

PILLERTON PRIORS PARISH COUNCIL

**The 221st Meeting of the Pillerton Priors Parish Council was held on
Wednesday 7th October 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))
Cllr Trevor Parkinson
Ian Greenall (Clerk)

Cllr David Curtis (WCC)

Residents 10 Residents were present

Number	Item
1	Chairman's welcome – Michael Nevill welcomed everyone to the meeting. He introduced Cllr Trevor Wilkinson who had joined the Parish Council following the vacancy noted at the previous meeting. Dominic Sant has also resigned as a Parish Councillor and Michael proposed a vote of thanks to Dominic for his service to the Parish Council since May 2015. The vacancy has been advertised in line with electoral procedure between 8 th and 28 th September in the noticeboards and on the Parish website. As 10 residents did not request an election the PC will now co-opt to the vacancy.
2	Apologies were received from Cllr Malcolm Littlewood (SDC)
3	Warwickshire County Council – Cllr David Curtis presented the report below and responded to questions. County Budget Consultation Warwickshire County Council is inviting people who live, work or study in the county to share their views as it prepares its budget for 2027/28. Through public consultation the Council wants to understand which services people value most and gather views on potential Council Tax options. The survey also asks where efficiencies could be explored and how the Council might work differently or generate additional income. Complete the survey here: https://ask.warwickshire.gov.uk/bi/budget-2027-28/ South Warwickshire Local Plan Consultation has now closed and will proceed to Regulation 19 with a decision on the plan by the Government Inspector expected in Spring 2027. There is little direct impact on Ilmington, but the new NPPF does assume a presumption in favour of development. The changes/postponement of LGR have little or no impact on SWLP I don't believe anyone believes this iteration of the SWLP is perfect, far from it. But if we don't have a plan approved by the Inspector, we will simply have a planning 'free-for-all' and decisions will be made on appeal and most likely in favour of developers. This would give the local planning authority little or no control over which sites were developed and what infrastructure; shops, medical/community centres, schools etc would be put in place.

	It's also important to remember the SWLP is up to 2050, and it is this government that is imposing the housing targets that we are required to meet. Local Government Reorganisation LGR As announced on 7 September the Government is delaying LGR due to several legal challenges from Reform UK, primarily around the size of the new Unitary Authorities. The Government's initial guidelines proposed population size of 500,000, the North and South Warks split had a population of circa 230-250,000. A Government announcement is now expected shortly after 12 October. It still likely that District and Borough Elections will take place in May 2027, probably for a 2-year term, with elections to the new Shadow Authority, whatever that may be, in May 2028 with 'vesting day', 1 April 2026, but from today's conversations it seems equally likely that the accepted North/South split will be re-instated. Hopefully we will know more by the end of October SDC Warm/ Community Hubs Grant Warm/ Community Hubs Grant Scheme which will be available for local groups and organisations to apply to from 1st of October. Details are available on the SDC website: Community/Warm Hub Grant Support Scheme 2026 Stratford-on-Avon District Council. NDP (Neighbourhood Development Plan) Funding Town & Parish Councils can apply to SDC for NDP funding including details on how NDP Groups can apply for funding to support the production of new and updated NDPs. I've at the form and here's a link https://www.stratford.gov.uk/planning-building/neighbourhood-plan-funding.cfm Speeding This is endemic throughout the County. Happy to look at various options and will look into costs of red/green/smiley face lights. These have been shown to be quite effective in managing behaviour. Chicanes are not possible due to 'dark skies' and no street lighting. White Lining I'll ask Michael Rogers what additional while lining is planned, if I could be sent photos of particularly poor areas I'll forward them to him Healthy Ageing Warwickshire's new Healthy Ageing Interactive Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) is now live. A JSNA is used across Warwickshire to understand the needs of our population, identify health inequalities and inform decisions about services, support and future priorities. The Healthy Ageing JSNA provides a picture of how older people are living across Warwickshire, highlighting local needs, inequalities, strengths and opportunities. The interactive report allows you to explore data for your local area, helping inform community conversations and decision-making.
4	Stratford-on-Avon District Council – Cllr Malcolm Littlewood submitted the written report below. Since last month Central Government have "paused" the Devolution and Local

Government Reform process due to legal challenges. There is no clear indication of what will happen next, but a great deal of time and money has been expended on this sinking Flagship policy.

The public consultation for the South Warwickshire Local Plan has been conducted with a stronger than expected level of responses. Time is running out for the final submission draft for Regulation 19 to be ready in time before the December cut-off. We have had a summer of exceptional weather. Heat and draught will soon give way to the approaching Winter. Experts are indicating that the 'super' El Nino will cause a severe Winter at a time of Cost of Living and Energy Crisis. I have included details of some grants that are available to help to keep people warm and not isolated.

Devolution and Local Government Reform Up-date

DLGR is now paused. What that means is unclear, but the Government have instructed all Local Authorities to 'suspend' all work. The cost to SDC is probably in the order of £200k which, if the project does not recommence, will be demanded from central government. The decision by HMG at this late stage was because of legal challenges made by some authorities sighting a failure to follow the process and procedure agreed by parliament, and illegal changes to electoral borders and accusations of gerrymandering. An update to the current position is due on the 12th of October; we shall see.

South Warwickshire Local Plan and Regulation 19 Public Consultation

A huge circa 12,500 response was received by SDC regarding the public consultation on the SWLP Regulation 19 draft proposals. This has delayed the processing and analysis of the responses. Consideration to the responses must be shown to have been undertaken in the final draft. The final submission date is the 31st December 2026 so time is getting short.

Current Grants & Funding

Stratford Energy Support Fund

Eligibility

To be eligible households must meet the income and vulnerability criteria listed below.

Income criteria:

- Gross household income of up to £31,000 (not including PIP or DLA)
- No household savings
- A vulnerability from the list shown in the next section

You will be required to provide evidence of income:

- For those on means tested benefits – evidence of award dated within the last three months
- For those not on means tested benefits – bank statements for three months

Applicants must also confirm that someone in the home is vulnerable. This is quite a broad measure so please contact Act on Energy if you are unsure.

Vulnerabilities typically include:

- Long term diagnosed and treated health conditions e.g. COPD
- Households with unmanageable debt
- Pregnant or have young children under the age of five
- Disabled and in receipt of DLA or PIP
- In receipt of related benefits related (not universal) free school meals

- Other vulnerabilities disclosed by households not on the list but accepted at Act on Energy's discretion

A one-off payment for financial support will be made direct to your provider or as a prepayment voucher for those paying by card or key.

The amount received will be determined by your household composition:

- Families with children under the age of 18 (or young adults up to age 21 in full time education) could receive £500 via direct payment to their energy supplier or as pre-payment energy vouchers for those paying by key or card
- Single occupants or couples could receive £300 via direct payment to their energy supplier or as pre-payment vouchers for those paying by key or card

You will be required to provide supporting evidence of your vulnerability and a copy of a recent energy bill.

How to apply

If you need support or want to find out more about eligibility criteria, please visit the Act on Energy website or you can contact Act on Energy directly:

Phone: 0800 988 2881 Email: advice@actonenergy.org.uk

Community/Warm Hub Support Scheme 2026

The Stratford-on-Avon District Council 'Community/Warm Hub Grant Support Scheme 2026' is now open for applications.

What is the 'Community/Warm Hub Grant Support Scheme 2026'?

Following the closure of Warwickshire Rural Community Council and an assessment of the impact of this closure, Stratford-on-Avon District Council is seeking to support existing community/warm hubs, encourage the creation of new hubs, and ensure that they are fully prepared for the coming winter.

We plan to distribute financial support to qualifying applicant organisations to enable them to achieve our aim of:

Support, prolong and enhance community wellbeing activity through community/warm hub events bringing together members of the whole community, but with a focus on more vulnerable residents.

What can we fund?

We are looking to support community/warm hubs meeting the below objectives:

- Improving the sustainability of community/warm hubs through providing funding for venue hire or similar,
- Improving experience through enhancing activities held at the community/warm hub,
- Improving the administration of the community/warm hub through funding administrative costs, including insurance, compliance costs, DBS checks, energy bills or similar; and,
- Provision of funding to cover other costs associated with the development and delivery of community/warm hubs.

We cannot fund community/warm hub sessions that have already taken place.

Who can apply?

This scheme is open to not-for-profit organisations such as:

- Town and Parish Councils,
- Registered charities,
- Voluntary or community groups,
- Residents associations.

The following organisations are not eligible for this scheme:

- National organisations or individuals, unless working in a partnership with a local organisation already delivering activities to communities in the district,
- Party political groups,
- For-profit organisations.

There are also a series of eligibility criteria that organisations must meet to be eligible:

- Your organisation must deliver a Community/Warm Hub for residents in a community within Stratford District.
- Your organisation must have a bank account (we cannot pay into an individual's account).
- Your organisation is not-profit making (see list above).
- Your project will support, prolong and enhance community wellbeing activity through community/warm hub events bringing together members of the whole community but with a focus on more vulnerable residents.

How much is available?

There is a total of £25,000 available for this scheme. Grant applications are invited for between £250 and £1,000.

When is the deadline for applications?

This is a rolling grant programme. After opening, the scheme will close when funds are exhausted or on the 31st March 2027, whichever is soonest.

When will I find out if I have been successful?

Applications will be assessed within 4 weeks of application. Applicants will be informed of the outcome as soon as possible after this assessment period.

How do I apply?

You can complete an application either via the online form or by printing the pdf version and posting it to us.

To complete a paper version, you can print this document and post to us at Community Hub Grant Team, Stratford District Council, Elizabeth House, Church Street, Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwickshire, CV37 6HX.

Where can I find more details?

Details about the scheme can be found in the Scheme Specification.

The Stratford-on-Avon District Council 'Healthy and Sustainable Food For All - Community Food Projects Grant 2026' is now open for applications.

The Healthy and Sustainable Food For All - Community Food Projects Grant 2026 is a new fund to reduce food insecurity and increase accessibility to nutritious and affordable meals in Stratford District.

Who can apply?

The scheme is open to not-for-profit organisations such as:

- Charities,
- CIO's or CIC's,
- Town or Parish Councils,
- Community groups.

The Scheme Guidance document includes a checklist of eligibility that all organisations will need to meet to be eligible for funding.

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5	Approval of the minutes of the 220th Parish Council Meeting The Minutes of the 220th Parish Council Meeting held on 7th July 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 poor condition of the road surface on Walton Lane had been reported to WCC. Further concerns were raised with the partly renewed line markings and the various faded signs. The Clerk will make another report to WCC.
7	Treasurer’s Report Jo Wilkinson gave an overview of quarter two for 2026-27. The starting bank balance for the quarter was £16,574.25. We received the second half of the precept from SDC which was £3,193.50. The previous accounts showed a VAT figure of £3,524.16 but the PC were only able to reclaim £1,506.38 which was received this quarter. Ten payments were made in the quarter leaving a closing balance of £19,747.49 which includes Section 106 CIL money of £10,954.20. The PC would welcome suggestions for this Section 106 CIL expenditure as the majority is for infrastructure projects to benefit the village.
8	Village Hall Report Dominic Sant as Chair of the Village Hall Management Committee presented an update on hall activities. The bookings are increasing and there are now Tai Chi on Wednesday mornings but the hall would benefit from more regular daytime bookings. The number of people attending the Pop-up-Pub is disappointing, but a Christmas event will be held then future pubs will be considered. Bingo is being planned for Sunday 8th November. There is also the possibility of a wreath making course. The hall funds are around £24,000 so healthy but future works will impact so more income will be required. Various improvements have been made including the Findon Room being painted by Helen Baker. A grass bound has been created to try to alleviate some of the flooding issues that have been experienced. A report was commissioned that has highlighted a number of structural needs that will be required over the next 5 years. A Structural Engineer will be employed to look at building movement as this appears to be an issue along with a drainage report. A number of SDC Climate Fund Grants have been obtained around diversity which has included sowing wild flowers on the bound. The grass will not be cut as often next year to save some expenditure and assist biodiversity. The hall’s solar panels have been tripping and this issue will be investigated. A complaint has been made to the Ombudsman regarding the Feed-in Tariff (FiT) payments the hall were expecting as there was a time when the solar system was not working correctly prior to the recent updates. Bookings and more information regarding the hall can be found on its website https://www.pillertonpriorsvillagehall.org.uk/
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

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	Hersey for Mr Smith. This was refused on 17/08/2026. The applicant has six months to lodge an appeal with the Planning Inspector if they choose to.
10	Planning Applications received since the last meeting
10.1	26/01595/LDE Lawful commencement of development for formation of private driveway (to new dwelling approved ref: 01/01273/FUL) as per planning permission 03/00814 which is now extant indefinitely at Keepers Banbury Road for Mr Burton. Granted 07/08/2026.
10.2	26/01642/FUL Erection of 9 dwellings on land off Kineton Road for Deeley Homes Ltd. Consultations were by 25/08/2026. Application is Pending Consideration. It was noted that the representation from the Policy Team at SDC had some inaccuracies including the statement that Priors did not have a Built Up Area Boundary (BUAB). It was also noted that the SUDS document relating to drainage was based on incorrect sizing data. This would be reported to the Planning Officer.
10.3	26/01894/PIP Proposed construction of 3 (minimum) to 5 (maximum) dwellings and associated works on land to the rear of Edoras, Banbury Road for Mr Gant. This was refused at Planning Committee 23/09/2026. Dave McWhirter gave an update on the Planning Meeting. He explained that the SDC Councillors had posed some relevant questions to the Planning Officers presenting the report that had suggested that the application should be approved. A proposal to refuse the application was proposed and seconded and then the vote was 7 councillors rejected the application and 1 abstained. The recording of the meeting is available to view on the SDC YouTube channel. The applicant can lodge an appeal against refusal within 6 months.
10.4	26/02103/FUL Erection of 1 dwelling at Sandpit Farm for Mr Bryan & Miss Gardner. Consultations were by 29/00/2026. Application is Pending Consideration.
10.5	26/02200/TEL56 Installation of a 25m Lattice Tower, 6 no. Antenna apertures, 2 no. 600mm microwave transmission dishes and equipment cabinets inside 10m x 6m compound enclosed by a 1.8m high close board timber fence with a 3m wide access gate and development ancillary thereto at Cadbold Fosse Farm, Walton Lane for Atlas Tower Group. Consultations were by 29/00/2026. Application is Pending Consideration. No residents have submitted any objections to the scheme.
10.6	26/00504/FUL Appeal Reference 6016022 Appeal against refusal of erection of self-build/custom build dwelling and all associated works on land north of Stockleys Orchard for Mr and Mrs Stepney. Written Representation with additional comments by 20/10/2026.
11	Open Forum
11.1	Neighbourhood Development Plan Dave McWhirter gave an update. Priors has an approved Parish Plan which would benefit from a refresh especially the action plan. However a Parish Plan does not hold as much weight as a Neighbourhood Plan when applications are being assessed. To create a Neighbourhood Plan would involve a lot of work and involve the PC and residents. Plans can identify sites that the village would like to preserve but should also propose development areas. This could cause divisions in a village as small as Priors. In the current SDC Local Plan Priors is classed as a Local Service Village 4 which suggests some development and expansion could take place. The SWLP identifies Priors as a category C which should have no more than infill development within the Built Up Area Boundary. However the recently updated National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) suggests development should not be confined to BUABs. With these contrary positions it was felt that although initial groundwork could be undertaken towards a future Neighbourhood Plan, it should not be developed until it

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	is clear how planning will be assessed in the future as the goalposts appear to be moving.
11.2	A question was asked regarding Dickensbury Farm. It is understood that the farm has been sold subject to contract but the purchaser is not known at present.
12	Date and Time of Next Meeting The 222 nd Parish Council Meeting will be held on Wednesday 13 th January 2027 commencing 7.00pm in the Village Hall.
13	The Meeting was closed at 8.49pm and Michael thanked everyone for their attendance.

Chair: Michael Nevill

Date Signed:

Minutes: Ian Greenall

clerk@pillertonpriorsparishcouncil.gov.uk