

PILLERTON PRIORS PARISH COUNCIL

**The 218th Meeting of the Pillerton Priors Parish Council was held on
Wednesday 15th January 2026 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
Ian Greenall (Clerk)

Cllr Malcolm Littlewood (SDC)

Residents 12 Residents were present

Number	Item
1	Chair's welcome – Michael Nevill welcomed everyone to the meeting.
2	Apologies were received from Cllr David Curtis (WCC) and 1 resident.
3	Warwickshire County Council Councillor David Curtis supplied a written report. Councillor Grant Fund This year the Round 1 deadline for applications was Sunday 20 July 2025 so I expect a similar date for 2026. I'll keep you posted. There have been moves to remove this fund due to budget pressures, but this is being resisted by Members on all sides White Lines Renewing white lines is relatively inexpensive and an effective way of increasing road safety. The budget for white lining is agreed early in the financial year and is best carried out in late spring/summer. It would be extremely helpful to let me know at the March meeting what priorities the parish has for white lines, I can then get these requests into the system early. Potholes etc Please let me know about recurring pothole issues, this is a major problem at this time of year and Highways are doing their best to keep up Traffic Counters I've been asked about the traffic counters on the road between Pillerton Priors and Hersey. I'm making enquiries to find out their purpose, I don't know whether or not they are related to the planning application 25/01271/FUL 20mph There are a number of groups across the county campaigning for 20mph limits in rural areas. Currently it's a lottery, if you're in Oxfordshire, Gloucs etc you can have a 20mph limit, Warwickshire, no, there's a great deal of push-back from officers. I'm campaigning for a 20mph zone in Ettington and will keep you posted. This week I had a meeting with the Portfolio Holder who is not unsympathetic and our MP Manuela Perteghella is very supportive Budget We have now had the Government Settlement which was circulated shortly before Christmas. In brief it's not good news for the shires and the Government is prioritising urban rather than rural areas of deprivation. Next week we will have an update from the S151 Officer, Rob Powell and I'll update at the PC Meeting on 9 March.

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4	Stratford-on-Avon District Council update Councillor Littlewood spoke regarding the Travelling Showperson site planning application. He had spoken with the Planning Officer who advised him that a further eight week extension had been agreed to enable additional reports to be supplied. If these reports are classed as material changes then there would be another period of consultation that the public and statutory consultees could submit additional representations. These would supplement the comments that have already been submitted to SDC. The Guild of Showmen and also the Council's Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople SPD mention that sites should have items such as laundry facilities, covered and flat maintenance areas amongst many other requirements. Sites are classed as permanent so families can remain on site while the showpeople are attending events so that children can have full time schooling. Concern was expressed that the application had proposed quarry dust for the hard standing which can be dangerous. It was noted that the applicant had another application under consideration with Central Bedfordshire Council to extend his current site known as Double Arches. Although the Planning Officer had been made aware of this other application it was agreed that the PC would resend the information to the officer. Further discussion took place regarding Dickensbury Farm as this site was originally part of the farm. The PC would investigate the approved change of use application for the building at Dickensbury Farm and inform the Planning Department if the conditions had not been followed. Apart from Planning, Cllr Littlewood explained the importance of Neighbourhood Plans and the financial support available from SDC. Smaller parishes could combine to produce a joint plan. However, a Neighbourhood Plan requires a Housing Needs Survey. These were previously undertaken by WRCC but they have ceased trading so SDC hope to be able to undertake the surveys. The South Warwickshire Local Plan is progressing and is at Regulation 18 stage. It needs to reach Regulation 19 before the end of 2026. The document is looking towards providing the required 5 year housing supply as the Planning Inspector at a recent planning appeal in Stratford deemed that SDC only had a 2.75 year housing supply. Only properties that are constructed count towards the housing supply so small sites that are quick to develop are being approved while larger new communities with adequate infrastructure are considered to provide the main bulk of housing. This could include a new site between Kineton and Lighthorne.
5	Approval of the minutes of the 217th Parish Council Meeting The Minutes of the 217th Parish Council Meeting held on 15th October 2025 were approved and signed by Michael Nevill.

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6	Matters Arising from the Minutes
6.1	A422 Fosse Way crossroads near Ettington An Ettington resident had created an online petition requesting Warwickshire County Council to take urgent action to improve the staggered junction where the A422 meets B4455 east of Ettington, following continuing road traffic collisions at this location as it seems there is a lot of confusion as to who's right of way. Also traffic travelling west from Pillerton on the A422 speed towards the junction and traffic travelling north on the B4455 from Halford have limited time and an element of blindness to cross over the staggered junction. Furthermore traffic on the B4455 travelling south and wishing to turn right for Ettington who face traffic opposite who have arrived from Halford also on the B4455 are uncertain who's right of way and consequently accidents occur, too much confusion compared to a straightforward crossroads Warwickshire County Council responded by proposing the The Warwickshire County Council (B4455 Fosse Way, Ettington) (50MPH Speed Limit) Order 2025. The Order under the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 proposes to introduce a 50mph speed limit on the Fosseway from its junction with A422 Banbury Road in both a northern and southerly direction for a total distance of 178 metres each way. Objections and representations had to be received by 16/01/2026. The PC had submitted its response.
6.2	Dog Waste Bins Further to various messages on the village WhatsApp platform the PC had obtained a quote from SDC. Topsy Royale bins hold 100 litres and cost £250+VAT plus installation at £150+VAT each and then for once a week empty and bin bag change the service charge for emptying is £172.57+VAT. They are not dedicated dog waste bins so contamination would not be an issue. The PC suggested that a location could be at the junction of Walton Lane and Kineton Road but this would have to be approved by SDC. Discussion took place with arguments both in support and against the introduction of a bin. The decision was put to a vote by those present and the result was 6 in favour, 9 against and 2 abstentions. Therefore the PC will not purchase a bin at this stage but will assess the situation in around six months time.
7	Treasurer's Report Jo Wilkinson gave an overview of quarter three for 2025-26. No income was received in this quarter. 4 payments have been made including 3 bank service charges. There was a payment of £1,442 to M2 Mechanical for electrical work at the village hall which was from the Section 106 / CIL funds. The general fund currently has £7,439.42 and the Treasurer estimated that this will be around £6,300 at the end of the financial year on 31/03/26. The bank balance at 13/10/26 stands at £16,646.71 including the Section 106 and CIL. A question was asked regarding the £3,075.29 VAT shown on the accounts. The Treasurer is currently sourcing invoices to reclaim some of the money.
8	Parish Precept 2026/27 Jo Wilkinson presented proposals for the parish precept. Discussion took place regarding the Clerks fees as a lower amount had been proposed. It was also noted that there were no funds remaining in the Transparency Fund so items which had previous been paid from that have had to be added to the precept. The figure shown on the calculations was agreed and without the dog waste bin a precept of £6,387.56 was proposed. This is a 46% increase from 2025-26.

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9	Village Hall Report Dominic Sant as Chair of the Pillerton Priors Village Hall Management Committee gave his report. The Bingo and Pop up Pub events had been successful and raised funds for the hall. Ten residents had attended the autumn cleanup of the hall and grounds. Unfortunately, the talk by Mark Wood had to be postponed. Future events include a village breakfast on 24/01/26 with quiz and music nights being planned. The fridge needs replacing as the current one has broken. The solar panels and battery storage are now functional plus stage one of the hall flood defences were completed after successful grant applications. Now the hall committee are looking at stage two of the flood defences which includes creating a ditch to divert water away from the hall and also a low brick wall near the entrance path. Two grants from SDC have been identified as potential sources of finance. It is also hoped that a survey could be undertaken to look towards a 20 year plan of works. A question was asked about wi-fi. Although Voneous had originally offered to install wi-fi it had decided against it. Other options are being investigated with little success to date.
10	Planning Application update on live application from 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. The application is still pending consideration as discussed in Cllr Littlewood's SDC update.
11	Planning Application received since the last meeting
11.1	25/02878/OUT Outline application with all matters reserved except for access, for the erection of one self-build/custom build dwelling, formation of vehicular access from A422 Banbury Road, and all associated works at land at Cadbold Farmhouse for Mr and Mrs Humphries. Comments by 22/01/2026.
12	Open Forum
12.1	SDC consultation on 2nd homes. Since 2013, councils in England have had the power to charge additional council tax on second homes. For the purpose of council tax, second homes are dwellings which are substantially furnished but have no resident (i.e. it is not someone's sole or main residence). The Council has a high number of second homes (859 dwellings, which is over 1% of the entire housing stock) in the district. The Council is now commencing the formal engagement exercise with second home owners and the wider public surrounding a proposal to implement a Council Tax premium of 100% across the whole of the district on second homes. The consultation will run on the SDC website www.stratford.gov.uk until 02/02/26. It is anticipated that following the consultation a final decision on whether a Council Tax Premium of 100% should be implemented across the whole of Stratford on Avon District Council will be taken by the Council in February 2026 . If this is agreed, all those second home owners will be written to before 31/03/26, with a view that the Council Tax Premium would be implemented on 01/04/27.

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12.2	Fosseway Stamford Hall Footpath It was reported that the footpath is blocked by brambles and branches. There was discussion if it was landowners responsibility or the county council. The PC would investigate.
12.3	Burglary Burglars had broken into a property by accessing it across a field before climbing up a drainpipe to gain access. Jewellery has been taken. A silver car was seen parked in an unusual space which might have been linked to the event.
13	Date and Time of Next Meeting The Annual Parish Meeting will be held on Thursday 14 th May 2026 commencing 7.00pm in the Village Hall. This will be followed by the 219 th Parish Council Meeting
14	The Meeting was closed at 8.53pm and Michael thanked everyone for their attendance.

Chair: Michael Nevill

Date Signed:

Minutes: Ian Greenall
clerk@pillertonpriorsparishcouncil.gov.uk