



**St Georges & Priorslee Annual Meeting
Held on Tuesday 17th May 2022 at
The School Hall, St Georges C of E Primary School, London Road, St Georges**

Councillors Present: R Overton (Chairman), R Cadman, E Dabbs, S Handley, A Harrison, B Richards, M Warner, R Williams, D Wright

Also Present: Electors of the Parish, V Brain (Parish Clerk), C Lane (Community events & projects Officer), J Ellis (Parish Support Officer)

1. Chairman's welcome

The Chairman welcomed all those present and opened the meeting.

2. Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 18th May 2021

Resolved: that the Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 18th May 2021 are a correct record. The Minutes were signed by the Chairman.

3. Report of the work of the Parish Council presented by Chairman, Cllr Richard Overton

Introduction

This time last year we were following the 'roadmap' out of covid lockdown and life was beginning to get back to normal. There continued to be challenges with covid during 2021, especially when the Omicron variant became widespread just before Christmas. Despite that, the parish council managed to carry out most of its usual activities in the past year.

I would like to thank my fellow colleagues for their continued commitment and enthusiasm for the work of the parish council throughout the year.

The Parish Centre

The parish centre lost all of its regular hirings during the pandemic. When the parish centre was allowed to reopen, the need to reduce the capacity of the room to allow for social distancing, meant that the meeting room was no longer big enough for groups such as the History Society. However, the meeting room has been a useful venue for weekly coffee mornings that started in July 2021 and occasional use by the school (in return the school allows use of the school hall for parish council meetings.)

Events

We were able to reinstate most of our usual parish events in 2021/22. Senior Citizen's coach trips to Llandudno and Chester, a summer picnic with live music, a fish & chips and bingo evening, the Macmillan Coffee Morning and the St Georges Christmas Lights event, were appreciated all the more in 2021 because events had to be cancelled in 2020. The summer picnic and the Christmas Lights events were organised by the St Georges Partnership, with financial and practical support by the parish council. Remembrance Day was marked with around 200 lamp post poppies in various locations, an Act of Remembrance at the memorial gates in St Georges and a Remembrance Service at Priorslee St Peter's Church.

Already in 2022, the St Georges Partnership has put on a very successful St Georges Day event and plans are well underway for a big parish council Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebration to be held on Friday 3rd June in the grounds of the Priorslee Academy. All parish events, whether they are held in St Georges or Priorslee are for the benefit of everyone living in the parish.

The Environment

The parish council contributes to Telford & Wrekin Council Community Action Teams for the public realm and enforcement, sharing the teams with Wrockwardine Wood & Trench Parish Council. Roger and Brandi work for this Parish for two days a week and have worked hard keeping the parish clean and tidy. They take 'before' and 'after' photographs of their work. Enforcement Officers make frequent visits to locations within the parish checking on parking, litter, fly tips, dog fouling and any anti-social behaviour. They can issue fixed penalty notices.

The lawnmowing service, using a local gardening contractor, continued successfully with 34 households receiving the service in 2021.

The parish council paid for a display of hanging baskets in the centre of St Georges and alongside the Flash in Priorslee in 2021.

Telford & Wrekin Council supplied and planted two fruit trees in spring 2022 as part of the 'Queen's Green Canopy' initiative for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. These have been planted on areas of grass adjacent to Marrions Hill in St Georges and adjacent to Priorslee Avenue, opposite Teece Drive.

Grants have been received as follows:

£959 for the last instalment of the breakfast pack scheme

£10,000 from Cllrs Ian and Veronica Fletcher's Councillor Pride funds for new Christmas lights in Priorslee

£3,700 from Cllrs Richard Overton and David Wright's Councillor Pride funds for refurbishing the war memorial plaques and improvements to the infrastructure for the St Georges Christmas lights

£1,985 from Telford & Wrekin Council for the Jubilee event.

Parish Grants Awarded

The grants budget was £4,500 in 2021/22. Grants were allocated to six organisations during the year.

Since covid there seem to be fewer requests for grants, so only £2,736 was given in grants during 2021/22.

Local organisations are encouraged to apply for grants for eligible projects and activities in 2022/23.

Community Projects

'Percy the Snake', a permanent display of stones painted during the first lockdown, was installed near the Flash in Priorslee in the autumn of 2021.

New for Christmas 2021, festoon lights were installed alongside the Flash in Priorslee, together with eleven lamp post features on Priorslee Avenue.

Telford & Wrekin Council consulted the parish council about plans for replacement play equipment at the Teece Drive play area. This has now been installed, together with a new safety surface.

Using Section 106 money, Telford & Wrekin Council was also able to install a new safety surface at the Freeston Avenue play area.

The Gower Project

On 20th July 2021 the parish council resolved to enter into an Agreement to Lease with Telford & Wrekin Council, subject to obtaining favourable legal advice about the Heads of Terms and other matters relating to the Agreement to Lease. It was also resolved to appoint Lanyon Bowdler solicitors to act on behalf of the parish council. Since then, there has been a lot of work behind the scenes to finalise and agree all the details for the project. I am grateful to the Gower working group for the time they have spent on the Gower project to date.

Armed Forces Covenant

On 19th October 2021 the Chairman signed the Armed Forces Covenant Pledge on behalf of the parish council. At the following parish council meeting, Cllr R Cadman was nominated to be the Armed Forces Champion for the parish council.

Declaration of a Climate Emergency

On 19th October 2021 the parish council declared a climate emergency and set up a working group to look at ways to reduce the carbon footprint of the parish. Realising that it is not possible to do everything at

once, the parish council has started a climate emergency consultation to find out the priorities of local people.

Representing Parishioners' Interests

At every parish council meeting there is an opportunity for members of the public to raise issues that concern them. Over the year this has ranged from problems with obtaining GP appointments to concerns over parking and speeding vehicles. All of these issues have been raised with the relevant authorities on behalf of the residents.

Staff Changes

Catherine Lane started as the new Community Projects & Events Officer on 4th May 2021. On behalf of all of the Parish members and residents, I would like to thank the small team of staff, past and present, for their hard work and commitment.

4. Questions to Councillors

Electors asked questions or made comments as follows:

- Concern was expressed about the indiscriminate mowing of grass verges, especially alongside Snedshill Way, whereby wildflowers are mown along with the grass. This was against the principle of 'No Mow May' which is supposed to benefit wildlife. The Clerk was asked to raise this with Telford & Wrekin Council.
- There is a need for a litter bin beside the new bench that has been installed on Nuplace land adjacent to St Peter's Churchyard. The Clerk was asked to raise this with Nuplace.
- It was noted that the Diocese of Lichfield had decided to close the Priorslee St Peter's Church for Anglican worship and that there was to be a public consultation meeting on 24th May 2022 about the future use of the building. Several councillors said that they would be attending the public meeting.
- The poor condition of the unadopted roads at the Nabb was raised. Borough Councillors R Overton and D Wright said that they would include the Nabb in a forthcoming Ward Walk.

Chairman.....

Date.....