

Salford Priors Parish Council

**Minutes of an Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council held
At the Memorial Hall, Salford Priors on Wednesday 15th April 2026**

Present: Councillors: K James (Chairman), R Green, M Howarth, L Maude, J McClean & D Price. District Councillor Jones

Donna Bowles, Clerk to the Parish Council

Also in attendance: 3 members of the public.

1.	<p>Apologies considered for absence: Cllr Meakins – accepted Members noted Mr Andrew Richardson’s resignation as Councillor.</p>
2.	<p>Register of Interests: Members were reminded of the need to keep their register of interests up to date Members were reminded that they must act solely in the public interest and should never improperly confer an advantage or disadvantage on any person or act to gain financial or other material benefits for themselves, their family, a friend, or close associate.</p> <p>Declare the existence of any Disclosable Pecuniary Interest (DPI), Other Registerable Interest (ORI) or Non-Registerable Interest (NRI) for any agenda item</p> <p>Declaration of Interests: DPI – None declared, ORI – None declared, NRI – None declared</p> <p>Members were also reminded of the need to declare predetermination on any matter.</p>
3.	<p>Open Forum: The Chairman moved that the meeting be adjourned for the Public Open Forum and this was agreed.</p> <p>a) 3 members of public were present:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A resident reported that the post box at Abbots Salford has been sealed with black tape, and believes there are more in the parish. The Clerk will report this matter to Royal Mail, providing all relevant details once received. - More debris has come over the footway at Abbots Salford. Clerk to contact Lengthsman for a quote to carry out clearance works. <p>b) No under 18s were present.</p> <p>c) County Councillor Brown’s Report – not in attendance nor report received.</p> <p>d) District Councillor Jones’ Report –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - He attended a meeting at Stratford District Council regarding the South Warwickshire Local Plan. This is a joint planning framework being prepared by Stratford-on-Avon District Council and Warwick District Council, setting out potential locations for future housing, employment land, infrastructure, and community facilities across South Warwickshire to meet government housing requirements and guide development over the coming years. It was noted that the housing supply position is further behind than initially anticipated, creating urgency in identifying suitable sites. Several provisional sites were discussed at the meeting, however these cannot be disclosed at this stage. - Arrow Valley Solar Project – no formal representations can yet be made. District Councillor Jones will raise a question at Full Council to bring the project to the attention of the Leader and the wider Council, with a request that all Members work collaboratively on this matter. Cllr James advised that the proposal is generating significant public interest, particularly in Dunnington. Residents are holding a meeting on Wednesday 22nd April, which District Councillor Jones has been invited to attend. In addition, on Tuesday 21st April, the Parish Council, together with other Parish Councils, has been invited to a presentation evening in Alcester hosted by Arrow Valley Solar Ltd. Most of the Councillors will be attending. - District Council Activity (Q1) Full Council is scheduled for 20 April, with key items including the SWLP and a motion on the oil/fuel crisis, including potential consortium arrangements. A councillor briefing on the SWLP is taking place, with feedback to follow. Pre-consultation work on the Arrow Valley Solar project is ongoing; resident concerns are being gathered and recorded. - Councillor Attendance & Training He has attended multiple parish council meetings and maintained full attendance at Full Council and

	<p>Employment Committee. Training hours continue to be logged, with further monitoring and compliance training scheduled.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ward Updates <p>Progress on the Birch appeal site in Temple Grafton remains delayed due to enforcement timing restrictions following a rejected appeal; this has been escalated to senior officers and may be raised at a future committee. Ongoing discussions with Severn Trent aim to resolve disruption caused by lorry transport of water/sewage in Wixford and Salford Priors. Local development proposals continue to be scrutinised, including a qualified objection to housing numbers in an Arrow development.</p> <p>The Chairman closed the open forum and reconvened the meeting at 19:15</p>
4.	<p>Acceptance of Minutes:</p> <p>The Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting held on 18th March 2026 at the Memorial Hall, Salford Priors were agreed by the Council to be a true record of the meeting and signed by the Chairman.</p>
5.	<p>Planning Matters:</p> <p>Applications Considered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) 26/00535/REM - Reserved matters (appearance, landscaping, layout and scale) for Plot 5 only pursuant to outline application 24/00614/VARY for 16no. self-build and custom housebuilding plots at Land West Of Evesham Road, Salford Priors, WR11 8UR. Following consideration Clerk to respond with “No objection”. b) 26/00549/REM - Reserved matters (appearance, landscaping, layout and scale) for Plot 6 only pursuant to outline application 24/00614/VARY for 16no. self-build and custom housebuilding plots at Land West Of Evesham Road, Salford Priors, WR11 8UR. Following consideration Clerk to respond with “No objection”. c) 26/00857/TREE - T1 oak - Remove 2 limbs overhanging 1 School Road as per annotated photograph (or option 2: re-pollard sides back to previous pollarded points). Crown lift to give clearance of 1-1.5 metres above roof of shed at Berryfield, Evesham Road, Salford Priors, Evesham WR11 8UU. Following consideration Clerk to respond with “No objection”. d) 26/00952/TREE - T1 cedar - Reduce over extended lateral limbs up to 5 metres and give a 30% crown thin of the canopy, remove all deadwood at Salford House, Station Road, Salford Priors, Evesham WR11 8UX. Following consideration Clerk to respond with “No objection”. <p>Decisions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> e) 26/00378/TREE - T1 Beech - Crown thin by a maximum of 25%. Prune over hanging secondary branches to clear adjacent garage by up to 2metres. Remove deadwood at The Gables, Station Road, Salford Priors, Evesham, WR11 8UX. CONSENT WITH CONDITIONS f) 25/02501/FUL - Erection of Agricultural Building (to replace previous building destroyed by fire) at Moat Farm, Abbots Salford, Evesham, WR11 8UT. PERMISSION GRANTED WITH CONDITIONS g) 26/00125/REM - Reserved matters (appearance, landscaping, layout and scale) for Plot 4 only pursuant to outline application 24/00614/VARY for 16no. self-build and custom housebuilding plots at Land West of Evesham Road, Salford Priors, WR11 8UR. DETAILS ARE APPROVED SUBJECT TO CONDITIONS. <p>Planning Enforcement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> h) Bomford Way - Section 106 Non- compliance of offering Public Open Space to the Parish Council - The Principal Planning Officer (Enforcement) has been informed by Vistry that they have placed an order to carry out the remedial planting and the provisional date for installation is 15th April. Cllr Price confirmed that works had been carried out. i) Priors Crescent – Non Compliance Land Public Open Space Conditions – The Principal Planning Officer (Enforcement) recently attended a site meeting with CALA. She considers that CALA has made a genuine effort to address the significant issues and hopes to agree a way forward. The results of the meeting are awaited. <p>South Warwickshire Local Plan (SWLP):</p> <p>Update provided by District Councillor Jones in his report above. Responses from the most recent consultation have now been assessed, and the plan is progressing, with submission to the Inspectorate anticipated by October.</p> <p>Arrow Valley Solar Farm Project</p> <p>The Arrow Valley Solar Farm Project will be included as a standing item on future agendas. Cllr James proposed the formation of a Working Group to collaborate with District Councillor Jones. This was seconded by Cllr Howarth. It was agreed that Cllrs Howarth, Maude, and Price would form the Working Group. The proposal was approved unanimously.</p>
6.	<p>Clerk’s Progress Report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) WCC inspected the hedges on School Road. Some cutting back has taken place. The hedge is healthy and relatively tall; hard pruning at this stage would remove all foliage and substantially alter its appearance. The hedge will be reviewed again next season, after September, when more extensive cutting or removal could be considered,

	<p>although this would have a significant visual impact. Currently, the footway width is sufficient, and if the hedge encroaches later in the year, it can be trimmed by hand. The Clerk instructed the Lengthsman to clear the footway, these works have been carried out. Clerk has made a diary note for October for an update. Noted and deferred to October.</p> <p>b) The light outside the Memorial Hall has now been repaired. Noted and Closed.</p> <p>c) The two yellow backed 30mph signs for the entrance to Salford Priors from the A46 on Evesham Rd have been installed. Noted and Closed.</p> <p>d) The annual maintenance check of the flagpole in the Memorial Hall garden has taken place. Noted and Closed.</p> <p>e) The shield placed on the lighting outside 72 School Rd has proved ineffective. The Clerk has sought advice from a private contractor who has advised the installation of a more effective shield. Following consultation with the Chair these works have been approved.</p> <p>f) 5 x replacement noticeboards have been ordered and delivery is expected w/c 8th June. Noted and Closed.</p> <p>g) The casing on the light near the washing line area in Perkins Close has been smashed. There are no spare parts available for this type of fitting and following consultation with the Chair a replacement light has been ordered in the sum of £498.</p> <p>Chairman's Monthly Update</p> <p>h) Response from the All-Party Parliamentary Group for Swimming (Circulated)</p> <p>i) Response from Dr Manuela Perteghella MP Local Government Reorganisation (Circulated)</p> <p>j) Parish Office Storage units x 2 ordered</p> <p>k) He attended the meeting at Dunnington Baptist Church, where it was confirmed that the final church service will take place on Sunday 14 June. The Church Elders will honour the Parish Council's booking of the hall on 17 June which will be the last meeting held. After this, the keys will be handed over to the Baptist Council, who will proceed with the formal disposal of the church, hall, and surrounding land. The village Christmas Tree socket and power point will need to be re-sited along with the Defibrillator.</p>
7.	<p>Highways & Maintenance Officer:</p> <p>a) Members noted the jobs issued from last Council meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Clearance works at footway and bridge at Abbots Salford - Clearance works under hedge on School Rd <p>b) Future tasks to be issued -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Two benches, one at the bottom of School Rd and one in the Churchyard to be refurbished. - Road signage clearing - Footway clearance on A46 - Further clearance works on the footway at Abbots Salford
8.	<p>Working Groups Update:</p> <p>a) Infrastructure & Built Environment: Members noted the report:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Highways – Senior Engineer, County Highways, Minor Works Team has confirmed Balfour Beatty has been awarded the Highways contract and will be providing a quote for requested works on School Rd and the junction of School Rd/Evesham Rd. He has advised these works will take some months to deliver. 2) Public Open Space - Warwickshire County Council Streetlighting Department have investigated the installation of the feeder pillar for electrical supply for the Public Open Space and a quote is awaited. 3) NDP – Members considered the appointment of a consultancy to advise on the review of the Salford Seven Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP). Two quotations were received and noted, with a significant difference between them. Given the importance of the Neighbourhood Plan, Cllr Howarth proposed that a separate meeting be held to examine the quotations in detail. This item will therefore be added to the Planning Committee agenda for the meeting scheduled for Tuesday 28th April at the Baptist Church Hall, Dunnington. District Councillor Jones has also been invited. 4) Playing Field – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Members noted that the two five-a-side goalposts had to be urgently removed on Health and Safety grounds. As they are well used, replacement goals were recommended. Cllr James proposed the purchase of a pair of 12ft x 6ft socketed aluminium goals at a cost of £1,625.98. This was seconded by Cllr Price and approved unanimously. The expenditure will be allocated from the Playing Field budget. o The Working Group is still to meet to report on the quarterly inspection findings. o Members noted all repair works have now been completed. 5) Garden Allotments – Members noted all invoices have been sent for the rental period 1st May 2026-30th April 2027. 6) PROW – Cllr Howarth has reported some flytipping on AL7a. There is also a gate missing which the Clerk will

	<p>report. Mr Green has carried out clearance works around some kissing gates.</p> <p>b) Communications – Disappointing that there has been no further progress regarding Parish Connect.</p> <p>c) Project Delivery Group – Following the release of the Scoping Report for the Arrow Valley Solar Farm, it is evident that the proposed development would have a significant impact on the proposed route. Where vehicular access is maintained, public footpaths are expected to be obstructed. Legal advice has been sought from Birketts, who have recommended engaging with either Ragley or Arrow Valley Solar Ltd. It is advised that the Parish Council seek to secure a strategically agreed corridor prior to the commencement of any further works. While Ragley had previously indicated a potential 15-year right of passage, Birketts have suggested that this should instead be extended to 65 years.</p> <p>A total of 12 Public Rights of Way (PROW) are affected by the proposals, with six located on Site 1 and six on Site 2. It has also been noted that a considerable sum has already been expended on legal costs in relation to this matter, which warrants further consideration. This issue is to be referred to the Arrow Valley Solar Farm Working Group for detailed review.</p>																																																
9.	<p>Community & Governance: Update following recent disqualification and resignation:</p> <p>a) Members noted that Stratford District Council received no request for an election following the Notice of Vacancy issued in respect of the disqualification of Mrs Lauren Stanley, and to consider the co-option of a Councillor. This to be deferred to May meeting.</p> <p>b) Members noted Mr Andrew Richardson’s resignation. The Notice of Vacancy has been advertised with the closing date of 14th April. No further update so this will be deferred to the May meeting.</p> <p>c) Matters raised at the Annual Parish Meeting –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the role of Parish Councils when the new Unitary authority comes into power - The proposed Arrow Valley Solar Farm and Public Rights of Way - The proposed Cedar Close development - Overhanging hedges on School Rd - The A46 roundabout 																																																
10.	<p>English Devolution White Paper:</p> <p>Members noted the UK Government’s emerging agenda on neighbourhood governance, as set out in the EDCE Bill, including the current lack of a clear formal definition or detailed implementation guidance, and the absence of any clearly defined role for parish and town councils; and to consider the potential implications and any actions to take as per email forwarded 23.3.26. Salford Priors Parish Council had previously raised these concerns with MP Manuela Perteghela and had received a response; therefore, it was agreed that no further action would be taken.</p>																																																
11.	<p>Matters Raised by Councillors:</p> <p>Cllr Meakins Future Housing Developments. As Cllr Meakins was not in attendance this will matter will be closed.</p>																																																
12.	<p>Correspondence Considered:</p> <p>Three quotes have been received from Clear Utility Solutions for the streetlight electricity contract start date 22.8.26 over 36 months:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="172 1440 1452 1720"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="8" style="text-align: center;">Conrad Energy (Recommended Council Basket Supplier)</th> </tr> <tr> <th>Fuel</th> <th>Company Name</th> <th>Unit Rate (p/kWh)</th> <th>Night Rate (p/kWh)</th> <th>Standing Charge (p/day)</th> <th>Day Consumption</th> <th>Night Consumption</th> <th>Estimated Annual Cost</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Electricity</td> <td>Salford Priors Parish Council - UMS</td> <td>33.320</td> <td>22.630</td> <td>105.000</td> <td>3500</td> <td>1679</td> <td style="background-color: #d4edda;">£1,929.41</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <table border="1" data-bbox="172 1765 1452 2004"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="8" style="text-align: center;">Valda Energy (Compatitor Rates)</th> </tr> <tr> <th>Fuel</th> <th>Company Name</th> <th>Unit Rate (p/kWh)</th> <th>Night Rate (p/kWh)</th> <th>Standing Charge (p/day)</th> <th>Day Consumption</th> <th>Night Consumption</th> <th>Estimated Annual Cost</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Electricity</td> <td>Salford Priors Parish Council - UMS</td> <td>38.000</td> <td></td> <td>70.000</td> <td>5179</td> <td></td> <td>£2,223.52</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Conrad Energy (Recommended Council Basket Supplier)								Fuel	Company Name	Unit Rate (p/kWh)	Night Rate (p/kWh)	Standing Charge (p/day)	Day Consumption	Night Consumption	Estimated Annual Cost	Electricity	Salford Priors Parish Council - UMS	33.320	22.630	105.000	3500	1679	£1,929.41	Valda Energy (Compatitor Rates)								Fuel	Company Name	Unit Rate (p/kWh)	Night Rate (p/kWh)	Standing Charge (p/day)	Day Consumption	Night Consumption	Estimated Annual Cost	Electricity	Salford Priors Parish Council - UMS	38.000		70.000	5179		£2,223.52
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Electricity	Salford Priors Parish Council - UMS	42.630		236.950	5179		£3,072.68												
Estimated Annual Savings vs SSE		£1,143.27																	
Cllr Price proposed that Conrad Energy is awarded the 36 month contract, Cllr Maude seconded, unanimous approval.																			
13.	Correspondence Noted: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) WALC Updates – Circulated b) NALC Updates – Circulated c) Alcester South SNT Police Reports – Circulated d) Adopted South Worcestershire Development Plan Review 2021-2041 emailed 30.3.26 																		
14.	Regulatory Document Review: Policy & Procedures for Handling Requests for Information – Cllr James proposed this is accepted, Cllr R Green seconded, Unanimous approval.																		
15.	Finance: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) The council gave consideration and approval of the payments listed in Appendix A. It was proposed to accept these by Cllr Price seconded by Cllr McClean and agreed by all Councillors. It was agreed that Cllrs Green & Maude would sign the payments sheet confirming the payments in Appendix A have been approved by full Council and there is provision within the budget, financial regulations and relevant policies have been followed. b) Members noted the payments made between meetings which totalled £9,132.26. These were authorised by the Chairman. Approved. c) Consideration was given to the fourth quarterly bank reconciliation, account balances and income and expenditure budgets. These were agreed by all Councillors. Cllr James proposed these are accepted, Cllr Price seconded with unanimous approval. Cllr Price to initial all paperwork. d) The Chairman read aloud each question within Section 1 of the Annual Governance & Accountability Return (AGAR) for Local Councils for the financial year 2025/26, which were then considered by Members. Sections 1 to 8 were unanimously approved. Section 9, relating to trust funds, was noted as not applicable. Section 10, a newly introduced requirement confirming that the Parish Council has implemented appropriate arrangements for effective IT and data management in line with proper practices during the year, was also approved. Approval of these responses was proposed by Cllr James, seconded by Cllr Howarth, and unanimously agreed by all Councillors. The Clerk was instructed to prepare the Section 1 entries for minute reference, including dating and signature. e) Members confirmed and noted that all Contractors insurances are valid and in date and copies of certificates are on file. f) Members noted former councillors Mrs Lauren Stanley & Mr Andrew Richardson have been removed from the Bank accounts. g) Members noted the bank account balances: <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tbody> <tr> <td>Lloyds Deposit Account</td> <td style="text-align: right;">67,638.24</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Lloyds Current Account</td> <td style="text-align: right;">4,019.23</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Lloyds CIL Account</td> <td style="text-align: right;">173,716.43</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Lloyds Warm Hub Acc</td> <td style="text-align: right;">3,151.79</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Lloyds Leisure Trails Acc</td> <td style="text-align: right;">267,978.41</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total Fund Balance</td> <td style="text-align: right;">516,504.10</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>							Lloyds Deposit Account	67,638.24	Lloyds Current Account	4,019.23	Lloyds CIL Account	173,716.43	Lloyds Warm Hub Acc	3,151.79	Lloyds Leisure Trails Acc	267,978.41	Total Fund Balance	516,504.10
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16.	Date of Next Meeting: Council confirmed the date of the next Ordinary Parish Council Meeting Wednesday 20 th May 2026 directly following the Annual Council Meeting at the Memorial Hall at 7.00pm.																		

17.	Closure of Meeting: The Chairman closed the meeting at 20.28 hrs
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Chairman: _____ Date: _____

APPENDIX A: FINANCE

PAYMENT	PAYEE	DETAILS	TOTAL	VAT	NET
BACS	HMRC	Clerk & PC NIC	****	0.00	****
BACS	Mrs D Bowles	Salary & Expenses	****		****
BACS	Rosemary Green	Warm Hub Expenses	64.34	0.00	64.34
BACS	Limebridge Rural Services	Amenity Mowing	1060.80	176.80	884.00
BACS	Jan McClean	Warm Hub Expenses	51.69		51.69
BACS	WALC	Annual Subs	735.20	102.20	633.00
BACS	House of Flags	Annual Maintenance Check	474.00	79.00	395.00
BACS	Warwickshire Property Management	Allotment Rental 1.4.26-30.6.26	110.00	0.00	110.00
BACS	PlayMaintainRepair	Playing Field Works	1140.00	190.00	950.00
BACS	Kim James	Warm Hub Expenses	161.90		161.90
BACS	Steve Baker Services	Highways Works	84.00		84.00
BACS	Greenbarnes Ltd	5 x noticeboards	8935.49	1489.25	7446.24
BACS	Salford Priors Mem Hall	Hire of Hall & Parish Office	492.50		492.50
BACS	Salford Priors Mem Hall	Warm Hub Hall Hire	480.00		480.00
DD	NEST	Clerk's Pension	****		****
DD	EDF	TOPs Electricity	216.02		216.02
DD	EDF	Defib Abbots Salford	21.32	1.02	20.30
DD	Lloyds	Service Charge	8.50	0.00	8.50
DD	O2	Line Rental Charge	5.47	0.91	4.56
DD	Yu Energy	Streetlight Energy	125.82	5.99	119.83

PAYMENTS MADE BETWEEN MEETINGS

PAYMENT	PAYEE	DETAILS	TOTAL	VAT	NET
BACS	Edge IT Systems Ltd	Finance Package	526.80	87.80	439.00
BACS	Steve Baker Services	Various	241.50	0.00	241.50
BACS	Steve Baker Services	Goalpost Removal	105.00	0.00	105.00
BACS	Birketts LLP	Greenway Charges	2628.00	438.00	2190.00
BACS	Dunnington School	Grant	5000.00	0.00	5000.00
DC	Amazon	Warm Hub Expenses	10.83	1.81	9.02
DC	National Office Furniture Supplies	Office Cupboard x 2	408.24	68.04	340.20
DC	Warehouse Trades	Warm Hub Expenses	47.97	0.00	47.97
DC	Canva	Publishing Tool	100.00	0.00	100.00
DC	Amazon	Small plastic bags	10.97	1.84	9.13
DC	BHGS Ltd	Flowers	52.95	0.00	52.95
Total			9132.26	597.49	8534.77