

Salford Priors Parish Council

Minutes of the One Hundredth and Sixteenth Annual Parish Meeting held in the Memorial Hall, Salford Priors, on Wednesday 15th. April 2010 at 7.30pm.

Present: Parish Councillors A.W.Wolfe (Chairman), J R Stedman, D.C.Penn, R.J.A.Francis, and M.Myers, Newly elected Parish Councillors L Wright and A Quiney, the Clerk, Mr M.J. Philpott, and thirty-five parishioners.

Apologies for absence were received from County Councillors P Barnes.

The Minutes of the previous meeting held on 15th. April 2009 had been circulated and were taken as read. There were no corrections and they were accepted as a true record.

Policing in the Parish

The Chairman welcomed PC Doug Johnson to the meeting to speak about policing in the parish. PC Johnson explained he was a member of the Safer Neighbourhood Team for the area that extended as far as Quinton, a very large area. In the past 100 days there had been 1068 incidents in the area with 249 in Bidford and only 40 in Salford Priors. He said that Salford Priors was a low crime area, there had been one burglary in the past 100 days, three thefts from farms, and 5 rowdy incidents on the Playing Field. This latter, he saw as a growing problem and he explained the measures being taken to contain it. He was liaising with the ASBO officer from SDC, directly with parents, and also with the youth club. PC Johnson referred to a problem with vehicles driving on the Playing Field and said they were hoping to prosecute a suspect shortly. He also referred to the role of the Community Forums that had a role in identifying priorities for policing based on incident reports and urged residents to become involved if they wanted action in their area; a pad of incident report forms was left with the Clerk.

Mr Sharp described the problem with speeding motor bikes on the B4088 but also on Evesham Road and Station Road, particularly on Sundays. PC Johnson said that speeding enforcement and other measures were prioritised on the basis of the number of accidents and in this case no accidents had occurred due to speeding. He agreed to arrange cover on a Sunday. Cllr. Stedman referred to a number of minor accidents at Dunnington crossroads. He asked the police and WCC to examine the layout of the junction and propose remedial measures. PC Johnson said the accidents were due to driver error.

Mrs Rogers and Cllr. Francis referred to the anti social behaviour on the Playing Field involving drunken behaviour, broken bottles and general disturbance late at night. PC Johnson explained that the police tried to identify the leaders in these situations but they relied very much on local information and they needed names of offenders from residents.

John Fenlon asked if enforcement action could be taken regarding parking by parents when collecting children from Dunnington School. John Fenlon and John Barlow asked about the role of Neighbourhood Watch and said this was a feature in reducing insurance premiums. PC Johnson said he was not aware that the Neighbourhood Watch groups in the area were particularly active.

Sandfields Farms

The Chairman introduced Derek Wilkinson, Managing Director and part owner of Sandfield Farms. Mr Wilkinson made a most interesting Powerpoint presentation explaining that Sandfields was part of the Shropshire Group, a major player in the vegetable market with a

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turnover of £300 million and activities throughout England and Europe. Sandfields Farms had 1653 hectares under cropping with 630 ha. growing salad onions, 270 ha. growing peas and 200 ha. growing asparagus. Each year over 32 million bunches of salad onions were sold to supermarkets making them the largest supplier in the country. Mr Wilkinson explained the benefits of farming in the area and the effect of climate and altitude on different crops. He then explained the impact of their operations on the environment and the measures taken to mitigate the negative impacts and the many positive measures taken to improve and promote conservation. Mr Wilkinson said they already had good links to national and local conservation bodies and wanted to continue to develop neighbourly relationships with the local community.

Mr Reg Stokes said that he felt the company had made a good impression since their acquisition of the Bomford land and asked if there were any plans to increase traffic to the packing station off School Road. Mr Wilkinson said he did not anticipate any increase in traffic. Mr Liam Maud asked about waste crops and meeting supermarket standards. Mr Wilkinson said that about 15 per cent was ploughed back depending on weather conditions. Cllr. Quiney asked if there were plans to grow soft fruits under poly tunnels and Mr Wilkinson said no. Cllr. Myers thanked Mr Wilkinson for his support regarding the maintenance of rights of way and asked if there were proposals to extend operations at Salford Priors. Mr Wilkinson said there were no such proposals. The Chairman asked about theft from the land and was told there had been some theft of asparagus. Mr Cane asked what percentage of packaged vegetables were imported and was informed that the quantity amounted to about 20 – 25 per cent. Mr Sharp said that the hedge cutting along School Road had not been properly cleared causing a puncture hazard. Mr Wilkinson replied that he would look into this as it was carried out by his own staff. Finally, Cllr. Stedman said that the Council had tried to get a Tree Preservation Order on the large pine at the entrance to Sandfields Farm in School Road and asked for an assurance that it would not be cut down. Mr Wilkinson said the pine would be left and the Clerk was asked to write to seek written confirmation of this statement.

Chairman's Annual Report

The Chairman of the Parish Council, Cllr. A W Wolfe, made a full presentation of the work of the Council over the previous year. The report was circulated to all attendees and a copy of the report is attached to these minutes.

Open Forum

Mrs Arlene Band was first to speak in the Open Forum and said how pleased she was that Dunnington would continue to be represented on the Parish Council. The Chairman referred to a comment by former Cllr. Peggy Pane that councillors should serve just two terms and then take a break. A resident asked where the affordable housing was proposed and the Clerk said 6 houses were planned for the top of Tothall Lane on the WCC small-holding land and these would only be available for people with strong local connections. Mr Reg Stokes paid tribute to former Cllr. Kim James and this was endorsed by the Chairman. He went on to enquire when Evesham Road would be surfaced and the Clerk was asked to make enquiries of the County Council. Mr Cane expressed his disgust at the removal of the chicane from Evesham Road in strong terms and said that a disaster would occur with vehicles overtaking outside his house. The Chairman responded that virtually no notice had been given by the County Council and the Parish Council really had done everything it could including persuading the County to install a permanent speed visor near Cleeve View. In connection with the need to replace some street lights Mr Baker asked if some of these were really

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needed and was informed that this was an option still under consideration. Cllr. Myers encouraged residents to attend Parish Council meetings and Cllr. Stedman encouraged residents to take advantage of the e-newsletter. Don Penn asked that action should be taken regarding the outfall for drainage from School Road and the Clerk was asked to pursue this with WCC.

Finally, as there were no further questions the Chairman said he had one last pleasant duty to perform and that was to commend Mr Don Penn on the sterling service he provided to the village clearing and maintaining footpaths, collecting litter, cutting hedges, and clearing drains and gullies all over the parish. He said the whole parish was indebted to Mr Penn and the audience confirmed their agreement by a sincere round of applause.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 9.28 pm.

Signed.....

Date.....