

Salford Priors Parish Council

Minutes of an Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council held in the Memorial Hall, Salford Priors, on Wednesday 20th. May 2009 at 19.45hrs.

Present: Councillors, KA James (Chairman), AW Wolfe, JR Stedman, M Myers, RJA Francis, RM Pane and DC Penn.

Also in attendance: District Councillor D Pemberton, MJ.Philpott, Clerk, and four members of the public.

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from County Councillor P Barnes due to illness.

2. Declarations of Office and Disclosure of Interests

2.1 Register of Interests: Members were reminded of the need to keep their register of interests up to date.

2.2 Declaration of Interests: Members were reminded that they were required to declare and disclose any personal or prejudicial interests in items on the agenda. Councillors with a prejudicial interest were required to leave the room for the relevant agenda item.

Cllrs. Francis and James declared personal interests in the item 15.4 as members of the Salford Priors Fete Committee.

3. Open Forum

3.1 Have your say: No under 18's were present.

3.2 Public Participation: Mrs Sharpe showed councillors a cotton tote bag with photos of Salford Priors which Salford Ladies were selling for £2 each. She and Mrs Seville said these were available for sale as also were note-lets also with pictures of Salford Priors. They said that a recent coffee morning had raised £450 for charity. The Chairman congratulated the ladies and asked the Clerk to send a bag to Cllr. Gillian Roach, the new chair of SDC. It was also agreed the Clerk should provide some free copies of the Salford Seven Walks for Mrs Sharpe to distribute. Mr Fenlon reported on support received regarding Berry Coppice from Abbots Morton and the Avon Vale Railway, the latter having sent a petition with over 250 signatories to WCC.

3.3 Ward Members' Reports

Cllr. Pemberton congratulated the Chairman on serving 21 years in the Chair of Salford Priors Parish Council and Cllr. Stedman on serving 25 years as a councillor. He reported that at the District Council Annual meeting it was resolved that the Council would now operate one Planning Committee (as opposed to the East and West Area), for a trial period of one year. Meetings of this Planning Committee would take place on Wednesdays commencing at 6.00pm approximately at three weekly intervals. The meetings would be held at Elizabeth House although other venues could be used in instances where an application was being considered which was of particular local significance. Agendas would be published on the website, not less than five days before the meeting. Cllr. Pemberton also referred to Members' expenses and noted that our District Council representatives had only claimed their basic allowance (£4500 in 2008/09) which was taxable. The Chairman said he had also claimed a small sum of £158 for travel.

The Chairman informed the meeting regarding elections as follows: Chairman of Council, Cllr. Gillian Roache; Vice Chairman, Cllr. Sir William Lawrence Bt. He said the Cabinet now comprised Leader, Cllr Les Topham, Deputy Leader, Cllr. Sue Wixey and the portfolio holders for Change & Performance, Cllr. Mike Weddell; Community Services, Cllr. Chris Williams, Environment, Cllr Simon Jackson, Member Services, Cllr. Stephen Thirlwell, Planning, Cllr. George Atkinson,

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Resources, Cllr. Tony Dixon, and Revenues & Housing, Cllr. Stephen Gray. The Chairman said that the cabinet committee on climate change had been abolished.

The Chairman also said the Council established its current Independent Remuneration Panel for Stratford-on-Avon DC in December 2007, comprising four independent members of the public. This panel was required under the Local Authorities (Members' Allowance) (England) Regulations 2003 and subsequent amendments to review and make recommendations to the Council on the range and levels of remuneration for elected Members. Under the Regulations the Council was required to undertake a full review every 4 years. The members of the panel were Mr John Elliott, Director and Group Company Secretary, The Bird Group, Mr Charles Goody, Director, Medi-Avant Ltd., Mr. Alan Bartlett, Retired Chief Officer, Council for Voluntary Services, and Mr. Vic Allison, Deputy Managing Director, Wychavon District Council. In response to questions from Cllr. Wolfe and Cllr. Myers, Cllr. Pemberton confirmed that the car expenses were taxable and that, in his opinion, expenses of cabinet members should be made public.

4. Minutes

The Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 15th. April 2009 at 7.30pm at The Memorial Hall, Salford Priors, were approved and signed by the Chairman.

The Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Wednesday 22nd. April 2009 at 7.30pm at The Memorial Hall, Salford Priors, were approved and signed by the Chairman.

5. Matters arising from the Minutes - Clerk's report for consideration by Council

5.1 Speed limits for C216 and B4088

The Clerk reported that he had been notified on 22.04.09 that the EON supply would be delivered "within two weeks". The Chairman noted that work had started on the 20th. May.

5.2 Progress on drainage works.

The Clerk reported that the works at Tothall Lane had been completed with a 600mm. pipe being laid between the ditch running along the bottom of the WCC field and Ban Brook. The ditch has been cleaned out over a 50m. length and the works should prevent water being carried onto Tothall Lane. A day had also been spent clearing gullies under direction from Mr Don Penn. The Clerk said that many of the gullies cleaned out actually had blocked pipes further on and this would be reported to WCC Highways. This now completed the works provided under the SDC flood relief funding and the District Council had been informed and thanked for the grant. Councillors said that the extreme rain of the past week had caused some minor problems but generally the new systems seemed to be operating reasonably well.

5.3 Lighting in Playing Field.

The Clerk reported that the lights had been erected and provided just the degree of illumination required by users of TOPs and the Scout Hut. No further communications had been received from local residents. The end of project report had been completed as required by CEMEX and the Warwickshire Environmental Trust and a cheque had been received in full payment for the works. The Chairman said that the lights should be entered into next years' WRCC village projects competitions. Cllr. Stedman asked if thought had been given to his suggestion for some tree planting in the vicinity of the lights to screen them from residents but the Chairman said he did not think this was necessary. However, the Chairman said that it would be necessary to carry out tree planting in the parish in order to offset planned carbon taxes due to the streetlights in the next few years.

5.4 Issues regarding a fund for public subscription.

Advice had been received from WALC and a copy was circulated to councillors. The advice was noted.

5.5 Haunching of School Road

The Clerk reported that he awaited a visit from the WCC Network Management Team to investigate possible improvement works. The Clerk said such work would be extremely expensive and Council would be advised of developments.

5.6 Provision of a speed indication post on School Road.

The Clerk said there was nothing to report.

5.7 Bus stop on School Road.

The Clerk reported that the possibility of fixing a litter bin to the post was being progressed.

5.8 Emergency planning.

The template for the new form of emergency plan was still awaited from WCC.

5.9 Rates payable on TOPs.

A letter regarding the rates payable on TOPs had been reviewed by the Chairman and forwarded to SDC. The Clerk also reported that a letter had been received from the Valuation Office confirming an alteration to the previous rating list entry. The new rateable value was £1900. The Clerk further reported that he had been asked to produce copies of two full year accounts plus a copy of the regulations governing the Council. These had been provided but he felt it was excessive and the Chairman said he would speak to the Director.

5.10 Footpaths along C216.

The Clerk reported that Kevin Blount of WCC had informed him that he would be inspecting the footpath to determine the scale of the job. If it just involved clearing off the vegetation he would have funds available; if more serious re-construction work is needed he would have to refer it to Network.

5.11 McCarthy Felton Irish Dancers

The Clerk reported that Mary Felton had been pleased to receive the congratulations of the Council and said that her team would be dancing at the Village Fete.

5.12 Training in the power of well-being

The Clerk reported that WALC had given a price for training of £50 per council but it would be essential that 80 per cent of the councillors were in attendance. The training would be delivered by Alison Hodge and would take about 2 hours. She had indicated that it would be good if a joint session with other councils could be arranged but it was agreed that there was no benefit to Salford Priors. The Clerk was instructed to make arrangements for the training session.

5.13 Dog Bins

The Clerk reported he had been in contact with SDC regarding the provision of additional dog waste bins as instructed at the last meeting. There had not been a response so far regarding new bins but the dog warden had replied that dog faeces could be put in any litter bin. Cllr. Myers said she considered that three additional bins were needed; at the end of AL17 on Station Road, on Evesham Road where the track from The Orchards emerged, and at the end of footpath AL6 where it exits on to New Inn Lane. The Chairman said that bins would be emptied by the District Council so long as they were on the route of the collection vehicle. It was agreed that Cllr. Myers and the Clerk would meet with an officer from SDC to review possible locations and litter bins in order to present a proper plan to the Council.

5.14 Condition of the A46

The Clerk said that a letter had been written to the Highways Agency regarding the A46 and the comments from Mr Sharpe. They had replied that some areas with minor chipping loss would be repaired during the financial year 2010/11 and there were no further works planned to replace the carriageway as noise was "not a major issue".

5.15 Confirmation of actions taken arising from previous meeting.

The Clerk reported that the following actions had been taken since the last meeting:

- Bidford PC had been invoiced for the supply of 2000 copies of "Sand and Gravel News".

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- A letter had been sent to SDC regarding the abandoned car outside the Post Office. The car disappeared immediately following the letter. A letter was also sent to the owner of the Post Office regarding litter in the area as instructed.
- A letter was sent to Cllr. Stedman regarding the planting proposed for the Memorial Flower Bed for former Cllr. Maureen Edmunds. Cllr. Stedman reported this had been sent on to her sister.
- A letter was sent to WCC praising the bus service as instructed at the last meeting. An appreciative reply was received and Council would be informed of any changes after the results of the consultation had been studied.
- Cllr. Stedman enquired about faulty street lights at the bottom of Ridsdale Close and the Clerk said that some repairs had been carried out but faults remained. He agreed to inspect with Cllr. Francis to identify the faulty lights.
- Cllr. Stedman then asked if there was any information regarding the path used by the public opposite the shop. The Clerk said this was in hand but Ian Merivale had been off sick and had only just returned to his post.
- In response to a query about the path behind the Bell Inn the Chairman said that enforcement action was being taken against Enterprise Inns. It was noted that work appeared to have started on clearing the area and it was beginning to look a little tidier but there was still much to be done.

6. Main Item

6.1 Report of meeting of Marsh Farm Gravel Liaison Committee held on 30.04.09.

The Clerk had circulated a draft note of the meeting. The Chairman read the report for the benefit of the residents and explained that the purpose of the meeting had been for CEMEX to promote the site north of Broom Lane. He also said that part of the Berry Coppice site had been withdrawn, that the new entry point would be north of the Turnpike, and that a copy of the response from John Maples MP had been received. The Clerk was asked to write to WCC regarding the quantity of fill required to complete the restoration of Marsh Farm.

7. Amenity, Environment, Highways, and TOPS

7.1 Play equipment inspections.

The Clerk reported that inspections had been received dated 27.04; 4.05; 11.05; and 18.05.09 and that the latest of these had been satisfactory in all respects.

7.2 Date for landlord's inspections of TOPs.

It was agreed to carry out the landlord's inspection on Thursday 28th. May at 7.00pm.

8. Communications

8.1 Newsletter

It was agreed that the next newsletter should be produced for September in time for the publication of the next stage of the Minerals Plan

8.2 Website

The Clerk reported that the site was up to date in respect of Agendas and Minutes and the two newsletters were also being uploaded.

8.3 E-mail newsletter

Nothing to report.

9. Rights of Way

9.1 Report from P3 Co-ordinator.

Cllr. Penn reported that a complaint had been received from a parishioner walking the footpath between Tothall Lane and Abbots Salford. Cllr. Penn agreed to inspect the route to ensure it was clearly marked.

Cllr. Myers reported that the polythene covering part of footpath AL6 had been removed.

10. Planning general

The Chairman reported that the County Council had received 8500 responses to the minerals plan consultation with over 250 from Salford Priors. Three petitions had also been concluded and these would be presented to Warwickshire County Council at the next full council meeting following county council elections. There had been more objections to Berry Coppice than any other site in the county.

11. New Planning Applications for Council's consideration

11.1 09/00807/TPO Proposed T1 pine: crown lift to approximately 2.5m. Remove deadwood. T2 conifer hedge: reduce and trim. At Kenley House, Station Road, Salford Priors for Mr Brown.

Council considered the application and made no representations.

12. Planning Decisions

None to report.

13. Staffing

13.1 Confirmation of terms of contract of employment

The Clerk provided a copy of his contract of employment for information showing automatic progression through the scale each April subject to no adverse considerations.

14. Matters raised by Councillors

14.1 Cllr. James, Trials Bikes

The Chairman reported that complaints had been raised by Bidford Parish Council, Broom residents, and by Police Sergeant Stuart Wild regarding noise and disturbance from trials bikes in the vicinity of the old railway between Salford and Wixford including parts AL17. The riders had claimed to have permission from the landowners and the Clerk was asked to write to Ragley Estates to check if this was so.

15. Consideration of Correspondence Received

15.1 European Parliamentary Elections and County Council Elections from SDC.

Council noted the information provided.

15.2 WCC, dates for community forums.

Council noted the information provided. The Chairman encouraged attendance at these forums as they provided another avenue to get issues listened to relating to Police, Community Health, and District & County Councils.

15.3 Equality and Human Rights Commission, Public Sector Duties.

Council noted the information provided.

15.4 Salford Priors Village Fete Committee, request for donation.

In view of the reduced precept, Cllr. Myers proposed, Cllr. Stedman seconded, and it was agreed, that a donation of £100 be made to the Village Fete Committee.

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16. To Table

Council noted the following tabled items:

- 16.1** Clerks & Councils Direct, May 2009, Issue 63.
16.2 The Clerk, May 2009, Vol. 41, No.3.
16.3 Public Sector Equality Duties.

17. Finance**17.1 To consider and approve the payments and transfers listed in Appendix A.**

Council noted the income transactions in Appendix A Item 20.1

Council considered the expenditure transactions listed in Appendix A Item 20.2. Authorisation for payment was proposed by Cllr. Myers, seconded by Cllr. Wolfe, and carried. Cheques were signed by Cllr. Myers and Cllr. Wolfe.

Council considered the Clerk's proposal to transfer £7500.00 from No.1 account to the Community account. Authorisation for transfer of funds was proposed by Cllr. Myers, seconded by Cllr. Francis, and carried.

17.2 Report on Risk Management

Council noted the report prepared by the Clerk and approved it as the statement of Risk Management for the Council.

17.3 Report from Internal Auditor

The Clerk had circulated the report from the Internal Auditor showing that the accounts were in good order. An error in respect of a NALC invoice where the VAT had not been claimed had been found and it was agreed this should be claimed. The Chairman commented on the thoroughness of the Internal Audit. The Chairman proposed, and Council agreed, that the full accounts and the Statement of Accounts should be copied to all Councillors and presented for formal approval to the next meeting.

18. Date of Next Meeting

Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council on Wednesday 17th. June at 7.30pm at The Memorial Hall, Salford Priors.

19. Closure of meeting

The meeting closed at 9.20pm.

Signed.....

Date.....

APPENDIX A**20. Finance****20.1 Income transactions for approval**

Tn. No.	Cheque	Gross	Vat	Net	Details
6401		1248.97	0.00	1248.97	HMRC VAT Quarter 4, 2008-09
6402		52.00	0.00	52.00	J Watson-Jones, allotment rent (Plot 1)
6403		50.00	0.00	50.00	M Muldowney, allotment deposit (Plot 8B)
6404		26.00	0.00	26.00	M Muldowney, allotment rent (Plot 8B)
6405		26.00	0.00	26.00	S Mean, allotment rent (Plot 7)
6406		52.00	0.00	52.00	K Teehan, allotment rent (Plot 3)

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6407		50.00	0.00	50.00	A Willcox, allotment deposit (Plot 8A)
6408		26.00	0.00	26.00	A Willcox, allotment rent (Plot 8A)
6409		52.00	0.00	52.00	Allotment rent, S Pearson (Plot 2)
6410		6944.50	0.00	6944.50	Grant for Playing Field Lights
Total		£8527.47	£0.00	£8527.47	

20.2 Expenditure transactions for approval

Tn. No.	Cheque	Gross	Vat	Net	Details
8409	Dd	18.58	2.42	16.16	Plusnet, Broadband
8410	102129	110.88	0.00	110.88	Allianz, insurance for solar lights
8411	102130	786.03	102.53	683.50	PD Long, installation of solar lights
8412	102131	1345.85	175.55	1170.30	GBD(Evesham) Ltd., Mowing contract
8413	102132	644.04	0.00	644.04	M J Philpott, Clerk's salary May
8414	102133	3128.00	408.00	2720.00	DM Clen-Zing Services Ltd, drainage works
8415	102134	12.58	1.64	10.94	NALC, delivery charge
8416	102135	50.56	6.59	43.97	Staples, stationery
8417	102136	90.76	0.00	90.76	Clerk's expenses
8418	102137	120.00	0.00	120.00	Louise Best, Internal Audit fee
8419	102138	862.50	112.50	750.00	Marquis & Lord Ltd.
8420	102139	250.00	0.00	250.00	Web Culture, website hosting
Total		£7419.78	£809.23	£6610.55	

20.3. Transfers

Proposal to transfer £7500.00 from No.1 account to Community account.

20.4 Account Balances at 13.05.09

Community a/c	£1120.03
No.1 a/c	£35662.64
No.3 a/c	£163.63