

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting on Tuesday 14th May 2024

Venue: Stanton Prior Village Hall at 7:00pm

Attendees: Cllr Sally Collins (chair)
Cllr Philip Evans (acting Clerk)
Cllr Sandra Harding
Cllr Richard Lord
Cllr David Roberts
BANES Ward Cllr Matt McCabe

Two members of the Public were present

1. Election of Chair

Cllr Sally Collins was nominated for the position of Chair by Cllr David Roberts, seconded by Cllr Sandra Harding, and was unanimously elected.

Cllr Sally Collins accepted the position and subsequently signed the letter of Acceptance of Office which was countersigned by Cllr Philip Evans, acting as clerk in the absence of Vice Chair Cllr Alistair Hardwick.

2. Election of Vice Chair

Due to Cllr Alistair Hardwick not being present the meeting decided to defer election of Vice Chair until the next full meeting of the Parish Council.

3. Apologies for absence

None received. Noted that Cllr Andrew Bendall and Cllr Alistair Hardwick were not present.

4. Approval of the Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of 9th May 2023

Minutes were agreed and signed. Proposed by Cllr Sandra Harding and seconded by Cllr David Roberts.

5. Matters arising from those minutes

None.

6. Report from the Chair

A full and detailed written report of the achievements since May 2023 was read through with main points highlighted by Cllr Sally Collins (copy of the Chair Report is attached).

Main points of the report were:

- There is now a full complement of Councillors. The only vacancy is that of Parish Clerk.
- Cllr Sally Collins paid tribute to outgoing Clerk Jane Williams for her excellent work and also for her hand over and support after her official leaving date.
- A full one third (33%) of the total Parish Council precept was awarded to the community through S137 grants.
- A fourth community Defibrillator has been installed at Westway Garage.
- A new Notice Board has been installed at Westway Garage.
- A new Parish Council website was constructed and went live on 12th February 2024 with a .gov.uk domain name and full regulatory compliance.
- The faulty street light in West Tynning has been replaced.
- The Local Plan has been in focus in recent months, the new website has been valuable in terms of communication and reach-out to the local community on Local Plan news. Cllr Sally Collins took a moment to thank ward Cllr Matt McCabe for his contribution and guidance during the Consultation Phase of the Local Plan.
- A new crossing point on the A39 at the top of Priston Lane is now approved and will be going ahead in this financial year 2024 – 2025.
- The council is over its planned budget for the year, this was due to variances agreed by the councillors to fund extra S137 grants and replace the obsolete website.
- Cllr Sally Collins gave sincere thanks to the Parish Council team for their support and efforts.

7. Report on Crosswall Orchard Stanton Prior

No report available.

8. Reports by S137 Grant Recipients

A requirement of S137 Grants is that the recipient must report back to the Parish Council how the grant has been spent.

Reports received were:

- **St Peters Church, Marksbury** written report received- £500 spent on Churchyard maintenance. At this point Tony Caisley (Churchwarden) gave an update on the future of the Church. The Church Commission Charity may take over the building, and efforts are being made to find a future for the building and to keep the Churchyard open.
- **Marksbury School PTA** reported that the S137 grant was put towards heater replacement and that all the school heaters were now replaced. They were grateful for the support they received from the Parish Council.

- **Marksbury Snooker and Billiards Club** gave a verbal report that the money had been spent on maintenance and that they were grateful for the support they had received.

Reports were not received from:

- **Marksbury Village Hall**
- **Stanton Prior Village Hall**
- **St Lawrence Church, Stanton Prior**

Cllrs agreed that in future, a S137 Grant will only be awarded if the recipient acknowledges and undertakes to provide a report on how the grant monies have been spent.

Action. Cllr Sally Collins to write to S137 Grant recipients to remind them of their obligation.

9. Beat PCSO Report

A written report was provided by PCSO Paul Thatcher. Key points of that report:

- There was an attempted break in a Westway Garage which was caught on CCTV but the perpetrator(s) escaped.
- Seven cases of Violence against a Person.
- One case of anti social behaviour.

The report will be published on the MPC website alongside these minutes.

10. To Appoint Council Representatives on Parish and other organisation

ALCA as and when availability of Councillors.

11. Financial Matters

- a. To resolve the Parish Council exemption from limited assurance review by the external auditor and to confirm the qualifying criteria is met. Agreed, proposed by Cllr David Roberts and seconded by Cllr Richard Lord.
- b. Audit of accounts 2022/2023. Accounts audited and signed by auditor David Robertson.
- c. Audit 2023/2024 – agreed to continue with David Robertson as auditor.

12. Comments and Questions from residents

Lisa Wilson from European Energy Ltd was in attendance to give an update and received feedback about the Marksbury Plain Solar Farm which is now under construction. Key points of her report:

- Work is well underway and piling has started. Lisa asked that is the piling is disruptive that she would be pleased to received feedback.
- Cllr Sandra Harding reported that 'cut through' traffic was being experienced by Hunstrete. Lisa agreed to investigate this further.
- Lisa gave advanced notice of temporary roadworks during July to complete the underground cable installation. It was noted that schools should be on their summer break

and school buses won't be running. Lisa took an action to check dates of work with school closure at Wellsway School.

- Lisa outlined a Community Benefit award that will be based on the Power Output of the Solar Farm and will be awarded once the solar Farm is in production.

Action Marksbury Parish Council to consider the process for how this award will be administered and managed.

Action Lisa to report to Marksbury Parish Council meeting in July on the details of the award and how it will be allocated.

Cllr sally Collins thanked Lisa for her report to the council and looked forward to speaking with her at the next MPC meeting.

13. Date of Next Annual Meeting

Tuesday 13th May 2025, 7:00pm Stanton Prior Village Hall.

Minutes taken by Cllr Philip Evans