

# Salford Priors Parish Council

## ANNUAL REPORT 2019 - 2020



### Period of Report:

This Annual Report covers the work of Salford Priors Parish Council for the period commencing 1st April 2019 and ending 31st March 2020.

Although the 126th Annual Meeting and the Annual Parish Meeting have been postponed until next year I felt that it would be of benefit to present my Chairman's Annual Report for 2019/2020.

This will certainly be known as the time of Covid-19 as the effect of the virus has had an effect on every resident of this parish. The restrictions introduced by the Government affect how your Parish Council runs and has propelled us, and many other councils, into the world of Zoom meetings and finding different ways to communicate without putting ourselves at risk.

2019 was an election year for your Parish Council and local elections were held in May. Eight existing councillors were elected unopposed and the remaining vacancy was filled by co-option and it gives me great pleasure to welcome everyone. During the year two councillors resigned - Cllr Paula Gordon in August and Cllr John Stedman in November. I would like to thank them both for all their hard work and dedication especially John who has served on the Parish Council for 36 years. These vacancies were filled by Mrs Rosemary Green and Mr Brian Seagrove who were co-opted onto the Council in February 2020 bringing the council back up to full strength.

Once again I wish to thank my fellow councillors for the amount of work they carry out to make sure your council runs smoothly and well. They don't just turn up once a month for a meeting but undertake a lot of background work attending working group meetings, representing the council on outside bodies, studying planning applications and carrying out various tasks around the parish. My thanks also go to Mrs Donna Bowles, our Parish Clerk, for being the lynchpin in the smooth operation of the Council. Donna's advice, dedication and hard work ensures the smooth running of parish business and has been key to the success of the Council especially at a time when the world as we knew it turned upside down.

The Parish Council held ten Ordinary Meetings and one Budget Preparation Meeting with the Annual Parish Meeting being combined with the April Ordinary Meeting. The precept for the year 2020/2021 was set at £65,000 that pays for the following services:

- Amenity and verge mowing
- Planters and flower displays
- Tree planting

- Playing field inspections and maintenance
- Maintaining the extension of the churchyard at St. Matthews
- General improvements and maintenance in the parish
- Street lighting

and the following facilities - allotments, TOPs building and the Parish Office.

The two largest items of expenditure are the administration and running of the Parish Council, including the Parish Office, and the Amenity/Verge mowing contracts.

Councillors have attended working groups on certain projects that investigate and make recommendations to the Parish Council:

- CIL/Section 106 - one advantage from having new development in Salford Priors is that the parish receives funding called Community Infrastructure Levy and Section 106 to spend on projects within the parish. The Section 106 funding has to be spent on leisure facilities and it is proposed to add additional features such as a new skatepark, gym and trim trail to the existing play area. With the CIL funding it is hoped to install speed restriction measures in the parish as well as looking at other possible projects. We will also benefit from Section 106 funding given to Warwickshire County Council to spend on Public Rights of Way in our parish and a complete survey of these paths has been carried out to identify where work is required such as additional signage and clearing paths and gateways.
- Cycleway - the Cross Parish Cycle and Pathways Group has been set up to look at providing safe cycle ways both within the parish and across parish boundaries. A feasibility study has been completed on creating a cycle way between Evesham and Alcester. This group meets on a regular basis and is looking at how to implement and fund the feasibility study.
- Communications Group - effective communication within the parish is important and this group looks at how we achieve this. Our aim is to reach all residents in the parish via the Parish Council website, e-news, Facebook, Parish Council noticeboards and Parish Council Newsletters. The Parish Council commissioned a parish wide survey and the results were sent out to everyone via a newsletter in August 2019. A copy of the survey can be read on the Parish Council website under Council Business.
- Street Lighting - All streetlights are now steel columns and it is hoped to have replaced all lights to LED by the end of 2020. This should reduce the running costs of the street lighting in the future. The solar lights at the playing field have also been replaced, enabling the pathway to be lit up at night when accessing the TOPs building.

Various planning applications were considered during the last twelve months that included extensions and improvements to existing homes, conversion of existing agricultural buildings into new dwellings, removal of trees, erection of signs and change of use.

The Piper Homes development on Evesham Road, Salford Priors has been completed.

The two dwellings at The Old Forge, Station Road, Salford Priors are nearing completion.

The large-scale development of 68 properties off School Road, by CALA Homes, has commenced and the first property has been occupied.

I would like to finish where I started with the uncertainty of Covid-19. This year will be an extremely challenging one for all, but I believe that our community will survive and become stronger. The Parish Council will continue to operate and support the community and we ask you to engage with us via the Clerk if you feel we can help in any way.

Stay safe and take care.

Cllr Alan Green  
8<sup>th</sup> July 2020