



St Georges & Priorslee Annual Meeting
Held on Tuesday 21st March 2023 at
The School Hall, St Georges C of E Primary School, London Road, St Georges

Councillors Present: R Overton (Chairman), R Cadman, E Dabbs, V Fletcher, S Handley, B Richards, M Warner, R Williams, D Wright

Also Present: Eight Electors of the Parish, PCSO W Jervis, V Brain (Parish Clerk), C Lane (Community events & projects Officer), 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 17th May 2022

Resolved: that the Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 17th May 2022 are a correct record. The Minutes were signed by the Chairman.

3. Report of the work of the Parish Council during 2022/23 presented by Chairman, Cllr Richard Overton

Introduction

The last twelve months have been 'business as usual' for the Parish Council following the constraints caused by Covid restrictions.

I would like to thank my fellow members for their continued commitment and enthusiasm for the work of the parish council throughout the year.

The Parish Centre

The Parish Centre has resumed all of its pre-pandemic hirings together with the addition of some new groups who have started to use the Parish Room. These new groups include a Sewing group and in recent months a St Georges Parent and Toddler Group. We provide a venue for the Adult Social Care team for parishioners to access advice and have assessments with social care professionals in the Parish Centre on a Wednesday, and the Citizens Advice Bureau have started to provide outreach advice by appointment at the Parish Centre.

In November, the Parish Council was awarded grant funding to set up 'Meet and Eat' on Mondays - a warm space where people can meet during the cold winter months and get involved in craft sessions, read magazines, make jigsaws and play board games, or simply get together for a chat. Everyone is very welcome until the last session on Monday 3rd April which is when the grant funding from Telford and Wrekin Council comes to an end. A light lunch is provided by Council colleagues and a huge thanks to them for providing this service at such short notice. Jess and Catherine have completed level 2 food hygiene training and together with the Clerk, make sure that adequate food supplies are available for Monday morning. Although 'Meet and Eat' is due to finish soon, the popular drop in coffee mornings will continue to run on Thursdays.

Events

A variety of events have taken place since the last Annual Parish meeting.

Senior Citizen's coach trips to Llandudno and Worcester, the Jubilee event in the grounds of Priorslee Academy, a fish & chips and bingo evening, the Macmillan Coffee Morning and the St Georges Day and Christmas Lights events which were organised by the St Georges Partnership, with financial and practical

support provided by the Parish Council. Worcester was chosen as a new destination for a coach trip in November which was very much enjoyed as residents were able to enjoy visiting the cathedral and the array of shops in Worcester town centre.

The Jubilee event was particularly successful and well attended. Only a few months later the Parish Council joined the rest of the nation in mourning the death of HM Queen Elizabeth II on 8th September 2022. A book of condolence was available in the Parish Centre during the days leading up to the Funeral. Remembrance Day was marked with around 200 lamp post poppies in various locations, an Act of Remembrance at the memorial gates in St Georges and at the Priorslee Clock, and a Remembrance Service at St Georges Parish Church.

All parish events, whether they are held in St Georges or Priorslee are for the benefit of everyone living in the parish.

The Environment

In November 2022 Telford and Wrekin Council launched their Safer Stronger Communities initiative for St Georges – a project that aims to help residents feel safer and more confident in their homes and community by improving social and physical aspects. It also looks at the physical environment where CCTV and better lighting can be introduced.

The parish council contributes to Telford & Wrekin Council Community Action Teams for the public realm and enforcement, sharing the teams with Wrockwardine Wood & Trench Parish Council. Roger and Michael work for this Parish for two days a week and have worked hard keeping the parish clean and tidy. They have also been involved in replanting the Sensory Garden at the Priorslee Village Green and will soon be preparing the ground for a new garden at St Georges Primary School.

Enforcement Officers make frequent visits to locations within the parish checking on parking, litter, fly tips, dog fouling and any anti-social behaviour. They can also issue fixed penalty notices.

The lawn-mowing service, using a local gardening contractor, continued successfully with 34 households receiving the service in 2022, with very positive feedback having been received following the circulation of a questionnaire to residents.

The parish council paid for a display of hanging baskets in the centre of St Georges and alongside the Flash in Priorslee in 2022.

A new flower bed was created in Priorslee alongside the Priorslee Clock. This was funded by 'Councillor Pride' money, money received by Telford and Wrekin Councillors who also serve on the Parish Council. It is allocated to them in order to enhance the public realm in their parishes. This money was also used to replant the sensory garden on the Priorslee Village Green and plans are afoot for the replanting of the borders in the Square of St Georges.

A bus shelter was removed in Priorslee Road in St Georges in order to address concerns over anti-social behaviour in St Georges, and plans are underway to replace a further two bus shelters in the Parish.

Grants have been received from Telford & Wrekin Council as follows:

Grants adding up to £13,650 have been received from Telford & Wrekin Council during the year, including a grant of £2,000 towards the cost of running the warm space 'Meet & Eat' and a grant of £2,000 for the Coronation event to be held on 8th May 2023.

Parish Grants Awarded

The parish grants budget was £4,500 in 2022/3. Grants were allocated to eight organisations during the course of the year (total amount £4,229).

Local organisations are encouraged to apply for grants for eligible projects and activities in 2023/24.

Community Projects

The Parish Council were very pleased to see the new play area constructed by Telford and Wrekin Council at Marrions Hill, the construction of a new Skate Park in Teece Drive, Priorslee and the refurbishment of the Gatcombe Way Play Area. The Parish Council will be working with the Borough Council in providing extra resources to help maintain the Skate Park and keep it free from litter.

New for Christmas 2022, was the installation of new lamppost illuminated features in Gower Street, St Georges.

The Gower Project

On 20th July 2021 the parish council resolved to enter into an Agreement to Lease with Telford & Wrekin Council. The solicitor who was appointed by the Parish Council has been working tirelessly to ensure the Parish's interests are well looked after, and the Agreement to Lease was finally signed on 14 March 2023. Work will continue on site and it is hoped that we shall be moving in to the new accommodation during the autumn of 2024. The site will provide a new, larger community space, in addition to office space. Voluntary organisations, businesses and groups and societies will be able to enjoy this new facility in a beautiful historical building.

Representing Parishioners' Interests

At every parish council meeting there is an opportunity for members of the public to raise issues that concern them. Over the year this has included, amongst others, problems with obtaining grit bins, dog fouling, road safety, pedestrian safety, and concerns over parking and speeding vehicles. All of these issues have been raised with the relevant authorities on behalf of the residents.

Staff Changes

Beverley Partridge started as the new Deputy Clerk in June 2022 having worked previously as Assistant Clerk at Eccleshall Parish Council.

On behalf of all of the Parish members and residents, I would like to thank the small team of staff, past and present, for their hard work and commitment.

4. Questions to Councillors

Electors asked questions or made comments as follows:

- Concern was expressed that the Limekiln Bank Community Bus that used to run three days a week before the Covid pandemic and which provided very useful public transport between ASDA Donnington, the Limekiln Bank area and Oakengates, is no longer operating. The distance to other bus stops is too far for an older person to walk carrying shopping. The Chair said that he would look into this.
- There was a query about progress on the Gower project. It was explained that there has been a delay since additional enabling works, including strengthening a retaining wall, are required. The main contract is due to start on 19th June 2023. The contract will be for 66 weeks.
- There was a question about the site on Station Hill where the WI building used to be and whether it could be used for allotments. The Clerk was asked to find out the size of the site and whether it would be usable as allotments.
- Concern was raised about the lack of public parking in St Georges. Unfortunately there is no land available for a car park (the possibility of using the WI site was raised, but it is too far from the centre of St Georges). It was queried whether any additional parking spaces were going to be created in Grove Street following trial holes dug by Highways. The Chair said that he would follow it up.
- The new number 102 bus service from Newport to Wellington via Priorslee and the Princess Royal Hospital is a welcome addition to the public transport in Telford. However, concern was raised that this service does not do a detour to East Priorslee, which remains short of bus services. The Chair said that he would pass on this comment to Telford & Wrekin Council.
- In the context of problems with dog fouling in both St Georges and Priorslee, there was a request for dispensers for dog fouling bags. This will be on the agenda for a future Parish Council meeting.
- A request for two replacement benches for the refurbished Gatcombe Way play area will be on the agenda for a future Parish Council meeting.
- Concerns were raised about the poor condition of the surface of Cockshutt Road, speeding in Willows Road and the number of people walking dogs in Willows Road enroute to the Cockshutt (some people are walking multiple dogs, so they may be professional dog walkers). There was a request for some anti dog fouling signs for Willows Road. The Clerk will discuss this with the Enforcement Team.
- There was a question as to whether there is going to be replanting of native trees/hedges on the Nuplace developments in Snedshill to replace trees that have had to be felled because of ash dieback disease. The Clerk will discuss this with the Nuplace project officer.

- There was a comment about the lack of football pitches in St Georges. It was noted that the Priorslee St Georges Football Club plays on the pitches at the Holy Trinity Academy.

The meeting closed at 7.37 p.m.

Chairman.....

Date.....