

Salford Priors Parish Council
CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT 2022-2023

It gives me great pleasure to present the Parish Council Chairman's report.

This Annual Report covers the work of Salford Priors Parish Council for the period commencing 1st April 2022 and ending 31st March 2023.

Once again, I wish to thank my fellow councillors for the work they carry out to make sure your council runs smoothly and well. They don't just turn up once a month for a Parish Council 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 continuing to run the Council's affairs with great professionalism, care and diligence. Donna has been especially helpful and supportive to me, as Chairman, for which I am extremely grateful. This has ensured the smooth running of parish business and has been key to the success of the Parish Council.

During the year two councillors have resigned – Cllrs Tracy Holdback and Satpal Singh and I would like to thank them both for all their hard work and dedication during their time in office. These vacancies have been filled and we welcomed Cllrs Jan McClean and Lauren Stanley onto the Parish Council.

The Parish Council held ten Ordinary Meetings, one Extra Ordinary Meeting, an Annual Parish Meeting and an Annual Parish Council Meeting. The September Ordinary Meeting was cancelled due to the sad passing away of our Queen Elizabeth II.

The precept for the year 2023/2024 has been set at £55,000. This is the same as the previous year and has been possible without reducing the level of services provided by the Parish Council. I think you will agree that in these times of unprecedented rising living costs this is quite an achievement. It really is your council working for you.

The precept pays for the following services:

- Amenity and verge mowing
- Planters and flower displays
- Tree planting
- Playing field inspections and maintenance
- General improvements and maintenance in the parish
- Street lighting
- Planning
- and the following facilities: TOP's building and allotments.

The two largest items of expenditure in the Council's budget are the administration and running of the Parish Council, and the Amenity contracts. These account for 58% of the budget.

Amenities

The Parish Council continues in its aim to improve the appearance and amenities of the parish. The mowing of the grass verges and amenities areas has been of a high standard, and the flower planters have given vibrant colourful displays throughout the year.

TOP's

The Other Place, Salford Priors(situated on the Playing Field) is looked after by a Management Committee on behalf of the Parish Council. This committee works very hard to maintain the building in good order and to develop it's use for the benefit of the whole community. Groups using the building include the Girl Guides, Brownies, Rainbows, Table Tennis Group and a Craft and Chat Group. Recently the building has been completely redecorated inside and is available to book for one off occasions. It is also used for refreshments if there is an event being held on the Playing Field.

Allotments

There continues to be demand for our allotments and all 12 full plots and all 11 half plots are in use. The Allotment Competition again proved to be very successful with judging taking place in June 2022. An awards evening was held in November 2022 where trophies and medals were awarded to the successful allotment holders.

Communications

Effective communications within the parish is important and the Parish Council's aim is to reach all residents in the parish via the Parish Council website, E-news, Facebook, Parish Council noticeboards, and Parish Council Newsletters. Two newsletters and numerous fliers were sent out in 2022/2023

Planning

A wide range of planning applications have been considered during the last twelve months that included conversion of farm buildings, ground and first floor property extensions, replacing existing cottages and tree works.

Considering planning applications is one of the most important functions of the Parish Council and it was decided to form a Planning Committee with delegated powers to discuss and comment on planning applications. This enables a small group of members, who have either planning knowledge or an interest in planning matters, to carry out site visits and submit detailed reports to the Parish Council's Planning Committee for discussion and approval.

Defibrillators

These are portable life saving devices that give high energy electric shocks to someone who is in cardiac arrest. They are an essential first aid facility that may save lives. Plans are going ahead to increase the number of defibrillators in the parish from two to four units. There are already two established units at the Memorial Hall, Salford Priors and the Baptist Church Hall, Dunnington. A third defibrillator has been installed at The Bell Inn, Evesham Road, Salford Priors and it is proposed to install a fourth unit at Abbots Salford.

The Parish Council is hoping to provide awareness training sessions that will be free and available to all residents in the parish very shortly.

Warm Hub

What is a Warm Hub ?

Warm Hubs are warm, safe, welcoming places open to all. It is somewhere that residents of all ages can go to enjoy the company of others. It is an ideal meeting place for those that are lonely or can not afford to heat their homes or are suffering from the cost of living crisis. We provide free refreshments and hot food in a relaxing meeting space with a café atmosphere. From an initial start with 10 visitors a week in September we are now getting 40 visitors a week.

The Warm Hub is held every Thursday at the Memorial Hall, Salford Priors funded and run by the Parish Council with support from volunteers and the WRCC Warm Hubs (Warwickshire Rural Communities Council) The financial support and funding from the Parish Council has made the Warm Hub a great success and a much appreciated community asset.

Finally our thanks go to the weekly support and involvement of our volunteers without whose help the Warm Hub would not exist.

Platinum Jubilee Event – 2/3/4 June 2022

This, without doubt, was one of the most successful events that the Parish Council has organised and run.

On the evening of 2nd June approximately 400 people attended the free BBQ and the Lighting of the Beacon while listening to the Rock Choir.

On the 3rd June a Church Service was held with refreshments provided by Salford Seven Ladies. Flower arrangements were also on display with a peal of bells to mark the celebrations.

On the 4th June approximately 300 people attended the Fete that was held in the afternoon with many attractions and music. In the evening the same amount of people enjoyed the Picnic in the Park bringing their picnics and enjoying the music and a fantastic firework display. Fifty tea boxes were delivered to some residents who are housebound, enabling them to join in the celebrations. As were the Jubilee Coins that were accepted with great enthusiasm by younger members of the parish. A total of 150 coins were delivered.

The success of this event was only achieved with the hard work and dedication of the Parish Council Working Group that had started planning for the event some 12 months before and a special thank you to Councillor Rosemary Green who took the lead on this event.

The Parish Council would like to thank all the volunteers who helped either in the planning and on the day of this event together with all those who donated prizes and the Sponsors who all helped to make our Platinum Jubilee Celebrations the great success that it was.

CIL/Section 106

One advantage from having new developments in Salford Priors is that the parish receives funding called Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) and Section 106 to spend on projects within the parish. With the CIL funding three projects have been identified:

Traffic Calming Measures, Leisure Trails Development and a New Village Public Open Space

Traffic Calming

The proposed traffic calming measures (speed restrictions) have now been approved for Station Road and Evesham Road. A meeting is being held between the Working Group and Warwickshire County Council to move this project forward.

The traffic calming measures on School Road are still awaiting completion. The delay has been due to the legal agreement between the developer and Warwickshire County Council being delayed. This agreement has now been signed and this will enable the speed restriction measures to be installed very shortly.

Bus Stop on School Rd (opposite the shop)

Upon completion of a S278 agreement which the Parish Council understands is imminent, the developer will apply to carry out the works.

Leisure Trails

Great news on this project. We have been informed that the Parish Council has been successful in our grant application for £310,000, which added to the £100,000 already committed to by the Parish Council means we have sufficient funds to complete the proposed cycleway between Salford Priors and Wixford.

Village Public Open Space

The Parish Council is at present carrying out a public consultation on the proposed Byelaws for the open space which have been put on the website/noticeboards/and social media publications. This will be a 12 month consultation process.

Why have Byelaws ?

The Byelaws will protect the residents of Priors Crescent, School Road and the Parish Council's interest.

For example the Byelaws will :

Prevent unauthorised access by vehicles or people camping overnight.

Prevent any golfers in the community using the space for practice.

Unauthorised access to the green by horses.

To prevent model aircraft being flown.

The Parish Council continues to consider what other works can be carried out on the open space and any proposed works will be put out for public consultation.

Section 106 funding has enabled us to continue to improve the Public Rights of Way in the parish with footpath clearance, new waymarker posts and replacement kissing gates.

General Matters

The Parish Council receives many complaints regarding speeding, litter, dog fouling and parking on grass verges and open spaces. Many of these can be reported by residents via the Stratford District Council app or the Warwickshire County Council reporting system.

The Parish Council supports the Community Speed Awareness Group which at present has 8 volunteers who go out every 2 to 3 weeks to three locations checking vehicle speeds with a speed gun. Suitable sites can only be used on roads up to 40mph and the group is hoping to have additional locations approved by the police.

The Parish Council has provided many litter bins and dog waste bins throughout the parish which are emptied on a weekly basis. All the dog waste bins have now been replaced with new environmentally friendly ones. Litter pickers and bags have been provided at the Memorial Hall where volunteers are able to collect and litter pick in the parish. Please pick up your litter and clean up after your dog and help keep our parish a more pleasant place to walk.

As stated earlier one of the most expensive costs the Parish Council incurs is maintaining the grassed areas and verges throughout the parish. The Parish Council would ask residents and visitors alike to refrain from parking on the grass verges around the parish and make the parish a more attractive and safer place to live.

Finally, I would like to say it has been an honour and a privilege to have served as Chairman of Salford Priors Parish Council during the past year which I have thoroughly enjoyed. I believe that our efforts have a continued, positive input in providing local services to the Parish and know that the Parish Council will continue doing so in the future.

I have decided not to seek re-election to the Parish Council, following 8 years as Councillor, with 5 of them as Chairman and wish the Parish Council every success with its ongoing, and new, projects.

Cllr. Alan Green
Chairman
12th April 2023