



**St Georges & Priorslee Annual Parish Meeting
Tuesday 17th April 2018 at
St Georges & Priorslee Parish Centre**

Present: Councillor R Overton (Chairman)

Councillors: Mrs J Overton, S Overton, Mrs B Richards, R Williams, J Minor, S Ali, D Wright, Mrs V Fletcher and I Fletcher

In attendance: W Tonge (Parish Clerk) and A Atkinson (Community Projects & Events Officer)

1. Guest speakers

The Chairman welcomed John and Heather who are volunteers for The Samaritans in Telford. John thanked the Parish Council for their support for the grant application bid. John gave an insight into the history of the Samaritans and the nature of the work that both he and Heather carried out on a voluntary basis and highlighted the concerning increase in the number of males between 40-44 years of age requiring support and demand the service has seen to support university students in crisis. John and Heather emphasised the need to recruit new volunteers and provided information leaflets should anyone wish to consider becoming one. They expressed how very rewarding their work was, and how the induction and training programme for new volunteers is to a good standard that fully prepares volunteers for most eventualities. Heather gave a number of examples of the nature of the calls they dealt with. The Chairman thanked both John and Heather for giving their time to attend the meeting and provide the Parish Council with such useful information.

3. Annual report of the work of the Parish Council by Chairman, Cllr Richard Overton

The Chairman presented the following report:

It is a particularly warm welcome to you all on the 30th Annual Parish Meeting of St Georges & Priorslee Parish, I am pleased to deliver to you my report and presentation on the work of the Parish Council during the previous year.

Councillors

Following the resignation of Cllr Simon Malpass, the vacancy for St Georges East Ward resulted in an election being held in March 2018 with Mr David Wright being elected to the Parish Council, I would like to formally welcome him, and look forward to his contribution in developing our aspirations for the Parish in the future. I would also like to give a special mention to Cllr's John Minor and Roy Williams who have been members of the Parish Council for 30 years, their commitment and dedication to the Parish Council is much

appreciated – thank you both. Thanks must also go to my colleagues who have given up their time to sit on the various committee's and attend external meetings to represent the Council on.

Staff

This year the parish council recruited Audrey Atkinson into the position of Parish Community Events & Projects Officer on a part-time basis. Audrey has 'hit the ground running' she has been busy getting to know the community and supporting the Council to deliver local projects, organise events, and raising the profile of the parish council within the community. We have continued to commit to an agreement with T&WC for a full-time PET operative and apprentice post, this commitment demonstrates our ongoing support in ensuring the local environment is well looked after.

Parish Centre

Improving the parish centre has been a key priority this year and recognised it was in need of some refurbishment. The centre has been redecorated, new carpets and flooring fitted throughout, Wi-fi installed, collapsible tables purchased to allow more space. Income received from room hire, has increased by over 50% which is a very good indication our hirers are enjoying the new look, and feel of the building.

Environment/Highways

The Parish Council have continued to work with Telford & Wrekin Council on a number of matters, including an improved programme of works carried out on our street lights. The street lights received an LED upgrade, the improvements will make significant savings over the next three years. Reporting of potholes, littering, fly-tips, speeding, parking, highways and general concerns raised by Councillors and residents continues to be carried out using the 'My Telford' reporting system on a weekly basis. Our dog fouling campaign – Nine 'angry eyes' signs were strategically placed in local dog fouling 'hot spots', and the offer of free dog poo bags contributed in a decrease in the number of complaints we receive on this issue. We know the problem will not go away until dog owners take responsibility to clear up their dog's mess but we will continue to find ways to address this issue. Speeding and parking around our Parish continues to be an issue, we are particularly concerned about Priorslee Avenue and parking around local schools. Again, we continue to work with the Borough Council and local policing team on both issues.

Access to School Transport

On behalf of local parents we continued to raise the matter of School Transport being unavailable to local children attending the Holy Trinity Academy. As a result of the parish council liaising with senior management at T&WC a new scheme has been introduced offering places on coaches which have spare seats available, we were pleased to receive positive feedback from local parents for our support.

Parish Plan 2017/2018

We have made good progress in delivering most of our key objectives set out in the parish plan, a number of examples are:

Parish Gateway signs- 10 new 'Rich in heritage' signs have been located across the Parish to help raise the profile of the local area.

Mining/Industrial Heritage Memorial

We have agreed in principle to take on the ownership of an area to site a Mining & Industrial heritage monument to acknowledge our local history. A Landscape Architect has been commissioned, and has been working with members of our Parish Plan Committee to produce a suitable design to proposed area, the final design will be ready in May 2018.

Giant poppies

100 giant poppies were purchased to support the RBL scheme, the poppies were placed across the parish, we have received some very positive comments from residents. The scheme will be extended this year following requests for additional poppies.

Events

Once again, staff and councillors organised the annual trip to the seaside where over 180 senior citizens enjoyed a wonderful day out to Llandudno.

The annual Christmas lights switch-on and St Georges Day events both supported by the Parish Council, were well attended by local families. Many thanks to the members of St Georges Partnership for organising them. A new programme of 9 planned events is in place for the forthcoming year including a Summer Fete which will be held in June on Priorslee Village Green.

Community Support

The Parish Council continue to Grant Fund local bodies three times a year at their meetings in February, June and October, 11 groups received funding this year to support them in their work.

Communication

Council continues to circulate parish newsletter 3 times a year and is distributed to every household within the in and around magazine. The parish website has been redesigned and a parish facebook page, proves to be a popular form for us to post out news and information.

Finally, I would like to thank my fellow Councillors for their support during the last year and our Staff, Wendy our Clerk, Jess our Centre Booking Clerk and Audrey our CP&E Officer for their hard work and commitment in ensuring our Parish Council has run smoothly and supporting us to deliver our parish plan over the past twelve months.

3. Questions to Councillors

(i) Speeding along Priorslee Avenue

Concern was raised regarding the Speeding issues along Priorslee Avenue, particularly following an incident involving two vehicles that had recently happened and people reporting a 'near miss'. The Chairman replied that Telford & Wrekin Council were fully aware of the problem and a programme of improvement to resolve the issue was planned in future works. Suggestions for improvement include installing a Zebra Crossing and putting in place a 20 MPH speed limit. The Clerk was asked to put the Zebra crossing suggestion on the Agenda for the next Parish Meeting.

(ii) Road surface along Holyhead Road

Concern was raised for the terrible condition of the road surface along the Holyhead Road and the question was asked if anything can be done to make improvements. The Chairman replied he had already met on site with Telford & Wrekin Council Highways Officers to show them the concerns and he was informed repairs will be done with the limitations of the Councils budget over the next few months. Cllr Williams reiterated the importance of ensuring when the new housing development work commences the utility companies are liaised with closely to avoid any confusion and ensure a co-ordinated approach was carried out.

(iii) Parking by Parents of School Children in Grove Street

The problem being caused by Parents dropping off and collecting their children from St Georges Primary School was highlighted. The Chairman confirmed that

the recent signs the Parish Council had installed on Snedshill Way have been very effective and requested the Clerk purchase a further two to be installed for Grove Street.

Cllr John Minor wished to acknowledge those long standing Councillors who gave their time and commitment with the Parish Council when it was first established 30 years ago, and who are now sadly were now no longer with us.

The Chairman thanked the resident for attending the meeting.

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

DRAFT