

PILLERTON PRIORS PARISH COUNCIL

**The 217th Meeting of the Pillerton Priors Parish Council was held on
Wednesday 15th October 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))
Cllr Dominic Sant

Cllr Malcolm Littlewood (SDC)

Residents 7 Residents were present

Number	Item
1	Chair's welcome – Michael Nevill welcomed everyone to the meeting. Unfortunately since the last meeting Helen Baker has resigned from her Councillor role which leaves a vacancy on the Parish Council. This will be advertised in due course as required by Electoral Law.
2	Apologies were received from Cllr David Curtis (WCC), Ian Greenall (Clerk) and 2 residents.
3	Warwickshire County Council updates Councillor David Curtis was an apology so there was no update.
4	Stratford-on-Avon District Council update Councillor Littlewood reported on the timescale for Local Government Devolution. The Warwickshire Councils have to put their final submissions to Government by the end of November. Currently Warwickshire County Council would prefer the single Warwickshire Unitary Council, where SDC, Warwick District Council, Nuneaton & Bedworth Borough Council and North Warwickshire Council would prefer a two unitary option with a north and south divide. This would be SDC and Warwick DC becoming the South Warwickshire Unitary. The position of Rugby Borough Council is unclear at present, but they would be part of the North Warwickshire Unitary if the north south option was approved. The Government state they will be consulting residents before making the final decision in the spring of 2026. He was asked how the result of the Gladman planning inquiry might effect applications in the village. The Inspector had decided that SDC did not have the 5 year housing supply as required which means that additional housing needs to be built. Discussion took place regarding the request from Deeley Homes for a meeting with the Parish Council regarding a proposed site on the Kineton Road. The Parish Council had declined their offer and the residents at the meeting confirmed they supported the non-engagement. It was suggested that legal advice could be sought to confirm if this stance was correct at this time. Another question related to the Travelling Showperson site as the decision date has been extended until the end of October. Councillor Littlewood explained the process.
5	Approval of the minutes of the 216th Parish Council Meeting The Minutes of the 215th Parish Council Meeting held on 9th July 2025 were approved and signed by Michael Nevill.

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6	Matters Arising from the Minutes
6.1	Atlas Tower Group proposed mobile phone mast Michael Nevill and Dave McWhirter reported on discussions between Atlas and the landowner of a potential site. The application will require a planning application before any construction works.
6.2	Planning Inquiry The Planning Appeal, brought by Gladman Developments Ltd, was allowed by the Planning Inspectorate for outline permission for up to 130 homes on land adjacent to Chutneys, Bordon Hill, Stratford-upon-Avon. Application 23/00969/OUT was originally rejected by SDC in September 2024 on the grounds that the development lies outside the Built-Up Area Boundary (BUAB) and would have a detrimental impact on the character and appearance at this location; produce significant visual harm to Anne Hathaway's Cottage; increase traffic flow and the possibility of flooding. During the Inquiry SDC presented compelling evidence to support their rejection of the application, on grounds of landscape impact, heritage concerns, and conflict with local planning policies. However the Inspector's decision issued on 03/09/2025, reflected the growing pressure on local authorities to approve housing developments owing to need for significant numbers of additional housing. The revised National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) introduced in December 2024 had significantly altered how housing land supply is calculated with SDC's number increasing by around 52% and that meant SDC failed to demonstrate it has a five-year housing land supply which has left SDC in a very vulnerable position to reject speculative planning applications. This means that applications that might previously have been rejected stand a far better chance of being approved as SDC would probably lose any appeal.
6.3	Highways Following the last meeting the Clerk reported to WCC Highways of the worn condition of some highway line marking and faded speeding signs. The concerns were logged but no timescale was given. However Highways are producing a booklet giving costs if Parishes wish to purchase highways improvements.
7	Treasurer's Report Jo Wilkinson gave an overview of quarter two 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. There was a payment of 1,012.55 + VAT to Stansgate Planning for advice and report input with regards the Travelling Showpesons planning application. The other payment of £285 + VAT was to Parish Online for the new Parish website. This invoice used the remainder of the Transparency Fund plus some from the General Fund. The payments totalled £1,575.06 including VAT which leaves a balance of £18,086.71 at 13/10/2025. This is a healthy balance but £12,167.53 is Section 106 and CIL.
8	Village Hall Report Dominic Sant as Chair of the Pillerton Priors Village Hall Management Committee gave his report. Postcode The Village hall is struggling to secure a postcode - one could not be issued without a post delivery point. Therefore it has been agreed to look at obtaining and attaching a letterbox to the hall before reapplying for a postcode.

Picnic

The village picnic was cancelled due to the weather.

Noticeboard

The new noticeboard, Funded through an SDC grant, has been installed and is looking good. Thank you to Eric Kingdon for co-ordinating the project.

Flooding

The heavy storm in August lifted the manhole cover on the path from the car park to the hall. The pit that was created as stage one of the hall flood defences appears to have a positive impact. The contractor (Chris Kerr) will be approached for a quote for an additional bank to deflect the water run-off from Dickensbury Farm as it is unlikely the collapsed culvert on the farm land will be repaired.

Solar Panels

The quote from M2 Mechanical of Buckingham for the solar panel batteries and inverter and hot water is £5,648.58 which includes installing batteries, a new inverter, a 4g dongle to enable automatic meter recording, switches and a rain shield for the equipment on the roof.

We have to date received two grants for £2,400 (SDC) and £2,000 (29 May 1961 Grant) and are hoping to receive a further £1,600 Batchford Committee. If we do receive this then the total grant money received is £6,000.

We had wanted to remove the coin machine, but we could not guarantee that the heaters would be switched off by renters. Therefore we have had to have additional electrical work at extra cost of £1,185 + VAT = £1,422.

So the Village Hall is £1,072 short and in an ideal situation we wanted to see if we could access the CIL money to cover these costs. The PC agreed to provide £1,000 to the Village Hall from the CIL balance.

Electricity Costs

The hall is subsidising the electric costs and current fixed price deal ends so we can look for a more cost effective solution. There might be rates available for charities. We are looking for someone to help with this.

Pillaton

The payment for a booking had been made to Pillaton Village Hall in Cornwall rather than Pillerton. After research it was found that Google spell check directed to Pillaton in some circumstances. Pillaton Village Hall have returned the payment to our hirer and payment of our invoice will be requested.

Bookings

Araminta had prepared accounts to 31st August 2025. Bookings are increasing with Pickleball and Badminton now regular Wednesday bookings. August bookings are traditionally lower than other months because the Scouts do not use the hall during school holidays. The Dog Socialisation classes have not rebooked at present but there is a monthly booking for Chicken Keeping.

Insurance

Subject to the cost of the renewal quote it was agreed to remain with Zurich Insurance for the Village Hall.

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	Management Committee Events Dom mentioned the success of the monthly events. He proposed provisional dates for future events. • Bingo (with teas and Cake) - 9th November 2025 from 2.30pm to 5.00pm • Autumn Clean Up Working Party: Provisional date of 15th November, 9.30am to 11.30am. Apart from usual items the store cupboard needs cleaning and painting. Other works mentioned included painting the car park gate, sealant around the entrance door windows and the condition of the rear fire exit door. • Mark Wood Explorer talk (with bar) - 28th November 2025 7.30 - • Pop-up-Pub - 5th December 2025 • Village Breakfast - 24th January 2026 from 9.00am to 11.00am • Quiz - February 2026 • Eric Kingdon is investigating the cost of a music event.
9	Planning Application update on live applications from the last meeting
9.1	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. Tree Preservation Order - Approved Works was granted on 04/08/2025.
9.2	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. Planning Permission was refused on 15/08/2025.
10	Planning Applications received since the last meeting
10.1	25/01271/FUL Change of use of land to provide 7 Travelling Showpersons plots and associated works including hardstanding at Land Adjoining Coverwell Farm Pillerton Hersey for Mr Smith. Comments were by 20/08/2025.
10.2	25/01663/FUL Erection of timber shed to rear garden. AC fan unit and replacement garage door to front elevation at Priors Rise, Banbury Road for Mr Partridge. Permission with Conditions was granted 19/09/2025.
10.3	25/02029/FUL Single storey rear extension at Sandfield Barn, 3 Rainbow Lane for Mr Jones. Permission with Conditions was granted 13/10/2025.
11	Parish Council website and emails The PC website www.pillertonpriors.com has been hosted for a number of years by iPage based in Arizona USA. The UK Government have encouraged all Parish and Town Council's to switch to .gov domains which are based within UK jurisdiction so they have better legal protection. With the increased awareness of cyber security .gov.uk emails are more likely to be cleared by security filters and delivered successfully. Currently should the PC receive a freedom of information or data request Councillors would be required to surrender their private emails. Therefore the PC has decided to set up a new website www.pillertonpriorsparishcouncil.gov.uk which is hosted by Parish Online. All of the Councillors will have a .gov email but the main contact point will be clerk@pillertonpriorsparishcouncil.gov.uk All .gov websites and emails are monitored by the Government's Central Digital and Data Office's Domain Management Team to make sure the domain is configured correctly, and any security vulnerabilities are quickly spotted.

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12	Open Forum
12.1	A422 Fosse Way crossroads near Ettington The PC will contact Ettington PC to add its support for improvements to be made at the junction. This followed another serious collision involving a car and motorbike.
12.2	Travelling Showperson Site The PC need to be prepared for a Planning Appeal if the application is refused. An appeal could be written submissions or in person with the option chosen by the appointed Inspector. Dave will speak with Malcolm Littlewood to ensure the PC follows the correct procedure to comply with any legalities.
12.3	Bat Box Dominic Sant presented a bat box that is going to be installed in the Village Hall grounds.
12.4	Scouts The Scout group would welcome additional adult help to enable the various groups to continue.
12.5	Dog Waste Bins There were reports of dog owners not picking up after their pets. The Clerk will obtain costings from SDC for the installation and emptying of a dog waste bin.
13	Date and Time of Next Meeting The 218 th Parish Council Meeting will be held on 21st January 2026 , commencing 7.30pm in the village hall. The PC will be setting its precept for 2026/27 at the meeting so resident input would be welcomed. The date will be advertised on the website, Facebook groups, PC email distribution list and the village noticeboard.
14	The Meeting was closed at 8.40pm and Michael thanked everyone for their attendance.

Chair: Michael Nevill

Date Signed:

Minutes: Ian Greenall
 clerk@pillertonpriorsparishcouncil.gov.uk