

Minutes of the Hurstbourne Priors Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> of September 2024 in the Hurstbourne Priors Village Hall at 6.30pm.

Present: Cllr Mrs C Read – Chair  
Cllr Mr P Smail  
Cllr Mrs L MacGregor  
Cllr Mr T Crutchfield  
Borough Councillor Mr S Carr  
Richard Waterman – Parish Clerk  
Members of the Public – Mr Philip Lockett and Mr M Smith.

Apologies: Cllr Mrs S Wyatt-Tilby – Vice Chair and Cllr Mr A Milne.

**WELCOME.**

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**DECLARATION OF INTEREST.**

There were no declarations of interest recorded.

**PARISH COUNCIL VACANCY.**

The Parish Council still has one vacancy.

**ST MARY'S HILL.**

The Chairman welcomed Mr Philip Lockett to the meeting. Mr Philip Lockett introduced himself and stated that he has been in contact with the Chair regarding the question of safer pedestrian access to St Mary Bourne.

Mr Philip Lockett addressed the meeting:

**Safer Pedestrian Access to St Mary Bourne**

Living in Hurstbourne Priors, we are part of the community living opposite Vitacress, comprising the properties at St Mary's Hill, Cressington and the Viaduct Cottages. All told we are now a growing community of approximately 50 residential family properties.

St Mary Bourne, is the closest location for us to access local amenities, however, the access route for pedestrians is extremely unsafe. There are no direct footpaths so pedestrian access has to be via the road.

This road is narrow and has several blind bend points which means drivers have little or no time to react if and when they see you. There are also no safe refuge points for pedestrians as vehicles pass; those more vulnerable such as elderly, with pushchairs, children or dog walkers are at an even greater risk.

In summary the lack of safe pedestrian access to the village is a problem and there are mounting concerns that it is only a matter of time before someone is seriously injured or there is a fatality on this road. This is also either prohibiting access to the village or forcing people to drive neither of these are beneficial to our community, St Mary Bourne or the environment.

We would like to bring this to the attention of the local council and regional authorities and request that they pay immediate attention to this issue.

To be clear we are not asking for the world here...some may be under the impression that we are requesting a concrete footpath all the way from the Viaducts to St Mary Bourne - this is simply not the case. Nor are we complaining about where we live, living in the countryside nor any other aspect of living here...

All we are simply asking for is improved safety for pedestrian access to St Mary Bourne including but not limited to the other footpaths entrances, GP Surgery, Village Pubs, Shop, Baby Classes, Playground, Bournefest etc.

- During the original planning phase for St Mary's Hill Hurstbourne Priors Parish Council stated and documented that it was their firm view that a 30mph speed limit should be adopted here - this never happened even though there are now nearly 50 family homes here who need to use the road for pedestrian access?
- There is no signage on the road warning of pedestrians.
- There are areas owned by local business and landowners bordering the road that could be used to help provide safe pedestrian access for part of the route - if approached by the councils they may be inclined to help the community as we are their Neighbour's.
- This also means less traffic in SMB whilst promoting a greener healthier lifestyle.
- The St Mary's Hill Development removed what may be regarded as an environmentally unfriendly industrial process from the local area. The developer also made a significant investment into the local community) although ultimately this was paid for by the people that now live here) investments included Off Site Affordable Housing, Primary and Secondary Education, Local Sport (cricket) and Council legal costs. Overall total exceeded £1 million.

A local petition has been started to raise awareness and support for this issue. We are not seeking many hundreds or thousands of signatures, primarily it's for the residents of the properties in St Mary's, Cressington and Viaduct to express their views on this matter and within 72 hours of the petition being posted over two thirds of the properties located here have already signed.

The Parish Council discussed this issue at great length and pledged their full support on providing a safe pedestrian access to St Mary Bourne. The Chair thanked Mr P Luckett for coming and stated that there is a vacancy on the Parish Council if he would be interested in joining. Mr P Luckett said he would think about it!

#### **NEW PERMISSIVE FOOTPATH.**

Mr M Smith reported that he had no news on the requested additional permissive Footpath on the Testbourne Estate. Mr M Smith informed the Parish Council that he has spoken Mrs Tachi about the request and she has asked why the new footpath has been requested. This was explained and Mr M Smith will report back to Mrs Tachi.

Mr M Smith reported that additional 'Toad' signs will be put up in Tufton this year. A general discussion on Tufton Lane to highlight the various problems that have been reported to Hampshire Highways.

The Chair thanked Mr M Smith for coming to give an up-date.

## **BOROUGH COUNCILLOR MR S CARR.**

Borough Councillor Mr S Carr reported on the following issues:

- Issues with St. Mary's Hill are on-going, and he is keeping the pressure on Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council to sort them out.
- The new Government has increased the provision of new Houses by 37%. This is causing problems with the new Local Plan that was nearing completion. The Government plans 10 new Towns and will release the proposed sites over the coming months.
- The Government are looking at the policies for Solar and Wind Farms. Cllr Mr S Carr stated that he will be watching for any changes in Policy.
- Basingstoke and Deane are working on their Budget for 2025/2026.

## **TUFTON – Cllr Mrs L MacGregor.**

Cllr Mrs L MacGregor reported that the Tufton Land Grab is ongoing. The Resident concerned has now erected 'black netting' adjacent to the riverbank and has been asked to remove it.

Cllr Mrs L MacGregor reported that a car overturned on the A34 Slip Road and has subsequently been removed.

## **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING.**

The Chair signed the minutes of the July Meeting as a true record.

## **FINANCE.**

### **FINANCIAL REPORT FOR August and September 2024**

#### **INCOME.**

	<b>£</b>
Cricket Hire and Deposit – R Elwes	200.00
Olympic Event Tickets	500.00
	<b><u>£700.00</u></b>

#### **EXPENDITURE.**

	<b>£</b>
Eon Electricity	28.90
R.N. Waterman	600.00
TVBC	389.68
Hiscox	215.36
Clanville Drintech	200.00
Premier Grounds Maintenance	34.20
Business Stream	56.36
Mr R Ewles	100.00
Orogin Supplies	548.04
	<b><u>£2,172.54</u></b>

Bank Account Balance after above movements = £16,244.30

Working Capital	= £4,256.03
General Reserves	= £5,000.00
Play Area	= £1,193.75
Pavilion	= £5,794.52
	= <b><u>£16,244.30</u></b>

### **2023/2024 AUDIT REPORT.**

The Clerk was pleased to report that the 2023/2024 Audit has been signed off by the External Auditor. The External Auditor BDO LLP have made the following comment:

The smaller authority has disclosed that it has complied with Section 1, Assertion 3, that there are no matters of actual or potential non-compliance with laws, regulations and Proper Practices. However, the Council does not have an email address that belongs to the Council.

This has been noted and an email address will be set up on the Hurstbourne Priors Parish Council Website.

### **PLANNING.**

There has been a further planning application for the on-going development at Dipper Barn, Tufton.

The Clerk was asked to contact Basingstoke and Deane Planners to get an update on the Enforcement issue raised earlier in the year.

### **PAVILION REFURBISHMENT.**

Unfortunately, the Olympics Fund-raising event had to be cancelled due to the poor weather. The Chair will contact those who bought tickets.

Community Infrastructure Grant – The Parish Council will apply in the new year. The Clerk has informed the Community Infrastructure team at Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council that we were not ready with all the information they required to be submitted with the application.

The CIF Team understood and said that they have been oversubscribed with applications this September and the competition was fierce for the funding.

### **FOOTPATHS.**

The Chair reported that most of the footpaths are under water due to the recent heavy rainfall we have experienced.

### **VILLAGE HALL.**

The Clerk wished to confirm that the Parish Council approved the Village Hall purchase of the new shed.

### **CLOSE OF THE MEETING.**

The Chair thanked everyone for coming and closed the meeting.

### **DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING.**

Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> of November 2024 at 6.30pm in the Village Hall