

ST GEORGES & PRIORSLEE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES

of

**The Meeting held on
Tuesday 16th February 2016 at
St George's & Priorslee Parish Centre**

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

In Attendance: G Bould, S McGavin and seven members of the public

157/16 **Public Question Time**

The problem of wheelie bins, some with broken lids causing obstruction on the pavements outside businesses in Church Street was raised. The Parish Council advised contact with Telford and Wrekin Council who are responsible for litter bins and litter collection.

158/16 **Apologies**

An apology for absence were received from Councillor S Ali (Work commitment)

159/16 **Declarations of Interest**

(a) Planning :

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

160/16 **Guest Speaker: Graham Bould – Albion Bank Regeneration**

The Chairman welcomed Graham Bould to the meeting to provide an update regarding the Albion Bank in St Georges.

Mr Bould reported that two meetings have so far been held in the Albion Public House looking to see what package of regeneration may happen for such a key open space as the Albion Bank.

Telford and Wrekin Council Landscape Officers have looked at the site to assess the possibility for introducing sport and social activities.

Lord Stafford and the Borough Council are in the early stages of addressing the ownership issues regarding the land.

Margaret Wilkinson of Accord Housing is looking at the potential of the site.

Mr Bould said it was important to investigate what the land could be used for and suggested a Planning for Real exercise be carried out to establish desires for the use of the land.

There is no formal paper, the point of this exercise being to mark the idea in the public arena and gain Parish Council support for the prospect of applying to Awards For All which the Parish Council is entitled to apply for. Mr Bould said that he would write the Application Form at no charge.

Mr Bould then invited Councillors to raise any concerns:

Mr Bould was asked his background and replied that he works for Pices, has lived in St Georges and now lives in Dawley.

Asked about Pices, Mr Bould said that Pices had submitted a bid for St Georges Pride in the High Street but as yet no contracts have been signed. He is also working with the St Georges Partnership.

When asked what cost there would be to the Parish Council, Mr Bould replied that there would be no financial cost and voluntary time can be classed as match funding.

Planning for Real would be part of the Application, looking at the local demographics and asking Residents for engagement.

When asked about the time scale, Mr Bould replied that if the Parish Council agree that this is a journey they wish to proceed on, he could start the process. The Application itself will take an eight to ten week period with a result later in 2016.

Concerns were expressed regarding the stability of the land and the fact that the former WI building had been refused Planning Permission. Mr Bould replied that Self Help doesn't require a base as it is built on stilts which is one possibility. Mr Bould felt that the community need to be challenged to see if there are possibilities.

The Chairman thanked Mr Bould for giving his time to attend the meeting.

Resolved: that the Clerk add an item to the March Parish Council Agenda to discuss the proposal to apply for an Awards For All grant to regenerate the Albion Bank.

161/16 **Guest: Sue McGavin**

The Chairman welcomed Sue McGavin to the meeting to provide an update on the progress of the Citizen Engagement Project.

Sue McGavin reported that the Community Worker is carrying out listenings and supporting project development in the community- encouraging people to do community things for themselves. They analyse data and provide the Parish Council with local intelligence at macro data level in the area street by street.

They are helping businesses work together to grow the High Street. They have helped local residents set up Shropshire Loves Community Interest Company and give ongoing support to help them get going.

They have made two successful bids totalling £40,203 on behalf of the Gower Heritage and Enterprise Group to improve the area.

Streets so far covered in St Georges include Freestone Avenue, Albion Street, Urban Villas, The Nab, the Old Toll Gate and New Street.

In Priorslee, streets covered include, Enerdale Close, Derwent Drive, Ullswater Close, Coniston Drive, Wordsworth Way, Windemere Drive, Silvermere and Buttermere Drive.

Residents have been asked if they have any concerns about the area and have responded some with no concerns, others consider there are poor facilities and that the Flash is in poor condition.

Looking to the months ahead it is hoped to encourage local residents to form a Gower Radio station.

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A Survey is being undertaken and to date 200 surveys have gone out to the public and 80 have been completed. They highlight that people desire change in Community Services, Parking and Safer Roads, Access (Paths and Open spaces) and Events in the community.

They have helped to set up a website in the local café.

They worked in Donnington on a project to encourage Army and RAF families to become involved in the Gower project.

Sue McGavin stated that the exercise is not putting up expectations, just an opportunity to highlight concerns. Where people are interested in taking action to change things, they will support them.

When asked where the money was coming from Sue McGavin replied that where you have interested groups they put their time in for free. People generate money themselves often through Awards for All.

When asked what added value are organisations providing that Councillors cannot do, Sue McGavin replied that they drive things forward at a quicker rate.

Commenting on Locality Grants, Sue McGavin said that the aim of Locality Grants is to build resilient communities to help themselves. That money comes from Central Government through several organisations.

It was felt that there is a need to be proactive as over time people become complacent.

When asked how often progress reports will be received, Sue McGavin replied that she is happy to provide an update when requested.

The Chairman thanked Sue McGavin for attending the meeting.

162/16 **MINUTES**

RESOLVED: that the Minutes of the meeting held on 25th January 2016, having been previously circulated, be signed by the Chairman as a true record.

163/15 **Matters Arising from the Minutes**

(a) **Parking London Road**

The Clerk reported that she had reported the problem of cars parking on the grass verges in London Road by parents depositing and collected children from school to the Police who had promised to monitor the situation more closely as staffing allowed. The Borough Councillors reported that the Highways Department dependent on available funding, were going to look at laying tarmac where possible to replace the verges.

(b) **Parking on approach road to Priorslee University from Priorslee Avenue**

It was reported that the land in question is owned by the University and that the Enforcing Estates Manager has confirmed that action to prevent parking cannot be enforced.

(c) **Citizen's Engagement**

Resolved: that due to confidential nature regarding the Agreement, this item be moved to the end of the meeting and the Press and Public be excluded prior to discussion.

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164/16 **Planning**

- (a) Planning Applications

Resolved: that the following recommendations be forwarded to Telford and Wrekin Council:

App No TWC/2016/0101
Site Lakeside Plant Centre, Woodhouse Lane, Priorslee
Proposed Dev. Change of use of Plant and Garden Centre to mixed plant and garden centre and animal park. (Retrospective)

Recommendation Recommend approval

App No TWC/2016/0125
Site Land at Junction of Rookery Road/Moss Road Wrockwardine Wood
Proposed Dev Erection of 21 Apartments and three dwellings

Recommendation Recommend refusal on the grounds that it would be overdevelopment of the site and would increase traffic unacceptably.

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

App No	Proposed Development	Decision
i. TWC/2015/1155	Extension of Telecommunications Mast Limekiln Bank	Determination Granted

165/16 **Accounts**

Resolved: that the following accounts be paid

<u>Name</u>	<u>Particulars</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Cheque No</u>
K I James	Salary (Feb)	1202.17	SO
Inland Revenue	Income Tax and NI	427.42	11064
J Ellis	Wages (Feb)	205.20	11065
K I James	Broadband	9.25	11066
Rialtas RBS	Software Maintenance Accounts	133.20	11067
Lanyon & Bowdler	Legal Fees	167.04	11068

166/16 **Parish Matters Leaflet**

The Clerk had circulated copies of the Parish Matters Leaflet by email and the accounts were presented for Design, Printing and Delivery. However, the Council did not approve the Chairman's article in the Leaflet and the Clerk was asked to exchange the article for more items from the Minutes.

Resolved: that the Clerk contact Fleur Able and withdraw the designed leaflet and produce a replacement for delivery in March inserting news items from the Minutes.

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167/16 **Rialtas/RBS Closure of Accounts End of Year**

Resolved: that Rialtas/RBS be employed to carry out the End of Year Closure of Accounts at a cost of £480 plus 45p per mile travel.

168/16 **PET Report**

A copy of the report PET Management meeting held on 8th February 2016 was circulated as follows:

Present: P Pritchard, M Greaves K James, Derek Carr
Issues Raised from Previous Notes

1. **Lych Gates** – Engineer is to carry out full inspection this week.

Path North of Priorslee Flash – Full inspection with Drainage Engineers is taking place on Friday 12th February and Phil Pritchard will give the Clerk a report in time for the Parish Council meeting on 16th February. Jim Barber has pointed out that the outlet pipes are too low and when the water rises in the Flash there is back flooding which is an additional problem. There is almost £5,000 left in this year's PET budget which the Parish Council could contribute towards remedial work which might prove more expensive than first anticipated. Although Telford and Wrekin own the land, the path has not been adopted and there is therefore no maintenance budget for it. Hopefully, revised costs can be considered by the Parish Council.

(The two picnic Benches for Derwent Drive proposed Village Green will be funded from the 2016 PET Budget)

2. Litter Bins – Final bin for Corner of Hockey pitch at rear of Burma Road is to be installed as soon as possible. This is the final bin for the current order.
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. Wooden Footbridge on footpath adjacent to Priorslee Academy leading to Lapwing Gate – and Everglade Road Wooden planks are rotting. – Inspection imminent.
6. Apprentice for 2016 – Currently undertaken advertising process.
7. Bulbs – Kathy to send Phil Pritchard details of the Lions Bulb planting areas in order to advise TWS of the grass cutting requirements for 2016.

(Item 1 above – Path North of Priorslee Flash)

P Pritchard had submitted a report to the Clerk stating that an inspection of the flooded path had taken place with the Engineer who had recommended that a piped French drain to the playing field side of the path, starting where the path starts to flood and running all the way down to the ditch. Some grading work to the surrounding grass, a gully in the lowest part of the tarmac pathway, some regulation of the path surface and clearance of the existing ditches and outlets (cost £8k - £10k) . There is £5k left in the PET budget and the Drainage department can put in £2k and T and W are going to try and find the remaining £3k.

in One issue identified is that from time to time a manhole cover to the left hand side of the path the grass by the ditch, sometimes lifts when the chamber comes under pressure and also floods the path. The Drainage Department also want to try to alleviate this.If they can secure the additional £3k they would like to do this work in May/June this year.

Resolved: that the PET report be adopted.

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169/16 **Grants**

A Schedule of Grant Applications had been circulated to all members.

Resolved: that the following Grants be paid:

1. Dawley Musical Theatre Group – No grant awarded.
2. Wrekin Special Swimming Club - £100
3. Walkabout Wrekin - £200
4. Micks Heart Foundation - £300
5. Ironbridge Gorge Brass Band Festival
6. Friends of Telford Town Park - £250
7. South Telford Gateway Club - £100

170/16 **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.

171/16 **Citizens Engagement**

The Clerk reported on information received from the Internal Auditor relating to the Agreement with and payment of the matched funding to Citizens Engagement for the employment of a Community worker in the Parish for one year.

Resolved: that the agreement be amended to run for one year to 31st October 2016 and that a payment of £2,500 be made today and the final payment of £2,500 considered for payment at the October Parish Council meeting.

Chairman..... Date