



Salford Priors Parish Council ANNUAL REPORT 2016 - 2017

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Period of Report:

This Annual Report covers the work of Salford Priors Parish Council for the period commencing:

1st April 2016 and ending 31st March 2017.

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 third year of my chairmanship has certainly been a busy one but still very rewarding and enjoyable. I feel very proud and privileged to be Chair of this Council. All Parish Councillors receive no monetary reward for their time and commitment to the Parish Council and on behalf of all parishioners I would like to thank them for their continued commitment. In October, we regrettably accepted the resignation of three Councillors. I wish to place on record the Council's appreciation for all the hard work of Lyndsay Wright, who served for 6 years, Tom Littleford and Pat Dare who both served for 18 months. In December, we welcomed two new Councillors - Will Godwin and Tony Shale and the return of Anthony Quiney. I hope they all find their time on the council as rewarding as I have.

Parish Council Meetings:

The Parish Council have held 12 Ordinary Meetings, a Budget Preparation Meeting and an Extraordinary Meeting. A total of 108 members of the public attended meetings, the Extraordinary Meeting on the 1st February 2017 saw the New Interim Head Teacher of the primary school give an update on the school following Ofsted's decision to put the school into special measures. The Council then gave an update on the Warwickshire County Council Minerals Plan Consultation and the Council's response. In addition to the monthly council meetings, Councillors attended various working group meetings and represented the Council on various local outside bodies. A full list of working groups and group membership is available on the community website. Two new working groups have been set up this year which are Christmas Light Switch-on and Battles Over – A Nation's Tribute event for November 2018.

Attendance by Councillors:

Councillor's attendance at these meetings has been:

Pat Dare 4/7	Will Godwin 5/5	Alan Green 12/13	Kim James 12/13	Karen
Littleford 13/13	Tom Littleford 5/7	Liam Maude 11/12	David Penn 13/13	
Anthony Quiney 5/5	Tony Shale 5/5	John Stedman 10/13	Lindsay Wright 5/8	

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District Councillor M Cargill 6/13 County Councillor M Brain 8/13

Parish Clerk:

On behalf of the Parish Council, I would like to thank the Clerk, Mrs Donna Bowles for all her dedication and hard work since taking up her position with the Council in June 2016. In the short time Donna has been with the council she has attended a number of training courses and has quickly and efficiently taken to the role. She has worked hard to achieve an 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. Donna is currently working on setting up a Facebook page for the Council which will enable residents to keep up to date with parish affairs.

Salford 7 Neighbourhood Development Plan:

After two years of hard work by residents and councillors the Neighbourhood Plan for the Parish of Salford Priors reaches the final stage, the Referendum. The plan was examined by an independent examiner who recommended it went forward to referendum with some minor changes, then at February's Cabinet Meeting of Stratford District Council the plan was passed for the Referendum stage. The referendum will take place on Thursday 4th May, 2017 here in the Memorial Hall at the same time as the County Council Election. The referendum is a simple yes/no vote on the question:

'Do you want Stratford-Upon-Avon District Council to use the neighbourhood plan for Salford Priors to help decide planning applications in the neighbourhood area?'

The Council wish to thank all those residents who have worked tirelessly to get the plan to this stage and we would encourage all residents to vote in the referendum. The Neighbourhood Plan will help shape the future of the Parish for the next 20 years. The vision statement of the plan says:

'By 2031, the Parish of Salford Priors will be a safe thriving rural community with a strong voice, which conserves its natural environment and historic character. Growth in population and enterprise will be diverse, sympathetic, well-designed and sustainable.'

Street Lighting:

The working group completed a survey of all streetlights and four concrete streetlights were replacements in the Ban Brook area. A renewal programme of other streetlights has been agreed and will take place over the next few years.

Planning Applications:

A total of 29 Planning applications were considered during the last 12 months. These included extensions to existing homes, tree removal and pruning, change of use and included two applications by Angus Soft Fruits, one for the construction of two additional loading bays and the erection of poly tunnels for the growing of raspberries. An application by Severn Trent to install mains sewage to Pitchill, Rushford and Iron Cross area of the parish was welcomed and is well underway and should be completed later this year. At the Council's January meeting St Matthews Church gave a presentation on the proposed extension for the church. This application has now come before the council.

Donations:

The Parish Council Community Grant Scheme received five applications this year, and granted donations of £300 to the Youth Club, £250 to the British Legion, £250 to the Citizens Advice Bureau, £250 to the Village Fete Committee and £1750 to the Salford Priors Primary School. The Application Form is available to download from the website enabling any local community group to request funding for projects.

Precept, Amenity Provision and Communication:

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The Parish Council precept for year 2017/2018 was set at the December meeting and has risen from £55,000 to £63,000. The precept pays for the following services: amenity mowing, verge mowing, planters and flower displays, playing field inspections, maintenance and improvements, 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.

The Amenity and Planting Contracts were revised and following the tender process both contracts were awarded to Limebridge Rural Services for the next three years.

The Parish Council has produce two newsletters and an A5 full colour Welcome Booklet during the year. These were delivered to every house in the parish. Additionally, a number of E-news notices have been sent to 134 Parishioners who have subscribed.

Following many requests over several years the use of microphones at meetings commenced at the start of 2017. The Council have been using the hall's microphones, the Council now intend to purchase suitable table microphones connected to the hall's much improved sound system.

A successful joint application to County Councillor Mike Brain's Grant Fund from Alcester Town Council and ourselves saw the purchase of a speed gun. Residents from both Alcester and Salford Priors will undertake training and commence speed checks shortly following risk assessment by the police.

Cllr Karen Littleford

Chairman Salford Priors Parish Council