



Salford Priors Parish Council ANNUAL REPORT 2015 - 2016

Period of Report

This Annual Report covers the work of Salford Priors Parish Council for the period commencing 1st April 2015 and ending 31st March 2016.

Chairman's Introduction:

Welcome to your Annual Parish Meeting. This is your meeting, providing all residents with the opportunity to voice their personal views, to ask questions and to make requests concerning future events and activities. The second year of my chairmanship has again been both challenging and rewarding and, although not quite as daunting as the first year, the learning curve continues and I would like to thank once again my fellow Councillors and the Clerk for their support, help, advice and patience.

Training and Neighbourhood Watch Scheme

This reporting period has again been a busy 12 months proving to be very productive in regard to achieving four Automatic External Defibrillator awareness training sessions undertaken in the Memorial Hall at Salford Priors and the Baptist Church Hall in Dunnington. A total of 31 parishioners participated in defibrillator training provided on these occasions by team members from the West Midlands Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust and the Avon Valley Community First Responder Scheme. I would like to acknowledge and thank team members from those organisations for their very valuable support. Training of a different kind was undertaken by 4 volunteer parishioners who completed Community Speed Aware Team training delivered by the local Police authority. This opportunity was kindly enabled with support from District Councillor Mark Cargill whose liaison with local Police authorities provided impetus to this training opportunity. Congratulations and thank you to the four trained volunteers. Further volunteers are encouraged to come forward since additional Community Speed Aware Team members are needed to ensure success in this area of activity. Regeneration of the Salford Priors Parish Neighbourhood Watch Scheme is slowly coming together. Attendance of 2 parish representatives at a recent Stratford District Neighbourhood Watch Meeting provided an insight into significant changes in administration of Neighbourhood Watch Schemes, how this affects us as a rural community and how we might adapt Parish organisation to meet those challenges. Success of a Parish Neighbourhood Watch Scheme will be influenced by attracting volunteer participants across all Parish areas and by increased sign up to Parish E-News which will be a speedy and effective method of disseminating Police SNT crime bulletins. By way of encouragement for increased E-news membership, I want to assure parishioners that private E-mail addresses remain anonymous when transmitted through the E-News list. Signing up to Parish E-News is achieved by contacting the Clerk.

Public Consultations

A 2 day public consultation was carried out in the TOPS Building at the end of October 2015 to consult on the proposed equipment upgrade of the playing field. The majority who attended supported provision of a multi- use games area (MUGA). Quotations are now being sourced from 4 major providers of this type of sports facility. Provision of a MUGA is hoped to be achieved later this year. At January's Parish Council Ordinary Meeting representatives from Cronin Development Consultancy spoke during open forum about possible housing development on land off the Evesham

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Road behind the Bell Public House. We await further news on this. The greatest concerns expressed and the largest turnout of parishioners was associated with the Extraordinary Parish Council Meeting in November 2015 when two representatives of Warwickshire County Council presented the DRAFT Warwickshire County Council Minerals Plan – Preferred Option and Policies 2017-2032. The DRAFT plan included reference to the area described as Site 7 Salford Priors. This encompassed the land owned by Warwickshire County Council on either side of School Road from its junction with Tothall Lane to the B4088 at Iron Cross. The meeting was attended by 107 parish residents who voiced their many concerns and strong objections to the inclusion of Site 7 Salford Priors in the DRAFT Minerals Plan. To progress these many concerns residents have formed an independent action group titled Salford Priors Against Gravel Extraction (SPAGE). On 30th November 2015, the Parish Council submitted a formal Statement of Objection to the Warwickshire County Council inclusion of Site 7 Salford Priors stating in its concluding paragraph: *“Salford Priors Parish Council strongly objects to the proposal for mineral extraction at Site 7 Salford Priors. The Council contend that quarrying operations on this site would be disastrous for the village with risks and disadvantage to all sections of the community and strongly urges its removal from the Warwickshire County Minerals Plan 2017-2032”*. The outcome of the consultation period is awaited.

Parish Council Meetings:

The Parish Council have held 12 Ordinary Meetings, a Budget Preparation Meeting and 2 Extraordinary Meetings. A total of 203 members of the public attended meetings, with the largest number (107) attending the Extraordinary Meeting on 4th November 2015 regarding the Warwickshire County Council Draft Minerals Plan.

Attendance by Councillors:

Councillor’s attendance at these meetings has been:

Pat Dare	13/14	Alan Green	14/14	Kim James
10/14				
Karen Littleford	14/14	Tom Littleford	11/14	Liam Maude
10/14				
David Penn	14/14	John Stedman	11/14	Lindsay Wright
11/14				
District Councillor M Cargill	–9/14	County Councillor M Brain	– 6/14	

Parish Clerk:

On behalf of the Parish Council, I would like to thank the Clerk, Mr Paul Mills for all his dedication and hard work during the last twelve months. Sadly, I also have to announce that Paul will be leaving us at the end of June to move closer to his family. It will be hard to replace Paul as his commitment to the council is first class. Paul has worked hard and achieved excellent working relationship with not only the parish councillors but also with the district and county councillors as well as the staff at both councils. We all wish him and his family well for the future. The Parish Council is actively seeking a replacement Clerk and hope a new appointed person will be in place in June 2016.

Salford 7 Neighbourhood Development Plan:

Earlier this year the draft Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) went to public consultation. The NDP Development Group received a large number of responses which were carefully evaluated. The majority of comments received were supportive of the NDP. Two particular areas required further work and resulted in a questionnaire being delivered to all homes in the village of Salford Priors firstly regarding the proposed development of Orchard Farm on School Road and, secondly, an exhibition being held to seek views on a proposed development at Orchard Close off the Evesham Road. The

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NDP has now been revised and submitted to Stratford District Council. It is hoped the NDP referendum will take place later this year. The Parish NDP now carries weight in the planning process. The Parish Council wishes to thank all those parishioners and councillors who have worked so hard to progress the NDP to this stage.

Planning Applications:

A total of 21 Planning applications were considered during the last 12 months. These included extensions to existing homes, tree removal and pruning, a single dwelling on a garden plot, a 5 dwelling development in Dunnington and an extension for St Matthews Church. Land behind the Alamo in Station Road Salford Priors has been sold to Bovis Homes who submitted their reserved matters planning application in January 2016. A Parish Council Extraordinary Meeting was convened on 27 January 2016 to view and comment formally on these plans. Twenty five members of the public attended the Extraordinary Meeting. An application to extend the use of Willow Caravan Park throughout the year was also received for consultation.

Parish Christmas Tree Illumination Event:

On Saturday 28th November, a very wet and windy evening, the second Parish Christmas Tree Illumination event took place. As in the previous year refreshments and a firework display were organised. On this occasion children from Salford Priors Primary School decorated wooden tree ornaments for the tree and a prize was awarded for the best from each year group. Around 100 brave parishioners attended the event which included community carol singing and attracted donations on the evening amounting to £193. Together with generous donations received from local businesses, a donation of £400 was presented to the newly opened Bidford Dementia Cafe. We are looking for volunteers to help organise this year's event, if you are interested either contact the clerk or myself either by phone or email.

Parish Celebrations for the Queens 90th Birthday:

A Working Group of councillors and parishioners was set up in September 2015 to oversee arrangements to mark the historical significance of the day which will be celebrated on Saturday 11th June 2016. The day aims to promote community spirit by bringing together a wide variety of resident groups and organisations from the seven settlements making up the Parish of Salford Priors. Events will start at lunchtime with a pig roast, hobby horse racing and tote along with a variety of stalls/games, grand raffle and refreshments. There will also be a Tea Dance for all budding strictly fans. In the evening there is a Party in Park with music from two local bands. The evening will close with a spectacular firework display. Please come along and support this event starting at 1pm on Saturday 11th June come rain or shine.

Donations:

Earlier in 2015 the Parish Council introduced a Community Grant Scheme. An Application Form is available to download from the website enabling any local community group to request funding for projects. This year we received requests for, and granted donations of £500 to the Youth Club for their summer activities programme, £350 to Stratford upon Avon Citizens Advice Bureau, £250 to the Avon Valley First Responders Scheme, £50 to Shakespeare Hospice and £200.00 to The Royal British Legion for their Poppy Appeal. The parish's copy of the Domesday Book (yes it is spelt correctly) has been loaned to Salford Priors Primary School and is currently on display in their new library.

Precept, Amenity Provision and Communication:

The Parish Council precept for year 2016/2017 was set at the December meeting and has risen from £50,000 to £55,000. The precept pays for the following services: amenity mowing, verge mowing,

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planters and flower displays, playing field inspection, maintenance and improvement, St. Matthews Churchyard extension, upkeep of parish notice boards, general maintenance tasks undertaken by the Lengthsman and footway lighting, as well as the following facilities: Allotments Gardens, TOP's Building and the Parish Office. This year 3 new trees have been planted on the corner of New Lane in Dunnington. A new 5 year ground lease has been agreed for the TOP's building. The Parish Council has produce four newsletters during the year. These were delivered to every house in the parish. Additionally, a number of E-news notices have been sent to 122 parishioners who have subscribed.

Parish Elections:

During the period of this Annual Report, Parish Council elections took place on 7th May 2015 when all nine candidates who stood were elected unopposed for the nine vacancies. Resulting from the increase from 7 to 9 Parish Councillors, various new Working Groups have been formed to deal with communication development, amenity contracts, street lighting and playing field equipment upgrade as well as the existing staffing, Neighbourhood Development Plan Group and Councillor representation on various local outside bodies. A full list of these Working Groups and group membership is available on the community website.

Cllr Karen Littleford

Chairman Salford Priors Parish Council