

**ST GEORGES & PRIORSLEE PARISH COUNCIL**

**MINUTES**

**of**

**The Meeting held on**

**Monday 25<sup>th</sup> January 2016 at**

**St George's & Priorslee Parish Centre**

Present: Councillor R Overton (Chairman), Councillors, S Ali, S Malpass, J Minor, I Fletcher, Mrs V Fletcher, T Hoof, S Overton, Mrs B Richards and R Williams

142/16 **Public Question Time**

(a) **Community First Steps**

Louise Bremner from St Georges Community First Steps Group thanked the Clerk for circulating the invitation for the Community Action Plan engagement event held at Turnpike Court, on 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2015 and thanked Councillor R Overton for attending. The day had been a success with a former Granville Colliery Miner, sharing his knowledge of working down the mines.

First Steps plan to work on a heritage and nature trail for the St Georges and Priorslee area and have already formed partnerships and links for this to progress to a timetable and funding plan. It is hoped that this will include a memorial that reflects those industries and the workers.

The group of former miners would like to ensure that there is a combined effort from all Parish Councils in the area for this project and a place for a memorial linked into their idea for a heritage/nature trail and wider heritage project is a collective one among the parishes.

The Group would value any support in their plans to empower their project further.

(b) **Parking on Verges in London Road**

A complaint was received regarding cars which are ploughing up the grass verges in London Road, caused by parents parking their cars whilst delivering and collecting their children from St Georges C of E Primary School. The problem was acknowledged as there is unfortunately no available land on provision for car parking. The Clerk was asked to bring the problem to the attention of the Police and the Borough Councillors promised to ask the Highways department if there is any possibility of removing the grass verges and installing tarmac.

143/16 **Apologies**

An apology for absence were received from Councillor Mrs J Overton (Incapacitated)

144/16 **Declarations of Interest**

(a) **Planning :**

Councillor J C Minor and Councillor I Fletcher declared an Interest on all Planning matters.

(a) **Financial Regulations and Precept:**

**Resolved: that a dispensation be granted to all Members of the Parish Council until May 2018 to allow them to take part in discussions, and set the Precept on the grounds that so many members would otherwise be precluded that the meeting would not be quorate.**

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145/16 **MINUTES**

**RESOLVED** The Minutes of the meeting held on 1<sup>st</sup> December 2015, having been previously circulated, be signed by the Chairman as a true record.

144/15 **Matters Arising from the Minutes and Action taken under Delegated Powers**

(a) **Christmas Light Features**

The Clerk reported that there had been two occasions over the Christmas period when assistance had been requested from Telford and Wrekin Street Lighting department to remove feature brackets that had been damaged by high winds. The cost of this work would be added to the normal Street Lighting account.

There had been one occasion of vandalism to the tree lights adjacent to Priorslee Clock when a number of bulbs had been removed from the tree and thrown on the ground. The bulbs had been retrieved by a helpful youth and taken to Wellington, collected by the Clerk and delivered to PP Electrical who had checked them and replaced them on the tree. This had incurred an extra Invoice from P & P Electrical Services.

(b) **Salt and Grit Bins**

A problem had arisen during the recent snow fall causing a very slippery road surface on the hill adjacent to the Albion Public House. The matter had been reported to Telford and Wrekin Council who confirmed that the salt and grit bin previously adjacent to the bus stop on Station Hill had been removed due to constant vandalism. The main road was on the gritting route and it was thought unnecessary to replace it. The Clerk had asked for a bin to be sited along the side road adjacent to the Albion Public House.

**Resolved: that the Clerk and Chairman's action under Delegated Powers be approved.**

146/16 **Planning**

(a) **Planning Applications**

**Resolved: that the following recommendations made to Telford and Wrekin Council under Delegated powers be confirmed.**

App No TWC/2016/0022

Site 56 Tranters Row, The Nabb

Proposed Dev. Erection of a detached double car port (retrospective)

**Recommendation Recommend refusal on the grounds that the development would be overdevelopment of the site and overbearing for the situation it is on.**

App No TWC/2015/1155

Site Limekiln Bank, St Georges

Proposed Dev. Determination under part 16 of the GPDO for replacement of existing 15m high mast with 20m high Jupiter pole with 3 antennas, 1 300mm dish, 1 equipment cabinet and associated ancillary works.

**Recommendation Recommend approval.**

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App No TWC/2015/1084  
Site 20 West Street, St Georges  
Proposed Dev. Conversion of first floor area above shop to 1 apartment and erection of two storey side extension and first floor rear extension.

**Recommendation Recommend approval**

App No TWC/2016/0056  
Site 39 Priorslee Village  
Proposed Dev. Erection of single storey rear extension for bedroom and kitchen to create ancillary unit of accommodation.

**Recommendation Recommend approval**

(b) **Planning Decisions received from Telford and Wrekin Council**

<b>App No</b>	<b>Proposed Development</b>	<b>Decision</b>
i. TWC/2015/0992	Erection of first floor side ext. 2 Ferndale Dv.	Granted
ii. TWC/2015/1013	Erection of single storey infill extn. At Wolverhampton University, Priorslee	Granted
iii. TWC/2015/1007	Change of use from existing garage to Dog Grooming Business at 6 Waterlow Close	Refused.

147/16 **Citizen's Engagement Agreement and Invoice**

Members had been circulated with copies of the proposed Agreement with Citizens Engagement, copies of email correspondence and a copy of the Invoice for the £10,000 matched funding as agreed at the October Parish Council meeting for the employment of two Community Workers for one year in St Georges and Priorslee.

Members expressed concern that the Agreement was due to terminate in August 2016 and considered that they should not be asked to pre-date the work carried out before the Agreement was signed.

Clarification was requested as to the Aims and Objectives of the Community Worker and what exactly is going to be delivered and how the work can be evaluated.

Concern was also expressed as to the Legal aspect of the Agreement. The Clerk suggested that in compliance of Financial Regulations, a payment of £5,000 was made at this stage and that the Clerk check the legal implications with the Internal Auditor and SALC if necessary.

**Resolved that Sue McGavin be invited to attend the February Parish Council meeting to give a presentation which answers the concerns expressed and the Clerk clarify the Legal aspects with the Internal Auditor and SALC if necessary prior to the next meeting. An interim payment of £5000 be made in the meantime.**

148/16 **Accounts**

(a) **Resolved: that the following accounts paid**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Particulars</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Cheque No</u>
K I James	Salary (Jan)	1202.17	SO
TWS	Freeston Ave. playground checks	1599.42	11052
Miss J Ellis	Wages (Jan)	256.50	11053
Inland Revenue	Income Tax and NI	427.42	11054
K I James	Broadband	9.25	11055
P & P Electrical Services	Repair to Decorations	150.00	11056
K James	'F'Secure Subscription	26.99	11057
K James	Ipad Repair	69.99	11058
BT	Parish Centre Telephones	248.29	11059
T & W Council	PET Scheme Annual Contribution	25000.00	11060
CANCELLED			11061
T & W Council	Street Lighting Quarter	5136.98	11062
Citizen Engagenebt	Match Funding half payment	5,000.00	11063

149/16 **Draft Financial Estimates 2016-2017**

Copies of the Draft Financial Estimates for 2016 – 2017 had been circulated to all members and were discussed at length.

**Resolved: that the Draft Financial Estimates for 2016-2017 be adopted.**

150/16 **Precept**

Copies of the Telford and Wrekin Correspondence regarding the proposed allocation of grant in relation to the Council Tax Support Scheme had been circulated to all Members. The latest figure in the grant allocation was given as £1445.

**Resolved: that Telford and Wrekin Council be precepted in the sum of £150,000. Plus the £1445 Support Grant. The required paperwork was duly signed by the Chairman, another member and the Clerk.**

151/16 **PET Report**

A copy of the report of the PET Management meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> January 2016 had been circulated to all Members as follows:

Present: P Pritchard, M Greaves K James, Derek Carr

**Issues Raised from Previous Notes**

1. Lych Gates and path north of Priorslee Flash.

Site meeting was held at all Lych Gates and a report agreed. Phil Pritchard has arranged for Structural Engineer to inspect and provide a repair report. Licence is currently being prepared by Legal Department.

Site meeting was held on flooded path to north of Priorslee Flash. Drainage Engineers are now looking at remedial action to clear the storm drain and the drainage pipes. Cost is likely to be in the region of £5k - £6k.

**Members might like to consider contributing to this cost from this year's PET budget and deferring the purchase of the two picnic benches approved for the new Priorslee Green site in Derwent Drive until the 2016 budget after April as they are not likely to be needed until the warmer months.**

2. Clock – Phil Pritchard has contacted Structural Engineer to inspect condition of the clock tower. Urgent repair work was carried out to the inside of the Tower on 18<sup>th</sup> December. Long term condition report now being prepared.
3. Litter Bins – all new bins have now been installed.
4. New flowerbed in centre of St Georges. Fescues (ornamental grasses) have been planted and the cost of approximately £150 for herbaceous plants would be financed from the PET materials budget. PET to plant. (Still to be ordered).
5. Budget – Total in hand of £9460 out of which 8 Litter bins have to be charged at a cost of £2240, Planting, £150 and Notice Boards approximate cost £2,000. This leaves a balance of £5070.  
Ward Councillors for both St Georges and Priorslee have projects outstanding for Cannongate, Albion Bank, and St Georges Churchyard in St Georges and Picnic Benches, Bench and litter bin refurbishment in Teece Drive and the Amphitheatre in East Priorslee in Priorslee. **Members might like to consider contributing to these projects.**
6. Dog Foul Prohibition Signs  
D Carr to confirm that these signs are now in place in Goulbourn Street and Albion Street.
7. Wooden Footbridge on footpath adjacent to Priorslee Academy leading to Lapwing Gate – Wooden planks are rotting. - P Pritchard agreed to bring this to the Highway Dept. attention.

**Resolved: that the above report be adopted and the Clerk to advise P Pritchard that the Parish Council are willing to partnership fund the remedial work to the footpath north of the Flash from the funds already set aside for the two picnic benches for Derwent Drive which will now be funded from the 2016-2017 PET Budget.**

#### 152/16 De-Brief on Christmas Decorations

Members discussed the Christmas lights in detail. It was considered favourable to install a welcome to St Georges sign across the entrance to Church Street if this proved possible. It was suggested that the trees required more lights. It was also considered that more work was required to ensure the timers worked satisfactorily.

**Resolved: that the Clerk liaise for a longer Temporary licence for the Christmas tree at the Gatcombe Way Car Park, and liaise with P P Electrical Services for costs for the additional lighting and work to the timers and brackets.**

#### 153/16 Friends of the Cockshutt Group

Members were advised that the meeting scheduled for Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> January 2016 has been cancelled.

#### 154/16 Correspondence

The following correspondence was received and the contents noted:

- (a) Letter of thanks from Hope House
- (b) Clerks and Councils Direct
- (c) Letter from Mrs Street complaining about churned up ground at the entrance to the University. (Clerk to write to Mrs Street and the University.
- (d) Wellington Town Council Invitations to Civic Dinner and Charity Concert.

155/16 **Exclusion of Press and Public**

**Resolved: that in view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted which will involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in the Public Bodies Admission to Meetings Act 1960, the public and press be temporarily excluded from the meeting and they are instructed to withdraw.**

156/16 **Parish Centre Lease**

The Clerk read to Members final correspondence from S Haylock of Lanyon and Bowdler Solicitors which had suggested the Clerk should prepare a Witness Statement containing the history of the Parish Centre for future use if required. The Clerk had completed this work and the document had been signed. The original to be placed on the file at Lanyon and Bowdler with a copy of the statement affixed to the original lease which is retained in the Safe at the home of Councillor Mrs B Richards for safe keeping.

**Resolved: that the above action be adopted.**

Chairman..... Date.....

