk reported that Cllr. Myers had spoken with the Polacci brothers and requested that a litter bin should be provided at the end of their access track opposite Sandfelds Farm main entrance. She also requested that consideration be given to moving the litter bin at the end of School Road to the bus stop by Hedges Close. Council agreed to defer a decision to the next meeting.

14.3 Cllr. Stedman – Agenda layout.

Cllr. Stedman suggested an informal meeting with Councillors and the Clerk to discuss the agenda layout and supplementary agenda items. This was agreed and the Clerk would offer suitable evening dates when Cllr. Myers returns.

15. Consideration of Correspondence Received**15.1 Stratford upon Avon and District Citizens Advice Bureau, request for support.**

Council noted that the last donation to the CAB had been made in 2001. Cllr. Stedman proposed, Cllr. Francis seconded, and it was agreed, that a donation of £150 be made to the work of the Stratford upon Avon and District CAB.

15.2 Proposed Stratford Parkway Rail Station.

Council noted the information provided.

15.3 NALC Legal Briefing regarding Public Participation Sessions at Meetings.

Council noted the information provided.

15.4 NALC Legal Briefing regarding Revised Code of Conduct.

Council noted the information provided.

In connection with NALC documents Council agreed the Clerk should obtain the new NALC 2010 Model Standing Orders and approved expenditure of £25 to cover any costs incurred.

6. To Table

Council noted the following tabled items:

16.1 Landscape and Amenity Product Update February 2010.

16.2 Clerks & Councils Direct, March 2010, Issue 68.

16.3 LCR, Spring 2010.

17. Finance

17.1 To consider and approve the payments and transfers listed in Appendix A.

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

Council noted the income transactions in Appendix A Item 20.1.

Council considered the expenditure transactions listed in Appendix A Item 20.2. Authorisation for payment was proposed by Cllr. Francis, seconded by Cllr. Penn, and carried. Cheques were signed by Cllrs. Wolfe and Penn.

Council considered the Clerk's proposal to transfer £1000 from No.1 account to the Community account. Authorisation for transfer of funds was proposed by Cllr. Francis, seconded by Cllr. Penn, and carried.

Cllr. Stedman returned to the meeting.

18. Date of Next Meetings

Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council on Wednesday 21st. April 2010 at 7.30pm in the Memorial Hall, Salford Priors.

Annual Parish Meeting on Thursday 15th. April 2010 at 7.30pm in the Memorial Hall, Salford Priors.

19. Closure of meeting

The meeting closed at 10.28pm

Signed.....

Date.....

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

Tn. No.	Cheque	Gross	Vat	Net	Details
6434	BACS	2225.60	0.00	2225.60	SDC Mowing grant
6435		3.26	0.00	3.26	No. 1 a/c Bank interest
6436		0.03	0.00	0.03	No. 3 a/c Bank interest
Totals		£2228.89	£0.00	£2228.89	

20.2 Expenditure transactions for approval

Tn. No.	Cheque	Gross	Vat	Net	Details
8529	dd	18.99	2.83	16.16	Plusnet, office broadband
8530	102239	10.44	1.44	9.00	Severn Trent Water, allotments
8531	102240	65.28	0.00	65.28	HM Revenue & Customs, NI
8532	102241	154.71	23.04	131.67	Glasdon, grit bin
8533	102242	721.08	0.00	721.08	Clerk's salary & back pay
8534	102243	150.00	0.00	150.00	Richard Dare, Website
8535	102244	47.00	7.00	40.00	Limebridge Rural Services Ltd. Grit bin
8536	102245	49.51	0.00	49.51	Severn Trent Water, TOPs

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8537	102246	298.17	44.41	253.76	EON UK Energy Services
8538	102247	65.12	8.36	56.76	BT Payment Services
Total		1580.30	£87.08	£1493.22	

20.3. Transfers

Proposal to transfer £1000 from No.1 account to Community account.

20.4 Account Balances at 11.03.09

Community a/c	£1480.38
No.1 a/c	£25525.17
No.3 a/c	£188.75