

PILLERTON PRIORS ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY 2026

**The Pillerton Priors Annual Parish Assembly 2026 was held
on Thursday 14th May 2026 at 7:00pm in the Village Hall.
All Parishioners were welcome to attend**

Present: Cllr Michael Nevill (Parish Council Chair)

Cllr Dave McWhirter

Cllr Jo Wilkinson

Cllr Dominic Sant

Ian Greenall (Parish Clerk)

Residents: 7 Residents

Item	Item
1	Welcome by the Chair of the Parish Council Michael Nevill welcomed everyone to the meeting. He explained that the Annual Parish Assembly would be followed by the 219 th Parish Council meeting which would utilise the majority of the minutes from the Assembly.
2	Apologies were received from Cllr David Curtis (Warwickshire County Council) and 6 residents.
3	Approval of Minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly 7th May 2025 The minutes were proposed by Jo Wilkinson and seconded by Dominic Sant as an accurate record of the meeting. They were signed by Michael Nevill and Ian Greenall.
4	Parish Council Chair's Report Michael Nevill gave a brief summary on activities in 2025 and thanked the Councillors for the work they had undertaken most of which was not seen by the residents. It had been a challenging year with the land adjoining Coverwell Farm planning application taking a lot of time and informal meetings. The PC had submitted two large reports objecting to the application. It had also spent around £1000 with Stansgate Planning for advice and assistance in preparing the reports. Michael also thanked the residents of both Priors and Hersey for their submissions to the Planning Officer along with neighbouring parish councils who had also objected.
5	Planning Applications Since last years assembly there have been 10 new planning applications which are shown in the agenda pack. The 4 current live applications are as follows.
5.1	25/01271/FUL for Change of use of land to provide 7 Travelling Showpersons plots and associated works including hardstanding at Land Adjoining Coverwell Farm, Pillerton Hersey. A final decision had been expected by 30/04/2026 but the Planning Officer has not published one to date. It was questioned why the applicant appeared to have been given 5 months from the original deadline date to submit additional information to which the PC and residents only had 2 weeks to respond. The PC had requested a time extension but this had been refused by SDC. However the PC did submit a document after the deadline which they were informed would be considered by the officer when making their decision. It was noted that agencies representing both highways and flooding had submitted strong objections to the application. Both the PC and Ward Member, Cllr Littlewood, have objected to the application so if the officer decides to also reject then that refusal can be a delegated decision, otherwise it will be an SDC Planning Committee decision should the officer be mindful to support the proposal.
5.2	25/02878/OUT for 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, Pillerton Priors CV35 0PQ. The PC had submitted a no representation response.
5.3	26/00229/FUL for Proposed New Stable Building and change of use of land from agricultural to equestrian at Stamford Hall Barn, Walton Lane, Pillerton Priors CV37 7SD. A lot of planting and fencing work had been noted to improve the field including the installation of bird and owl boxes. The original application had positioned the proposed

PILLERTON PRIORS ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY 2026

	building near the road but after discussions with the planning officer it had subsequently been moved nearer the current buildings so it will not be so visible from the road. The PC had submitted a no representation response.
5.4	26/00862/LDE for Lawful commencement of development for demolition of existing dwelling and construct replacement dwelling and garage, together with all ancillary works as per planning permission 01/01273/FUL which is now extant indefinitely at Keepers, Banbury Road, Pillerton Priors CV35 0PA. The PC had submitted a no representation response.
5.5	Other Planning Issues Beacon Comms, acting on behalf of Atlas Tower Group, have sent a Pre-Consultation letter to the PC for a proposed telecommunications mast installation at Cadbold Fosse Farm. The proposal will include a 25m high tower, 6 antenna apertures which they will rent to the mobile network providers, 5 equipment cabinets and a 1.8m high timber fence to enclose the apparatus and associated ancillary development. The mast will improve mobile phone signal to both Priors and Hersey as well assisting emergency services communications. As improving the mobile phone signal in the village was one of the Parish Plan objective the PC would be mindful to support the planning application once it is submitted but this would be decided once all of the documentation had been reviewed including a plan showing the anticipated coverage. If the supplication is approved by SDC and constructed then the landowner would receive an annual fee to host the mast and allow access to the site. Deeley Homes held an introductory meeting with the PC regarding a proposed housing development on Kinton Road between The Willows and Ashfield. Deeley's initial proposal was for 16 properties on the site but the PC informed them of various concerns over their draft plan. To date they have not submitted a revised proposal or formal planning application for the site. Dickensbury Farm The farm is currently up for sale and the field between the farm and the Village Hall was previously proposed to SDC as being a potential residential location in the South Warwickshire Local Plan. Any development would require planning permission before any work can take place and the PC are aware that with SDC not being able to demonstrate a 5 year housing supply they may push for development. The Local Plan initially seems to be looking at sites with better infrastructure but that does not mean that as a Local Service Village, Priors will avoid development. However the PC will consider if any future proposals are sustainable and are in appropriate locations.
6	Parish Council Treasurer's Report Jo Wilkinson had supplied written notes regarding the Parish Council's financial position up to 31st March 2026. In the 4th Quarter the starting bank balance was £16,646.71 (31/12/25) and the closing bank balance £15,401.72 (31/03/26). No income was received in the period but 9 payments had been made, including 3 bank charges. There are no payments outstanding at the end of the period. It was noted that bank charges are increasing from £6 to £7 per month. An internal audit was carried out by Mark Phillips, resident of the village and we record a vote of thanks to him for his hard work. The starting bank balance for 2025/26 was £15,543.77. Total income for financial year was £4373, solely from parish precept. Income was £923 lower than last year, as no CIL received, despite increase in precept. The total expenditure for 2025/26 was £4,515.05 leaving a bank balance at 31/03/2026 of £15,401.72.

PILLERTON PRIORS ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY 2026

	Of this figure £10,155.87 is currently ring fenced from Section 106/CIL money of which £3,782.16 is allocated for purchase and safe installation of play equipment/leisure facilities for village use. The Statement of accounts was attached to the document pack. Michael Nevill proposed that the accounts be approved and Dave Mc Whirter seconded. Jo then presented the Annual Governance and Accountability Return for 2025/26. She informed the meeting that all payments required 2 authorised signatories. The proposal to exempt the PC from external audit was proposed by Michael Neville and seconded by Dominic Sant. This was carried by those attending the meeting. The accounts will be made available for residents to view by contacting the Clerk. The dates will be advertised on the website, www.pillertonpriorsparishcouncil.gov.uk, and in the noticeboard.
7	Village Organisations
7.1	Village Hall – Dominic Sant (Chair of the Village Hall Management Committee) supplied his written report. Firstly, I'd like to thank the committee for all their help and work on the hall this year. They are Minty Chesters, Mick Richards, Ian Greenall, Eric Kingdon, Kevin Naughton, Helen Baker, Lorna Hunt, Alan Brooks, Matthew O'Brien, and Steve Liggins. Thank you to Steve who has had to stand down due to work commitments. I wanted to make special mention that Mick Richards picked up the Booking Secretary role. He has been ably supported by Eric Kingdon. The hall has been busy over the last 12 hosting Pickleball sessions, badminton sessions, birthday parties, and chicken-keeping courses. This is in addition to being hired by the Church, Scouts, Guides, and local musicians. In the grounds you can see the axe throwing arena set up by Pillerton Scouts and tonight they are fencing. The hall website, www.pillertonpriorsvillagehall.org.uk, is allowing us to be visible to a wider range of hirers than ever before. We could be busier so do suggest the hall as a location if anyone asks for a venue. Maintenance: Firstly, a big thank you to Eric Kingdon for securing a grant from SDC of £1,112.20 for a new noticeboard – it looks great and has really added to our local communication. We have had new blinds and curtains installed in the hall – thank you to Helen Baker, Lorna Hunt and Minty Chesters for organising. The Scouts have built and installed bat boxes using materials funded by the Village Hall. At the end of October, we harnessed the solar panels to store power in batteries and supply users with electricity in the evening – again a big thank you to Matthew O'Brien for securing grants totalling £6,400 from Stratford, the Batchworth Trust and another charity. I would also like to thank Pillerton Priors Parish Council for their financial support of £1,422 for the additional electrical work, including the outside light. In terms of electricity, we have switched our supplier to a much more affordable one – a drop from 70p/kwh to 24p – it is a real relief and removes a real tension over the viability of the hall. Now that we have a new solar inverter we will be able to collect payments from Octopus.

PILLERTON PRIORS ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY 2026

	And finally, hot off the press, Matthew has secured from Stratford another grant of over £5K to create a bank near the boundary to prevent excess rainwater running off the neighbouring field and inundating the hall. All these works have made the hall much more viable and a better place to be. It also ultimately shows that the hall is about people. The hall would not be able to function without the time given by your neighbours and friends. We are a great team - we are always looking for members of our community to join us and help us run our own important asset in our village. Events: We have put on a number of successful events over the past 12 months which have raised over £2,000. A Bingo afternoon aided by our excellent bingo caller Michael Neville. The Charles Ivin Memorial Walk – which celebrated the hall and its wonderful countryside setting between Priors and Hersey. In January, a Village Breakfast where the Scouts helped out – it is a fab event. A Pop Up Pub organised and run by Helen and Eric with the next one scheduled for 5th June. Most recently we had a Quiz Night run by Catherine Rogers, who was a fabulous quiz mistress. Finances: Total income from hires, grants and donations is £15,947, up from £12,522 last year. Total expenditure was £7,310, up from £4,536. The capital spend on the solar panel system and noticeboard was £6,913. Leaving an operating profit of £1,724 for the year. The hall runs because we have a wonderful group of villagers who donate their time to help run this hall, and many work full time. If you can help, please do speak to me or a committee member.
7.2	Friends of St Mary's – There was no update.
7.3	Community Speedwatch – Ian Greenall reported that there are currently 15 volunteers signed up for speedwatch but we are always looking for additional support. Each session requires a minimum of 3 volunteers. Besides email we also have a WhatsApp group to try and organise sessions. With work and personal commitments it is difficult to find suitable times when enough volunteers are available. If 3 or more volunteers would like to run a session they can contact me in advance so that I can provide the gun, high vis, signage and paperwork.
7.4	Red Horse Vale First Responder Scheme – Dominic Sant stated that the First Responders had serviced the defibrillator and changed the pads. The PC will be asked if the First Responders could offer defib or first aid training courses for residents.
7.5	Pop Up Pub – The next pub is on Friday 5 th June in the Village Hall. Just £3 per person paid by cash. Bring your own drink and snacks. All welcome.
7.6	Pillerton Scout Group – Tom Aggis supplied his written report. So our group over the last year has had ups and downs. Sadly despite a lot of effort with Beavers (ages 6-8) we started in September with just 6 beavers but sadly just a few meetings in we had to close our beavers section and sadly we don't see any sight of it ever reopening now - lack of leaders and support and this then drives less numbers. As you can all imagine this is the entrance to our group and promoting moving up to cubs and scouts so I fear this may come to hurt us in around 1-2years. For Cubs (aged 8-10) the team of great leaders (x3) supported by a Duke of Edinburgh Gold volunteer (Milo) are a fantastic leadership team and have now grown to 16 cubs weekly meeting as normal on a Thursday night. They have had the craziest of programme ranging from Burns night, Taekwondo, hiking, painting, games nights it's endless and mainly down to the enthusiasm and support of the leaders. For Scouts (aged 10-14) as you know we've continued our support at the Jan breakfast, looking forward to Pillerton Fete in the coming weeks. We are now at 20 scouts and

PILLERTON PRIORS ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY 2026

	looking forward to awarding 4 eldest scouts as they leave in July with the highest scouting achievement being the Chief Scouts Gold Award. We have myself and x3 leaders (and x2 DoE volunteers) and we run a fun tight ship (Mondays) - hugely enjoying being outside as much as we can. Lots of outdoor cooking, axe throwing, international days and hiking. We did an amazing food bank collection in January around Ettington and overachieved to our expeditions on the quantity we got. The high for last term without a doubt doing scuba diving for all the scouts in Stratford swimming pool. The overall high as a group has been the Warwickshire GetIn which was just 2 weeks ago - it runs every 4 years and is attended by over 3500 local scouts, cubs, beavers and leaders enjoying green field camping over 2.5days enjoying activities and adventures all within the safe grounds of Ragley hall. It was truly amazing and an event that gets better and better every 4 years - the kids loved it. All 3500 people camp, cook and have fun without distraction of electricity or phones! I should say that our success as always is down to the time our leaders and back stage team put in not just the actual event and weekly meetings - I've copied them on here so I can thank them again as a team - you are flipping amazing !! We run the smallest but best group around. We continue to run strong cub and scout sections however as kids get older and move on so do our leaders and volunteers - over the coming weeks I will be reaching out to fulfill a number of trustee roles we need that ensure we continue as a group - within Pillerton area If anyone is passionate about scouting and looking after our lovely young ones in our local area but do not want to be hands on then this is a perfect opportunity - please help us. We run a stupidly lean team and need local help to keep going. As always if anyone has a hobby, a club or something they think Cubs or scouts would find interesting please do get in touch. Thanks again for the Pillerton village and your support throughout the last year and ongoing.
7.7	Neighbourhood Watch – Ian Greenall explained that Dominic Connelly had stood down as co-ordinator of the Pillertons & Oxhill Neighbourhood Watch Group and that Ian had taken on the role. He thanked Dominic for the work he had undertaken in communicating reports to the group members. If you are not signed up to the group then there are cards available. There is also a WhatsApp group named Keep em peeled alerts which currently has 82 members. Suspicious activity in the Tysoe, Oxhill, Pillertons and surrounding area can be sent to the group members with the attention of assisting the Police in preventing and reducing crime in our area. To join the group please complete a card.
7.8	Warwickshire County Council – Councillor David Curtis supplied a written report. Local Government Reorganisation: Local Authorities had until March 24 to submit preferences for Foundation Strategic Authorities. The preference among most is for a N/S split Warwickshire with South Warwickshire combined with Gloucs and Worcs. It will be a decision by Sec of State and will likely be announced shortly before the summer recess i.e. mid July Council Plan: A New Council Plan has just been published and was considered at the Cabinet on 11 May. There are no radical changes proposed and I will give an update if anything significant emerges SDC Community Climate and Nature Fund: £5,004 to Pillerton Priors Village Hall to construct a new overland interception ditch to protect the village hall from flooding. Congratulations!

Business Support Service: The new business support service to replace the Coventry and Warwickshire Growth Hub has been set up and can be found at <https://business.warwickshire.gov.uk>

Grammar Schools: Those seeking to enter their children for consideration of a Grammar School place have to submit their applications before 30 June.

Warwickshire Weekly News: Some useful information here [Warwickshire Update - Thursday 7 May](#)

Living Well: The Council's **Living Well** webpages bring together useful guidance, tools and local support about:

- Staying active and moving safely
- Supporting mental wellbeing and emotional health
- Reducing loneliness and staying socially connected
- Eating well and maintaining energy levels
- Making homes safer and easier to live in

Mental health and brain health are just as important as physical wellbeing. Reading, puzzles, online brain-training activities and learning new skills can all help to keep the mind stimulated. Access digital books and audiobooks through [Warwickshire library services](#).

Funding opportunities

- **New Queen Elizabeth Trust To Support Communities - Rural Services Network**
- **HCAF (Highways Community Action Fund)** I had a meeting with Richard Fenwick. Head of Highways and David Elliston, Highways Area Team Manager who confirmed there is some flexibility in awarding grants from HCAF and I'm willing to support applications from the Parish
- **Rural Finding Digest** [Rural Funding Digest - April 2026 - Rural Services Network](#) links to numerous funding opportunities
- **Heating Oil** [Rising Heating Oil Costs Draw Westminster Attention - Rural Services Network](#) The Government has announced more than £50 million in targeted financial support to help low-income households who rely on heating oil manage rising fuel costs. The funding will be distributed through local authorities from April via the new Crisis and Resilience Fund, with £27 million allocated to England and additional funding provided to the devolved administrations. In the announcement, the Government indicated that it intends to introduce stronger consumer protections in the heating oil market, including improvements to price transparency, strengthened industry codes of practice and the possible creation of a new regulator or ombudsman to oversee the sector. Greater oversight of the heating oil market is something the Rural Services Network has long called for, highlighting the lack of consumer protections for households reliant on off-grid fuels.
- **Councillor Grant Fund:** This has been continued. A group has been formed to review the criteria and application procedure and is expected to report by end May. This first round deadline will likely be in early July. I will prioritise local community projects that have support from the PC.
- **SDC Climate Resilient Stratford-on-Avon**
SDC has launched its Climate Resilient Stratford-on-Avon programme which provides an opportunity for ten organisations to have a personalised Climate Change

Adaptation Action Plan produced for them and will receive £10,000 in grant funding to begin to implement the actions identified in the Action Plan. Organisations that can apply are:

- Town and Parish Councils
- Community and charity groups
- Independent businesses

This link provides further information: [Climate Resilient Stratford-on-Avon | Stratford-on-Avon District Council](#)

- **ASDA Foundation** <https://asdafoundation.org/our-grants/local-community-spaces-fund/>

Cost of living: Many different aspects of daily life have been affected by the rising cost of living. To help find information to support with managing increased household costs visit: www.costoflivingwarwickshire.co.uk

Warm weather water safety advice: Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Service is urging residents and visitors to take extra care in and around water as temperatures begin to rise.

Find out how to stay safe around water:

<https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/7593/enjoy-the-warm-weather-safely-with-water-safety-advice-from-warwickshire-fire-and-rescue-service->

Staying healthy, connected and independent: Warwickshire County Council is highlighting the importance of healthy ageing and the small, everyday steps that can help residents to stay healthy, independent, and connected as they get older.

Read more: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/7601/council-highlights-support-for-people-to-stay-healthy-connected-and-independent>

Potholes: Please use this link to <https://services.warwickshire.gov.uk/report-a-pothole/> If you believe the issue is dangerous, please contact the Customer Service Centre on 01926 412515 between 9am - 5pm Monday to Thursday and 9am - 4.30pm Friday.

Parish and Partners Briefing <file:///C:/Users/dcur4/AppData/Local/Microsoft/Windows/INetCache/Content.Outlook/0LO3DX75/Parish%20and%20Partners%2056%20-%20March%202026%20lowres.pdf>

Livestock worrying: A dog doesn't have to make contact with an animal, it includes chasing and racing about. Livestock have been known to have broken their limbs, suffocated, had a cardiac arrest, aborted their unborn, or suffered later when giving birth after being chased by a dog.

How can you help?

- Keep your dog on a lead and under close control and stay on designated footpaths and do not go onto private land unless there is a public footpath or you have permission from the landowner
- If you leave your dog outside on its own, on your property, ensure that it is in a secure area and cannot escape.
- If you're entering an area where there are other animals give them plenty of space.
- Make sure your details are on your dog's collar and it is microchipped, so that you can be reunited quickly if it is lost, plus it is a legal requirement.
- If you have livestock and would like a "Dog on Lead" sign, then please email the team on RuralCrimeTeam@warwickshire.police.uk .

PILLERTON PRIORS ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY 2026

7.9	Stratford-on-Avon District Council – There was no update. The Ward Member, Cllr Littlewood's monthly updates are included in the residents emails sent out to those registered with the Parish Clerk to receive the emails.
8	South Warwickshire Local Plan – Dave McWhirter gave an update. The plan is a joint plan between Stratford-on-Avon District Council and Warwick District Council. Its aim is to control and manage where development occurs within the two districts. This is difficult to control since the Planning Inspector deemed that SDC does not hold the required 5 year housing supply when he approved an appeal for Bordon Hill in Stratford. The final plan has to go through many stages and various consultations before it is presented to the Secretary of State hopefully by the end of this year. Subject to it being approved then its likely adoption will be around March 2028. There is a dedicated website, www.southwarwickshire.org.uk where you can follow the plans progress and background material. Although some of the policies in the current plan still hold weight when assessing planning applications, the new plan, once adopted, will contain all of the areas that can be used to approve or reject planning applications. Linking with the Local Plan, towns and parishes can have their own Neighbourhood or Parish Plan to highlight more local policies. Priors has an adopted plan but it is towards the end of its 5 year lifespan. It gives some weight when assessing proposals but not as much as a Neighbourhood Plan. The PC will look at the Action Plan which formed part of the document and see if anything can be updated. Both documents include a Housing Needs Survey which Priors have recently renewed. With the new South Warwickshire Local Plan superseding the current version the village has a choice whether to produce a new Parish Plan or a Neighbourhood Plan which would hold more weight. Either plan could be a joint one with Hersey or even include Ettington. The final adopted document would map out how the residents view future development in the area. Although the PC, or PC's will have a role, this will be a residents plan so volunteers will be needed to help with the stages of information gathering and production.
9	Footpaths – Kathryn Dalglish has walked the village footpaths with Michael Nevill and have found concerns with 3 footpaths. • Footpath SS1C from Walton Lane to Fosseyway via Stamford Hall is completely blocked. This has been reported to the landowner. • Footpath SS13 and 13A between the A422 and Oxhill is covered by crops. This will be reported to WCC. • Footpath SS8 between the layby on the A422 and Hersey has been closed by WCC until it has repaired a dangerous bridge on the route. It was noted that a number of marker signs are missing and this has previously been reported to WCC.
10	Play Equipment at the Village Hall – Following recent messages on WhatsApp Dominic Sant is trying to arrange to meet residents requesting play equipment to enable them to work with the Village Hall and PC to develop a suitable proposal. There is a limited budget that will need to include delivery, installation and inspection costs. There will also be an impact on the public liability insurance for the hall. It was also mentioned that the football goals were missing but these had been moved to allow for the grass to be mowed so were by the storage container.
11	Open Forum
11.1	Healthy Children and Young People survey Everyone Active are currently running a survey for young people and children in order to make sure that the activities they run are fun, safe and interesting. We would be grateful if you could promote the survey to young people in your area as their input will assist the team at Everyone Active to understand:

PILLERTON PRIORS ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY 2026

	• What activities are working well • What might be missing • What could be improved and • What new activities young people would like to see. By sharing their views young people will be helping adults and local organisations make better decisions about activities, funding and support for young people in the South Warwickshire area to shape what happens in the community.
11.2	Highways Signage – It was mentioned that a lot of the highway signage had faded and white lines were worn. Both of these issues had previously been reported to WCC. There is also a broken drain cover in the highway. Cllr David Curtis our WCC Ward Member will be contacted.
11.3	Kiblers Lane – It was reported that there are concerns regarding the amount and speed of vehicles using Kiblers Lane, some of which are local residents which is disappointing. The PC have previously contacted the main satnav mapping providers to try and remove Kiblers from their route planning but have been unsuccessful as it is a highway. Discussions have previously take place regarding the possibility of making the lane one way and also to use road markings to visually narrow the lanes junction with the Kineton Road but these ideas have been rejected by residents.
11.4	Parish Council vacancy – Michael Nevill informed the meeting that the Parish Council currently had a vacancy which it would be looking to fill.
12	Meeting Closed at 8.39pm and the 219 th Parish Council meeting commenced.

Chair: Michael Nevill

Minutes: Ian Greenall

Date Signed: