

PILLERTON PRIORS PARISH COUNCIL

**The 220th Meeting of the Pillerton Priors Parish Council was held on
Wednesday 8th July 2026 at 7.30pm in 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)
Cllr Malcolm Littlewood (SDC)

Residents 5 Residents were present

Number	Item
1	Chairman's welcome – Michael Nevill welcomed everyone to the meeting.
2	Apologies were received from Cllr Dominic Sant and 2 residents.
3	Warwickshire County Council – Cllr David Curtis submitted the written report below and responded to questions. Changes to Councillors' Grant Fund Community groups across Warwickshire are to benefit from a refreshed County Councillors' Grants Fund 2026–27, designed to deliver greater impact, simpler access, and stronger alignment with local priorities. Discover more: https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/7734/changes-to-councillors-grant-fund-to-boost-impact-for-communities-across-warwickshire This year there will only be one round with a deadline is 26th July. He has up to £8,000 divided between the 10 parishes he represents towards local projects with the support of parish councils. South Warwickshire Local Plan Officers from Stratford-on-Avon District Council and Warwick District Council would like to invite you to attend an update on the Publication Version of the South Warwickshire Local Plan. The online session will take place on Friday 10 July, from 6:00 pm to 7:30 pm. Please register in advance using the link below: https://events.teams.microsoft.com/event/d76576a5-85d9-4c11-a81f-b70b1b929e71@ea0773dc-0dec-4c50-a4c9-bc26a247ed21 Once you have registered, you will receive a confirmation email containing the Microsoft Teams joining link. If you experience any difficulties accessing the meeting, please contact us at swlp@stratford-dc.gov.uk . This session is intended exclusively for Parish, Town and District Councillors in Stratford-on-Avon and Warwick Districts, and Warwickshire County Councillors. Local Government Reorganisation LGR It is expected that the Government will announce on 16th July if Warwickshire will be a single council or split into North and South. If the schedule is retained then there will be elections for a shadow council in May 2027 to prepare for the new council(s) vesting day on 1st April 2028. The shadow council will be assisted by a managing committee possibly made of of the 5 leaders of the current district councils plus 5 county councillors. Their role will be to monitor budgets and spending. However the

	merger of the various services offered by the District and County councils may take up to 5 years to fully join. It has been noted the depravation in the northern councils of Warwickshire compared to Warwick and Stratford councils in the south. Although there will be additional costs to merge the councils a consultants report has identified that the new council(s) should achieve savings of £2 million if a single council or £1 million for each of the north south councils. However this is a relatively small saving on the current councils budgets. The new council(s) will also have to look at joining others to become a strategic authority which would have its own Mayor. Rural Services Network July Newsletter <u>funding - Rural Services Network</u> Supporting key transitions for children and young people As the end of the summer term approaches, families across Warwickshire are preparing for a range of important changes in their children's education. Find out more about the support available: <u>https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/7745/supporting-children-and-young-people-through-key-transitions-</u> Summer SEND picnic at Ryton Pools (X and Facebook) Families of young children with SEND enjoyed a fun-filled summer picnic at Ryton Pools, bringing parent carers together to play, share experiences and access valuable support. Discover more: <u>https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/7801/summer-picnic-at-ryton-pools-brings-parent-carers-and-young-children-with-send-together-</u> Looking after the vulnerable in hot weather If you have friends, family or neighbours who you know are more vulnerable to the effects of hot weather, it's important you check in on them to ensure they are safe and well. Find out more on staying safe here: <u>https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/seasonal-health/heatwave-how-to-cope-in-hot-weather/</u> Float to live – water safety Parents and carers! Would your child know what to do if they found themselves in a dangerous situation near water? Teach them the 'Float to Live technique. It could save their life one day! Watch the video: <u>https://youtu.be/XiN5hvoouMk?si=Afnt_NOxtuegTuHv</u> Mobile Library Warwickshire County Council are considering the reinstatement of the mobile library service. The scheme currently visits Ettington, Oxhill and Butlers Marston but not Priors or Hersey. It has previously used the Priors Village Hall car park but usage did not make this feasible in the current scheme.
4	Stratford-on-Avon District Council – Cllr Malcolm Littlewood submitted the written report below and responded to questions. As I write, we remain in the pre-election “purdah” period until 9 July. During this period, politically sensitive decisions are not made. The main topics this month remain the South Warwickshire Local Plan (SWLP) and Devolution and Local Government Reform (D-LGR).

SWLP

Following the PINS feedback report, both Councils (SDC and WDC) needed to address questions about the development viability of sites, particularly in relation to the proposed levels of build headroom, density, infrastructure, biodiversity and carbon net zero requirements beyond Government policy and statutory requirements. A considerable amount of work has been completed since then by Officers, and the draft Regulation 19 SWLP was published late on Friday 3 July. It is now being reviewed by members of both Councils and is due to be either ratified or rejected next week with a recorded vote. Both Councils must agree the draft before it can proceed to public consultation. At SDC, the dates are:

- Monday 13 July: SDC Overview and Scrutiny
- Tuesday 14 July: Joint Cabinet at WDC, Leamington Town Hall
- Wednesday 15 July: Full Council

For the joint SWLP to carry weight, both District Councils will need to demonstrate individually that they have a viable five-year housing land supply (5YHLS) to support the Soundness of the Local Plan which will be tested at Regulation 19 by the Planning Inspectorate. This will also depend on the outcome of the D-LGR changes outlined below.

If both Councils agree the draft, the SWLP will be made available for public consultation for six weeks only commencing mid July. Please use the following link to read the draft plan contained in the Joint Cabinet Agenda pack: [Appendix 1 - Publication draft South Warwickshire Local Plan.pdf](#)

The results of the consultation will be analysed and the document updated before submission to the Government Inspector before 31st December 2026.

5 Year Housing Land Supply

The 5YHLS remains unmet in both the WDC and SDC areas.

The 5YHLS is very important. Without meeting the land to build required number of homes, and business developments to support occupancy, neither the current Local Plan, the Core Strategy (CS) in SDC, nor the SWLP can be considered up to date or carry full weight in Planning determinations. This means that the “tilted balance” referred to in the current NPPF (paragraph 11) applies, with a presumption in favour of granting planning applications.

The current Local Plan is out of date in relation to housing policies, locations and numbers because there is no demonstrable 5YHLS.

Regardless of which Local Plan is being considered, we need to secure a demonstrable 5YHLS to avoid a “development free for all” in our District. This is the critical objective. Achieving it will help us maintain and protect our part of the County while providing homes, environmental protection and employment opportunities for our children.

Devolution and Local Government Reform

The Government’s decision on the future shape of local government in Warwickshire is eagerly awaited. A decision has been promised before the Summer Recess. At that point, we will know whether there will be a continuing Warwickshire authority, a single Warwickshire unitary authority, or separate North Warwickshire and South Warwickshire unitary authorities. The last option would allow for the establishment of a Warwickshire Mayoral Strategic Authority, with additional responsibilities devolved

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	from central government and increased funding to support them. It should be noted that WCC already has some devolved responsibilities.
5	Approval of the minutes of the 219th Parish Council Meeting The Minutes of the 219 th Parish Council Meeting held on 14 th May 2026 were approved by Jo Wilkinson and seconded by Dave McWhirter. They were signed by Michael Nevill as a true record of the meeting.
6	Matters Arising from the Minutes
6.1	Highways Signage – The broken drain cover reported at the last meeting has been repaired but the other two require works. The County Council have also repainted some of the road markings. However, there are still some signs that are faded along with the centre white lines on the A422. Cllr Curtis was thanked for his assistance in getting these repairs completed. It was noted that the Police Speed Camera Van had been operating from the layby near the Halford junction. The poor condition of the road surface on Walton Lane was mentioned and this will be reported to WCC.
7	Treasurer's Report Jo Wilkinson gave an overview of quarter one for 2026-27. The starting bank balance for the quarter was £15,401.72 and following 10 payments the closing bank balance was £16,574.25. The accounts showed a VAT figure of £3,524.16 that the PC will try to reclaim.
8	Village Hall Report Dominic Sant as Chair of the Village Hall Management Committee was an apology but Matthew OBrien informed the meeting that a new drainage ditch had been installed to help prevent the hall from flooding which has been a major problem previously. This has been funded by a grant from SDC plus two other grants.
9	Planning Applications that were live at the last meeting
9.1	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. The application is still pending consideration
9.2	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. Outline Planning Permission Permitted 15/05/2026
9.3	26/00229/FUL Proposed New Stable Building and change of use of land from agricultural to equestrian at Stamford Hall Barn for Mr and Mrs Johnson. Permission with Conditions Granted 02/06/2026
9.4	26/00862/LDE 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 for Mr Burton. Lawful Development Certificate Existing Permitted 26/05/2026
10	Planning Applications received since the last meeting
10.1	26/01284/AMD Non-material amendment to planning permission 24/02077/FUL (date of decision 06/11/2024) to replace approved plans and elevations ES325-03 rev B with ES325-03 rev C at Nolands Farm for Mr Connolly. Approval of Non Material Amendment Granted 18/06/2026

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11	Vacancy for Parish Councillor The vacancy had been advertised in the noticeboards and on the website between 18 th May and 8 th June. As 10 electors had not requested a by-election the PC are allowed to co-opt a new councillor. Residents interested in the role can apply to the Clerk and the PC will have discussions with any applicants prior to offering the role.
12	Open Forum
12.1	There were no further questions from residents.
13	Date and Time of Next Meeting The 221 st Parish Council Meeting will be held on Wednesday 7 th October 2026 commencing 7.30pm in the Village Hall.
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