



St Georges & Priorslee Annual Meeting
Held on Tuesday 21st May 2024 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, S. Harrison, J. Little, J. Smart, P. Thomas, G. Singh

Also Present: Seven Electors of the Parish, K. Southgate (Parish Clerk & RFO), C. Lane (Deputy Clerk), 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 21st March 2023

Resolved: that the Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 21st March are a correct record. The Minutes were signed by the Chairman.

3. Presentation on the work of the Parish Council during 2023/24

Welcome by the Chair: As Chair of the Parish Council, it is my great pleasure to welcome you to our Annual Parish meeting. This past year has been a time of growth and vibrant activity within our parish, and I am excited to share the highlights with you. We have had a staffing restructure and welcomed our new Clerk & Responsible Finance Officer Kate to the team, enhancing our ability to serve you effectively. Kate brings a wealth of experience and dedication to the role, ensuring smooth administrative operations. We also have Catherine our Deputy Clerk and Projects & Events Manager who collaborates with the Clerk to assist in streamlining our processes and improve our responsiveness, and we have Jess who is now our Projects and Events assistant as well as being the Parish Support Officer. This position has been instrumental in both ensuring the Parish is maintained to a high standard and to assist with the planning and execution of our community events and initiatives.

Community Projects and Events: Our Parish has enjoyed a variety of engaging events over the last 12 months most notably the Kings Coronation Event which was held in May last year to celebrate the Coronation of the King and Queen consort. Other events we held last year included two coach trips. In August we organised a delightful coach trip to Llandudno, and in November, we visited the Christmas market in Chester, both of which were well-attended and enjoyed by all. We attended the St Georges Partnership St Georges Day Event in April and the Priorslee Residents Association Summer Fayre in June. We held an Alice in Wonderland themed Cream Tea & Bingo social in July, as well as

our longstanding Fish & Chips Supper event in October. We took part in the Macmillan Coffee Morning in September and helped out with the Christmas Lights switch on in December.

As always, our weekly free coffee morning runs on a Thursday, which provides a wonderful opportunity for residents to connect and socialise and everyone is welcome to attend. We have welcomed new regular users to the Parish Rooms such as The Citizens Advice who offer appointments at the Parish Centre which may be easier for residents to get to, as well as hosting Telford and Wrekin Councils Community HUB who also provide residents with appointments here at the Parish Centre for their convenience. Age UK have just started to run a new Coffee & Crafting Club once a month here which is so popular it is currently fully booked.

Community Grants: Our Parish is fortunate to have many vibrant and active community groups that contribute significantly to the wellbeing of our community. Recognising their invaluable work, the Parish Council has a grants programme to support these groups in their efforts. This year the Parish Council has supported St Georges Cricket club to contribute towards new pitch covers, St Georges Partnership who used their grant to provide both a St Georges Day event in April and a Christmas lights switch on in December. St Georges Primary School PTFA also received a grant to improve the school garden. If you are part of a group in the Parish, we encourage you to apply for a grant as we believe that by working together, we can make our Parish a great place to live, work and grow.

Gower Project: The Gower will be a key initiative for our Parish and during the monthly updates at the Parish Council meetings we have heard that construction work is well underway with the hope that we will be holding our next Annual meeting there. 2024 will be a busy time for the Parish Council as we prepare to make the Gower a welcoming and accessible space for all members of the community. As the year goes on, we will continue to seek input from the community to ensure the facility meets the needs of our Parish. We look forward to celebrating this milestone together and making full use of the opportunities it brings.

Enhancing Our Environment: We have taken steps to look after and maintain our Parish through various ways such as the installation of forty-three hanging baskets throughout the parish, adding colour and cheer to our streets. Community litter picks have been organised to keep our parish clean and green. These events were a great success, and we plan to organise more this year. We maintain a number of flower beds within the parish as well as having our own man with a van available for two days a week, who is able to tackle environmental issues swiftly and safely. Not only do we have access to our own community Action Team (or CAT) we also have influence over our Neighbourhood Enforcement Officers (or NEO's) who you may have seen patrolling the parish. Our Free lawn mowing service for elderly residents is very popular and is due to start soon. This helps keep the area looking tidy as well as giving peace of mind to our parishioners who are unable to manage their lawns themselves.

Enhanced Online Presence: Website and social media training has proved beneficial in offering more timely updates and to facilitate easier communication between the Council and residents. We still provide information relating to both the Parish Council and local groups via our newsletter which is distributed three times a year, our newsletters are

essential in keeping you updated on council activities, upcoming events, and important community news so please read them. We held “meet your Councillor” events and are planning more for this year, so that residents are able to come and meet their local councillor and discuss any issues they may have. As always though, residents are able to get in touch with the Parish Council either directly or via the Clerk using phone or email, office opening times are normally Monday to Thursday 9am – 3pm. We also regularly update our nine noticeboards that are dotted around the Parish, these are updated with Council news as well as other local groups and events information. They are all open fronted, purposely so that anyone is able to put up information themselves for things like local clubs and groups etc.

Looking ahead as we look forward to the coming year, the Parish Council remains dedicated to serving you and continuing to make our community a wonderful place to live. We are excited about the projects and events planned for the future and welcome your ideas and participation.

Finally, I want to thank my fellow Councillors all of which give up their time for free. Together with the support of residents, we can achieve great things for our Parish.

Warm regards,

Cllr Richard Overton

Chair of the Parish Council

4. Parishioners’ opportunity to discuss local matters with Councillors

Electors asked questions or made comments as follows:

- A recent anti-social incident that took place in the centre of St Georges was brought to the attention of the room. The victim enquired if there was anything that the Parish Council could do about it? The Chairman of the Parish Council commented that any incidents of anti-social behaviour need to be reported to the police in the first instance. This can be done calling 101 if it is not an emergency, The Chairman stated that the more reports the police get in the same area the more likely they will increase their presence there.
- A resident enquired if there was any funding to provide mobile Speed Indicator Devices (SID’s) that could be positioned within the parish. There was also discussion about the number of boy racers that were using the A4640 (Redhill way) from time to time having been moved on from other areas.
- Discussions were also had regarding the number of motorbikes seen riding through Priorslee and that fact that unless the local policing team see them in the act not much can be done.

The meeting closed at 7.18 p.m.

Chairman.....

Date.....

