

## Salford Priors Parish Council

The One Hundredth and Fourteenth Annual Parish Meeting was held in the Memorial Hall, Salford Priors, on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup>. April 2008 at 7.30pm.

**Present:** Councillors K.A.James (Chairman), A.W.Wolfe, J.R.Stedman, Mrs R.M.Pane, D.C.Penn, and R.A.Band, County Councillor P Barnes, District Councillors B.W.Slaughter, and D Pemberton, the Clerk, Mr M J Philpott, and forty-nine parishioners.

**Apologies for absence** were received from Messrs, D Bailey, J Seville and P Sharpe.

**The Minutes** of the previous meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup>. April 2007 were read out by the Clerk. There were no corrections and they were accepted as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

**Postal Service:** The Chairman referred to problems with the postal service in the parish and introduced John Chapman. Delivery Cluster Manager for the Royal Mail, to explain postal arrangements in the parish.

Mr Chapman said that an EU Road Traffic Directive had reduced the speed at which their lorries could travel and as a consequence mail arrivals at Worcester had been delayed by one hour with consequent knock-on effects. Postmen used to start work at 6.30am but this had now been put back to 8.00am. Their operating licence required one delivery per day; by noon in urban areas and by 3.00pm in rural areas. Mr Chapman acknowledged that there had been problems in Salford Priors and some staff were better able to adapt to change. He informed the meeting that changes in personnel had taken place and he believed the service would be improved.

Speakers from the floor said that the new staff appeared to be personable and more effective. Questions were asked about timing of deliveries and particularly why it took so long for the post to get from Worcester to Salford Priors and why rounds could not be reversed on alternate days. Mr Chapman agreed to investigate and report back to the Clerk. Cllr. Wolfe asked if staff numbers had been reduced at Evesham sorting office and Mr Chapman acknowledged they had and agreed to inform the Clerk of the exact numbers.

In conclusion, Mr Chapman acknowledged that mistakes had been made and said that these would be investigated and improvements would be made. The Chairman thanked Mr Chapman and asked parishioners to inform the Clerk of any further problems. He said that the answers to questions promised by Mr Chapman would be circulated to residents.

**New recycling and waste collection system:** The Chairman introduced Mr Robert Weeks, Head of Environment, Stratford on Avon District Council, to speak about new arrangements for collecting waste in the parish.

Mr Weeks explained the drivers for change including the EU Landfill Directive, the landfill tax escalator, global warming, sustainability, and the need to reduce costs. He explained the proposed changes due to come into force in August 2008 whereby each household would receive three 240L wheeled bins to hold dry recycling, green waste (and food waste), and residual waste. Mr Weeks said that there would be alternate weekly collections and the dry recycling materials would be taken to a new plant being constructed at Ettington that would sort the materials for onward transfer to processing plants.

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Mr Weeks said that an in-vessel digester being constructed to accommodate the green waste with the food waste would not be ready by August and a temporary solution would be provided. He then explained the proposed solutions for many special situations such as for elderly or infirm people, for flats and small properties that could not accommodate three large bins, and the need for an effective communications strategy.

Parishioners were very concerned about many aspects of the proposals including the possibility of having smaller bins or additional bins, how to identify different types of plastic, the risk of more flytipping if householders were limited to the amount of residual waste that could be put out, and the possibility of the bins causing obstruction to the footway. Mr Bomford and Mr Shadbolt asked if the service would be available to all especially where refuse vehicles had to traverse narrow lanes. Mr Weeks said that there was a special narrow access vehicle available and he agreed to check why it was not being used. In response to a final question Mr Weeks said that residents could keep their old black boxes or SDC would collect them. Mr Weeks also said that detailed leaflets would be circulated to all residents that would answer the questions raised and he left some advance copies for parishioners to take and read.

**Villager of the Year:** The Chairman introduced the result of the competition that had been published in the Newsletter. Cllr. James said that all the nominations received had been for one man. During the past year, litter had been picked, hedges trimmed, drains unblocked, and footpaths marked and cleared; all by Mr Don Penn. To acclamation, Mr Penn was invited forward to receive his award.

**Report by the Chairman of the Parish Council:** Cllr. K.A.James said that due to the closeness of the Parish and District elections he was unable to say anything that might be construed as being of a political nature. Accordingly, he read his report, covering the highlights of the four years of the current parish council and a copy is attached to these minutes.

**Open Forum:** Mrs Seville enquired about the progress of the drainage schemes in Evesham Road. Cllr. Barnes and the Clerk responded indicating that proposals had been prepared and would be considered at the next Area Committee Meeting. A question was asked regarding the implementation of the new speed limits on Station Road and Evesham Road and Cllr. Barnes said there had been little opposition to these and he anticipated them coming into force in the summer. He said there would be a period of intense enforcement action after the limits were introduced.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 9.43pm.