



## St Georges & Priorslee Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> November 2023 commencing at 7pm at The School Hall, St Georges C of E Primary School, London Road, St Georges.

Chairman: Cllr Richard Overton

Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer: Kate Southgate (taking minutes)

### **Present:**

Councillors: R. Overton (Chairman), R. Cadman, E. Dabbs, S. Handley, A. Harrison, J. Little, G. Singh, P. Thomas, R. Tyrrell, J. Smart, S. Harrison.

In attendance: J. Ellis PS Officer, PCSO W. Jervis and M Liston, PC R Hughes, Police and Crime Commissioner J Campion, Lizi Platts Head of Communications and Engagement OPCC.

**Welcome from the Chair:** The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting. The room was informed that the proceedings would be voice recorded and destroyed once the minutes had been agreed.

**97/24 Apologies:** Cllr R. Tyrell would be delayed due to a Borough Council commitment. The apology was noted.

**98/24 Declarations of Interest:** a) Personal, b) Prejudicial

Cllrs S Handley and P Thomas declared an interest as substitute Member of the Borough Planning Committee and reserved their right to speak and/or vote on planning matters.

Members agreed that they would make any other declarations if they arose during the meeting. Cllr R Overton declared a non-pecuniary interest as Telford & Wrekin Cabinet Member with responsibility for strategic planning and said that he would not take part in any discussions about strategic planning matters.

**99/24 Public Session:** 15 minutes is allowed for members of the public to raise their concerns. There were twenty-three members of the public present. The following matters were raised:

- Concern was raised regarding planning application **TWC/2023/0837** for 120 houses to be built on land north/east of Greenways Farm Shop, Off Church Street, St Georges. Residents stated the impact this would have on the number of new homeowners requiring Schools, Doctors and Dentists also causing further traffic congestion in the area. The local area has already lost a huge amount of green space and wildlife due to the number of estates that have been developed. Parking for the residents is currently seen to be inadequate and this will contribute further pressures.
- A concerned parent expressed his frustrations regarding an unprovoked attack on a thirteen-year-old boy in Priorslee. The resident explained the issues that he'd come up against with the Police, specifically the triage system and questioned the budget and requested that more is spent on the safety of the residents. He also questioned why the CCTV camera had been removed from Priorslee Avenue. It was explained that this was a Borough owned camera and gets rotated to hotspot areas. The Policing team in attendance agreed to look further into this worrying incident.

- A resident expressed the difficulties she has when motorists park on the footpath narrowing the space for the lady to push her husband in his wheelchair. The local Policing team that attended the meeting offered assistance with the matter.
- An enquiry was raised asking what the planned use of the Gower Community room would be. It was advised that the room would be used for all community events such as a space for local clubs, groups, and any other events bookings.
- Problems were identified with regards to the temporary traffic management outside of the Gower during peak times. It was advised that traffic lights were manned and being removed by the end of the week.

### **100/24 Guest Speaker, Police and Crime Commissioner:**

The PCC attended the meeting to update the council on how the Police work in the local Community to prevent crime and tackle anti-social behaviour.

Specific areas covered were:

- Visibility of the Police in the area for safety and reassurance
- Increase in shop lifting
- Policing budget
- Lack of response to 999 calls
- Lack of Police vehicles available to Safer Neighbourhood Team

The Council and residents were also offered the opportunity to ask questions.

The following matters were raised:

- Is there any communication between Officers so five cars don't attend one incident? It was explained that as Telford is a small area, more Officers can respond quickly.
- What changes can residents expect to see? The PCC explained that he used past experiences to improve issues that will be raised in the future by accepting as many invitations as possible to attend Parish Council meetings to understand what is going on in the local communities and listening back to 999 calls so that Officers are held accountable for their words and actions.
- Cllr Cadman enquired about the transition from PCSO to Police Officer and how this will affect the local Policing teams. The PCC explained that due to the drop in Officers in previous years, the service is now in the process of over recruiting so when Officers make the change, the public won't notice a drop in numbers.
- Concern was raised regarding the closure of Police Station front counters. It was explained that Stations are still open, but it was found that money was being better spent having more Officers on patrol with a doorbell service at the station.
- Is CCTV a suitable deterrent? The answer was yes. Millions are spent on it however CCTV is only good if the recordings are accessible, ideally uploaded to a central CCTV database.
- How will the Police manage the report of the attack on a child in Priorslee and how will you stop it from happening again? The incident will be investigated further, and the aim is to have a Safer Stronger Team in all areas.
- How can issues be rectified when it takes such a long time for call handlers to answer calls? 101 and 999 calls are handled by the same team. The average response time is 30 seconds however this could increase to 30 minutes in busy times. Issues can also be logged online by self-serving, again they're manned by the same handling team and staff.

Further information regarding these topics and more can be found at [www.westmercia-pcc.gov.uk](http://www.westmercia-pcc.gov.uk) and residents can also go to 'Neighbourhood Matters' and signing up to the mailing list.

8.05pm Cllr Tyrell entered the meeting

### **101/24 Minutes:**

**Resolved:** that the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 17 October 2023 having been circulated, be agreed, and signed, with an addition to the Minute 94/24 (Correspondence Received) to state that Grit be amended to Salt.

**Resolved:** that the minutes of the Staffing Committee Meeting held on 10 October 2023 having been circulated, be agreed, and signed.

**102/24 Clerk's update on any matters arising from the previous meeting:**

**(a) Dip on Zebra Crossing** – Reported to TWC on MyTelford App.

**(b) Dog Poo Bags** – Confirmation that the dog poo bags are biodegradable.

**(c) Grit Quality** – TWC confirmed that Thawrox 6mm dry salt is used in both grit bins and used on the road.

**(d) Additional Bank Account** – AJ Bell doesn't offer a service to Parish Council's so research is ongoing.

**(e) Bus Service** – TWC have approached Arriva to discuss possible diversions to the current bus routes. Arriva confirmed it wouldn't be possible to divert the bus due to both the speed of Telford Way/A5 and the size of the bus.

**(f) CCTV** – The Co-op in Priorslee have agreed they wish to keep the disconnected CCTV camera on the outside of the building as a deterrent. The Co-op also said they would be happy to have the camera re-connected. It was disconnected due to a refurbishment within the store.

**(g) Bromley Way Muga** – The Safer Stronger Team took the lead in tackling the ongoing issues at the Bromley Way MUGA. The area was cut back, and the shelter painted red.

**(h) Neighbourhood Crime Reduction Partnership** – The Clerk and Chair attended a quarterly meeting where fellow Clerks, Police and Safer Stronger team discussed issues within the area and possible ways to tackle them.

**103/24 Planning:**

Note: for every planning application it will be considered whether any proposed climate change mitigation measures are adequate.

**Applications:**

**TWC/2023/0777**

**Site address:** Land between, Castle Farm Way and A5 (Phase 1), Priorslee, Telford.

**Description of proposal:** Variation of condition 7 (deposited plans) of planning application TWC/2022/0144 (Variation of conditions 4 & 8 of planning permission TWC/2019/0864 erection of 455no. dwellings, associated infrastructure, and public open space) to facilitate amended layout and house designs to plots 272 to 455 (S.73 Application)) to allow amendments to previously approved plans.

**Comment:** No objection.

**TWC/2023/0827**

**Site address:** 2 The Grove Estate, St Georges, Telford, Shropshire, TF2 9JH

**Description of proposal:** Replacement of a single story side extension.

**Comment:** No objection.

**TWC/2023/0836**

**Site address:** 4 Lapwing Gate, Priorslee, Telford, Shropshire, TF2 9SU

**Description of proposal:** Erection of a replacement porch.

**Comment:** No objection.

**TWC/2023/0837**

**Site address:** Land north/east of Greenways Farm Shop, Off Church Street, St Georges, Telford.

**Description of proposal:** Outline application for the erection of up to 120no. dwellings with access and all other matters reserved.

**Comment:** Object with Comments and submit a "call in request" to TWC.

**Permissions Granted:**

**TWC/2022/0506**

**Site address:** Site of Granville Lodge, Church Street, St Georges, Telford.

**Description of proposal:** Conversion of existing coach house into 1no. dwelling.

**Decision:** Full Granted 20.10.23

**TWC/2023/0634**

**Site address:** 2 Moorland Drive, Priorslee, Telford, Shropshire, TF2 9RN

**Description of proposal:** Erection of a first-floor side extension and conversion of existing garages into a habitable space.

**Decision:** Full Granted 19.10.23

**TWC/2023/0686**

**Site address:** 77 Old Toll Gate, St Georges, Telford, Shropshire, TF2 9FH

**Description of proposal:** Erection of a single storey rear extension, single storey front extension and conversion of existing garage into a habitable space

**Decision:** Full Granted 27.10.23

**Permissions Refusals: None**

**Any other planning matters:**

**PE/2023/0613**

**Site address:** "Cornerways", Freeston Avenue, St Georges, TF2 9EF

**Description of proposal:** Dog Grooming Service, bath & dry, full groom which is included trimmed.

**104/24 Finance:**

**(a) To approve payments of accounts due in November 2023**

**Resolved:** to approve all payments for the November Schedule.

Updated Expenditure Approvals List for Parish Council meeting on 21st November 2023

Note: all of these amounts include VAT where applicable but this can be reclaimed

This covers invoices received during October & November 2023

Name	Particulars	Amount (£)	Detail
C Lane - Aldi	Coffee Morning Supplies	5.52	Bank Transfer
C Lane - Poundland	Raffle Prizes - Fish & Chips	20.00	Bank Transfer
Cartridge People	Yellow Toner	33.85	Debit Card
ICO	Annual Fee	40.00	Bank Transfer
St Georges Partnership	Grant	2,500.00	Bank Transfer
C Lane - Aldi/Poundland	Prizes/Stationery	46.72	Bank Transfer
Staff Salaries	Salaries & Wages Nov 23	5,313.01	Standing Order
HMRC	Tax & NI in Nov 23	1,387.26	Bank Transfer
Lakeside Plant Centre	Artificial Christmas Tree P/lee	549.98	Debit Card
<b>Total</b>		<b>9,896.34</b>	

Expenses Awaiting Authorisation for Payment

Name	Particulars	Amount (£)	Detail
I&A Publishing	5330 Newsletters	1,036.78	
Edward Finch Surveyors	Gower Agent Fee Part 1	4,920.00	
Pension Fund	Pension Contributions Nov 23	1,596.95	Standing Order
Idverde	Play Area Inspections Oct 23	156.00	

TWC	Street Lighting Q2	7,693.64
TWC	Annual ROSPA Inspection	100.00
Business		
Watch	Keyholding Service 23/24	360.00
		<b>15,863.37</b>
	<b><u>Payments Total</u></b>	<b><u>£25,759.71</u></b>

**(b) Budget comparison report for the seven months to 31 October 2023** – Noted.

**(c) Council to approve Purchase Order for Christmas Lights Contract.**

**Resolved:** to approve the Purchase Order for Christmas Lights Contract.

**(d) Council to approve Additional Christmas Lights Order.**

**Resolved:** to approve the Christmas Lights Order.

**(e) Wages Increase** – Noted.

**(f) Council to receive Quarterly Finance Check – Q2 23/24** – Noted.

**(g) Council to arrange date for informal budget meeting.**

**Resolved:** to have an informal meeting on Tuesday 28 November 2023 at 4.30pm.

#### **105/24 Environment/Public Realm:**

**(a) Community Action Team Enforcement.** Noted.

**(b) Community Action Team Public Realm** - The Clerk updated the Council on issues that the CAT team had been dealing with recently on top of their regular job schedule. These included cutting back the hedge on Hazel Way and Colliford Drive to widen the footpath, maintaining the flowerbeds and the area around the Priorslee clock and put up the Remembrance Day Poppies. The Council contributed additional areas of concern within the Parish that they would like the CAT team to improve. These were the 'Kissing Gate' on the miners Walk and litter picking on Gatcombe Way.

#### **106/24 CCTV:**

CCTV Policy and Surveillance Privacy Impact Statement for 2023/24 –

**Resolved:** to approve the CCTV Policy and Surveillance Privacy Impact Statement for 2023/24.

**107/24 Disabled Access to the Flash:** Cllr Thomas updated the Council on his meeting with TWC to improve the access to the Flash –

**Resolved:** The Clerk to research this further.

**108/24 Christmas Lights:** Verbal update from the Christmas Lights Working Group: The Pole in St Georges Square is being erected this week, festive Isolator switches are due to be fitted by the contractor next week.

Festoon lights have arrived for the Flash and St Georges Square, 11 additional features are due to arrive tomorrow and the artificial Christmas Tree for Priorslee has arrived at Lakeside Plant Centre. The Christmas Lights contractor has commenced work in St Georges and Priorslee this week. Thanks were expressed to the working group for all their hard work.

**109/24 Gower Project:** Verbal update on project from Gower Working Group: Cllr Cadman was able to update the Council following the last Gower Working Group Meeting. Structural works are still ongoing to the wall on Walker Crescent, storm and foul drainage have been installed to the south end of the building and gas, water and electricity works are due to commence week beginning 20 November 23.

#### **110/24 Community Projects & Events:**

**(a) Report from the Community Projects & Events Officer** – Noted.

**(b) Fish & Chip Supper** – Noted.

**(c) Loneliness** – Verbal update given – Noted.

**(d) Coach Trip Policy.**

**Resolved:** to approve the updated Coach Trip Policy.

**(e) WI Site:** Verbal update was given explaining that Gillian Denning from the Safer Stronger Communities had taken the lead on this project and work to clear the site was being undertaken by the probation service.

**(f) TWC Warm Space** – Council to consider running a warm space over winter 2023 with the help of volunteers – Noted.

**111/24 Health & Safety:**

- a. Fire Risk Assessment completed – Noted
- b. Rospa Safety Inspection Reports (Freeston Avenue Play Area & Muga) – The report was received, and the Clerk was instructed to action any repairs required.
- c. Rocker – Seesaw/Standing at Freeston Avenue Play Area – The report was received, and the Clerk was instructed to action any repairs required.

**112/24 Correspondence received:**

**Request from residents to create footpath** leading to Priorslee Clock from current footpath.

**Resolved:** that the Clerk is to gather quotations to create a pathway leading up to the clock from the footpath running parallel to Priorslee Avenue.

**113/24 Date of Next Meeting** –Tuesday 19 December 2023

The Meeting closed at 9.30pm

Chairman.....19.12.23