

PILLERTON PRIORS PARISH COUNCIL

**The 216th Meeting of the Pillerton Priors Parish Council was held on
Wednesday 9th July 2025 at 7.30pm Pillerton Priors Village Hall.
All Parishioners were welcome to attend.**

Present: Cllr Michael Nevill (Chair)
Cllr Dave McWhirter (Vice Chair)
Cllr Jo Wilkinson (Treasurer & Responsible Financial Officer (RFO))
Ian Greenall (Clerk)

Cllr David Curtis (WCC) (part of meeting)

Residents 5 Residents were present

Number	Item
1	Chair's welcome – Michael Nevill welcomed everyone to the meeting and the councillors introduced themselves to the audience. He informed the meeting that the vacant seat on the Parish Council had been advertised between the 09/05/2025 and 30/05/2025 as required by election law. As 10 residents had not requested an election to be held, the vacancy has been filled by co-opting Helen Baker to the role.
2	Apologies were received from Cllr Dominic Sant, Cllr Helen Baker, Cllr Malcolm Littlewood (SDC) and one resident.
3	Warwickshire County Council update Councillor David Curtis reported on three funding streams that are currently available. They are the SDC climate change fund, SDC community grant fund which will publish its criteria soon, and the WCC councillors grant fund part one which closes on 20/07/2025. Each WCC councillor has £8,000 to fund projects within their county ward. Therefore David's £8,000 needs to cover 11 parishes. David explained that the County Council was under the leadership of the Reform Party supported by the Conservative County Councillors. The Council will be appointing its new leader on 23/07/2025 following the original leader standing down for medical reasons. Regarding Local Government devolution the County Council preferred the single Warwickshire Unitary Authority. They have produced a report that states this single unitary could save £80m over 5 years where they predict the District and Boroughs preferred two way north and south unitary authorities will only save £7m. However the District and Borough Councils appointed Deloitte to prepare a report and their findings were that a single council would save £20m where the divided council would save £17m. SDC will be holding public consultation in August and September regarding the choice of unitary council. WCC will hold their own consultation before the Councils need to submit their final submission to Government at the end of November.
4	Stratford-on-Avon District Council update Councillor Littlewood was an apology so there was no update.
5	Approval of the minutes of the 215th Parish Council Meeting The Minutes of the 215 th Parish Council Meeting held on 7 th May 2025 were approved and signed by Michael Nevill.

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6	Matters Arising from the Minutes
6.1	Gates at Dickensbury Farm It is understood that Dickensbury Farm has been repossessed so the Planning Enforcement Officer has closed the case. There are currently sheep grazing the fields and a question was raised regarding who owned them.
7	Treasurer's Report Jo Wilkinson gave an overview of quarter one for 2025-26. Half of the annual Parish Precept has been received which was £2,186.50. 5 payments have been made including 3 bank service charges. These total £255 which leaves a balance of £17,475.27. This is a healthy balance but over £10k is Section 106 and CIL.
8	Village Hall Report Dominic Sant as Chair of the Pillerton Priors Village Hall Management Committee submitted a written report. Apologies I cannot be here tonight... here is a brief update for the VH. Many thanks to everyone who attended the Village Hall AGM in May. We had a productive discussion about the activities in the Village Hall over the past year. Here are some highlights from last year: Increased Lettings We've seen an increase in bookings from 134 to 206 over the year. The hall now hosts various activities such as Pickleball, badminton, dog socialisation, and puppy training. Looking ahead to 2025/26, we will also host chicken-keeping sessions. In addition, the Church, Scouts, Guides, and local musicians continue to utilise the hall. We are looking for some art and fitness groups/classes to start up this coming year. If you know any groups that would like to use the hall, do get in contact. Fundraising Success Our fundraising activities, including quiz and bingo evenings, village breakfasts, the pop-up pub, and support at the Pillerton Fete, have raised over £3,800 during the year. We have kicked off this financial year with the Charles Ivin Memorial walk and running several stalls at the Pillerton's Summer fete. The fete was a great success and raised nearly £1400 for hall funds. Many thanks to all involved, the PCC, Fiona and Jonathan Young. It is amazing what can be done when we come together. Unfortunately, due to the inclement weather, we had to cancel the Picnic in the Park on Sunday, July 6th. We will be looking to rearrange it for another date later in the summer. We also have a number of village hall events for the community to attend over the autumn. More information to follow. Electricity We have had a thorough electrical survey of the Solar panels on the roof of the Village Hall by a company from Buckingham. The quote is to upgrade the system with a new inverter and add battery storage, allowing us to utilise more of our electricity and eliminate the coin payment system for renters. The immersion heater in the kitchen could also be added to the system. The quote for this work is around £5k and the hall would like to explore accessing the Section 106 money for some of this work along with some grant funding. Discussion took place if the amount of battery power would be enough to cover winter bookings when lights and heating would be required as each battery has 2.8kw of power. There was also a question regarding the actual solar panels as they are about 12 years old but have a lifespan of 25 years.

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	The Parish Council confirmed that some Section 106 money could be used for the electricity/solar system upgrade at the village hall, and once the Village Hall Management Committee know if they have obtained any grants towards the project, they can approach the Parish Council with a request for the remainder for our consideration. Village Hall Management Committee Dominic also expressed his gratitude to the Village Hall committee members who have gone above and beyond to keep the Village Hall running smoothly over the past year. They are Helen Baker, Alan Brooks, Araminta Chesters, Ian Greenall, Eric Kingdon, Steve Liggins, Lorna McMaster, Kevin Naughton, Matthew O'Brien, and Mick Richards. Thank you! If you would like to support the hall, please do not hesitate to contact us at bookings@pillertonpriorsvillagehall.org.uk
9	Planning Application update on live application from the last meeting
9.1	25/00588/FUL & 25/00589/LBC Single Storey Oak Framed Extension to Side (amended resubmission of applications 24/02441/FUL & 24/02442/LBC) at Stamford Pastures for Mr Stackhouse. Permission with conditions 08/05/2025
10	Planning Applications received since the last meeting
10.1	25/00968/FUL Erection of new Detached Double Garage at Priors Rise, Banbury Road for Mr Partridge. Application Withdrawn 19/06/2025.
10.2	25/01362/TPO -T1 oak - Install a root barrier between the oak and the building, as per the submitted method statement, to prevent subsidence. The reason for the works is subsidence to the property at Priors House, Banbury Road for Gaucher, Comments by 01/07/2025.
10.3	25/01483/FUL Erection of a single storey front bay extension and entrance canopy, installation of external wall insulation with replacement and new cladding (charred timber) and render finishes, along with replacement windows and doors throughout at Headlands, 15 The Acre, Kiblers Lane for Mr and Mrs Newton. Comments by 23/07/2025.
11	Atlas Tower Group proposed mobile phone mast Michael Nevill and Dave McWhirter reported on a meeting they had attended with WCC and the Atlas Tower Group. The company are looking to install a mobile phone mast in the Pillertons to improve mobile coverage as can support all four of the main networks and assist the emergency services communications. This would also help build for the future as phones will require more power and bandwidth as time progresses. There was an assurance that there were no health concerns in the vicinity of the mast. A number of sites were identified by Atlas but only two might be suitable. The landowners will be approached to see if they are interested in their land being a mast location. They will receive payment for hosting the mast along with any legal fees involved. The mast is quite tall and will require a full planning approval.

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12	Civility and Respect Pledge Michael explained that Stratford-on-Avon District Council are proud to support the Civility and Respect Pledge which many local Councils are also signed up to. The Pledge highlights that there is no place for bullying, harassment and intimidation within our sector. By signing up to the pledge we are demonstrating our commitment to addressing poor behaviour and fostering positive changes in conduct. https://www.nalc.gov.uk/campaigns/civility-and-respect/civility-and-respect-pledge.html. The PC agreed to sign up to the pledge.
13	Open Forum
13.1	Paid School Transport David Curtis was asked to look into an issue that has arisen with 6th form travel from Pillerton to Kineton School as Pillerton is regarded as being in the Stratford area, and Kineton in the Warwick area. Although a single fare could be purchased to get to the school, there is no viable return bus as the earliest public bus is 6.17pm. There are two school busses at normal school times with spaces but they do not honour bus tickets. Free passes are available for under 16 year olds but passes cannot be purchased for over 16's even though they were previously. David Curtis agreed to look into the issue.
13.2	Defibrillator The defib was serviced at the end of June and no issues were reported. However its lifespan is unknown. A replacement via the First Responders is around £750 and money has been put aside in the PC budget to replace the unit when required. The checking and maintaining of the unit would also pass to the Responders.
13.3	Parish Council mergers The Parish Council had received an email from SDC elections asking for expressions of interest if Parishes would like to merge to form new larger parishes. This would also include areas with parish meetings that do not currently have a parish council. As Priors exceeds the minimum size we will reply that we are not considering any mergers at this stage.
13.4	Planning Inquiry SDC are currently involved in a public inquiry regarding a site on the Evesham Road in Stratford. SDC have been defending that they had a 24 year housing supply but due to new methods of calculation this is now quoted as 5.26 years. Most Councils aim for a 5 year supply. However the developer is stating that the figure is actually 2.6 years. Should SDC lose this appeal then not only will it be liable to pay significant costs but it will also have an impact on the need for housing development throughout the district.
13.5	Highways It was reported that a lot of the highway line marking is very worn. This is especially at the entrance to Homestalls Meadow where vehicle now park on the junction because the lines are not visible. Some of the 30mph signs are faded or covered by overgrown hedges. The clerk will contact WCC highways and report our concerns.
13.6	No Mow May It was noted that the SDC grounds maintenance contractors had not mown in May. However it was recorded that when they mowed in June they had made an excellent job and we should praise them for their work. The Clerk will pass the villages thanks to the contractor.
14	Date and Time of Next Meeting The 217th Parish Council Meeting will be held on 15th October 2025, commencing 7.30pm in the village hall. The date will be advertised on the Facebook groups, PC email distribution list and the village noticeboard.

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The Meeting was closed at 8.40pm and Michael thanked everyone for their attendance.

Chair: Michael Nevill

Minutes: Ian Greenall

Date Signed:

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