Minutes of the Meeting of Prees Parish Council

held on June 17 2024 at Prees Village Hall at 7.15 pm.

Present: Cllrs Mrs J Catterall; Mrs B Finch; Mrs S Jones; R Hirons; J Whelan; M Lanham; D Ladd and Dr J Redgate. There was one member of the Public present and also Mrs K Sieloff, clerk to the PC.

**084/24**: Public Session.

There were no contributions from the Public.

**085/24**: Apologies had been received from Cllrs Mrs S Short; Mrs R Clutton; Mrs L Baer; J Allen and P Wynn.

**086/24:** Declaration of Interests. There were none.

**087/27**: Minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting held on May 20 2024 had been previously circulated. Cllr J Whelan pointed out that the following amendments to the Standing Orders, required in his report, should have been Minuted and asked that they should be added.

1. 3(e) contains a spelling mistake
2. 3 (i) the requirement to stand when speaking should be removed
3. 3 (r) the reference is wrong and should be 6 (h) and (i).

With these amendments the Minutes were agreed as a true record. Cllr Mrs B Finch proposed that they should be signed and this was seconded by Cllr R Hirons. All were in favour.

**088/24**: Actions arising from the Agenda not included in the Minutes: there were none.

**089/34**: Community Policing Report. None available.

**090/24**: Shropshire Council Report. Cllr P Wynn had sent his Apology.

**091/24**: **Planning matters**:

Current planning applications for consultation.

**24/01875/PMBPA**: Application for prior approval under Part 3, Class Q of the Town & Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015 for the change of use from agricultural to form one residential unit. Rose Cottage, Prees Green, Whitchurch, Shropshire, SY13 2BN. APPLICANT: Don Carissimo.

The Parish Council resolved to object to this Application on the grounds that it believes that the building in question is not in fact an agricultural one and has never been used for agricultural purposes. Proposed by Cllr J Whelan and seconded by Cllr M Lanham.

**Planning Decisions received from Shropshire Counci**l.

**24/01594/FUL**: Proposed extension to detached garage to form garden room. Kerry, Heathwood Road, Higher Heath, Whitchurch, Shropshire, SY13 2HF. Decision:  Grant Permission

**24/01396/FUL**: Erection of single-storey rear extension. 24 Whitchurch Road, Prees, Shropshire SY13 2DG. Decision: Grant Permission.

**24/01223/FUL**: Erection of garage with store over and erection of log-store. Cornerwood, Higher Heath, Whitchurch, Shropshire, SY13 2HZ. Decision:  Refuse.

**092/24 Parish and Parish Council Matters**

**Enhancement of pedestrian-safety on Station Road.**

The clerk reported that she had met with a member of the Traffic Engineering Dept from SC to discuss the possible provision of a painted white line and signage warning of pedestrians in the road, on the stretch of Station Road now enhanced by the two new street-lamps. The officer thought the plan was a reasonable one and will put it forward for approval by SC. It may well be that the Parish Council has to fund it. It was also noted that overhanging vegetation along that part of the road needs a rigorous cutting-back. (Clerk to organize at end of nesting season.)

The Traffic Engineering officer also went up to Lacon Street to survey the proposed site for an additional vehicle speed monitor, as the positioning of this has to be approved by SC. He explained to the clerk that SC’s policy on vehicle speed monitors has changed.

The clerk reported that this had been elaborated on by another member of the Traffic Engineering team in a telephone conversation the following day. Due to a proliferation of vehicle speed monitors appearing across the county, some of them completely inappropriately placed and unapproved, Shropshire Council have a new policy which means that vehicle speed monitors have to be approved by them (and will only be approved if there is speed data proving a need) and the hardware will have to be purchased through SC and a maintenance contract bought from them.

**Defibrillators held at the three Village/Church Halls.**

It was resolved that the Parish Council would maintain the on-going costs of maintaining defibrillator provision at the three Halls. The proviso would be that the PC would approve, source and purchase all parts and each Hall would provide the contact details of the person who would take responsibility for the physical upkeep of ‘their’ defibrillator and to whom pieces of equipment would be delivered. This person would also be asked to provide an update towards the end of the year with any information they could give about likely necessary defib expenditure in the coming year, to inform the PC’s budget-setting. These terms were proposed by Cllr M Lanham and seconded by Cllr D Ladd. All were in favour. Clerk to relay these terms to the three Wards.

It was also resolved that the PC would only maintain these three defibrillators, one per Ward in the Parish. Proposed by Cllr D Ladd and seconded by Cllr R Hirons. All were in favour.

**Community-led building development Whitchurch Road**

Scottish Power have notified the Parish Council of their plans to connect electricity to the development during July and August 2024. As Cllr J Whelan explained, the road closures and subsequent diversions will cause considerable disruption to traffic flow and travel through Prees, which is already problematic. Cllr Whelan had produced clear diagrammatic maps to distill and simplify the information concerning the road closures etc, which he proposed should be supplied to local businesses and organisations for their own information and for display for their customers.

This was seconded by Cllr D Ladd. All were in favour. Cllr Whelan and the clerk to be responsible for the dissemination of the information.

The meeting was reminded by the clerk that currently the legal paperwork allowing this work to be undertaken was not complete, but it was perhaps heartening that Scottish Power felt confident that it would be completed in time for their works to start during July, as the lack of electricity to the site is currently holding up progress there.

**Access to Fauls notice-boards and post-box**.

Cllr Dr J Redgate reported that through Fauls Parochial Church Council, the Fauls community had expressed a preference not to have the post-box and notice-boards relocated, but to have access to the existing provision made safer by the installation of slabs, as in his design-plan, which had been previously circulated. Cllr Redgate asked for the PC’s support to pursue the matter. The PC indicated unanimously that it was not averse to considering paying for the project and the clerk was asked to investigate the implementation of the plan including costs, any implications for insurance and SC Highways, etc.

**Proposal to extinguish Footpath 15E**

Cllr Lanham said that thanks were due to Stephen Rodenhurst at SC Footpaths for the excellent work he had accomplished on this matter. Cllr Lanham’s full comments on the proposed extinguishment, which are endorsed by the Parish Council, are available on the PC website. Cllr Lanham, whilst being adamant that this matter must in no way be regarded as a precedent for others, agreed that in this particular case there was no option but to extinguish the footpath.

**Refurbishment of Playgrounds**

Cllr R Hirons reported that the Playgrounds Group had received favourable quotes from SC Playgrounds Dept for three pieces of equipment for Prees playground (a slide; a multi-user all-age swing and a roundabout accessible to wheelchairs and buggies) and a zip-wire for Higher Heath. This selection of equipment met the declared needs of those local residents who had responded to the Parish Council’s efforts to engage local user opinion.

The access to the playground in Prees would need adapting to allow easy access to wheelchairs and buggies, and the Playgrounds Dept at SC would advise and quote for this work.

The PC’s Playgrounds Group would then be in a position to make a firm proposal to the PC asking for approval of a total spend.

Cllr M Lanham suggested that there could be pictures to see at the next meeting and that should perhaps be an opportunity for residents to see what was planned.

**Possible link between Prees and Barcani in Romania**.

Cllr Mrs J Catterall led the discussion on this item. The idea had been mooted by a former resident of Barcani who now lives in the Parish. The PC was interested in gauging local interest in this matter. The PC did not feel it had the capacity to provide a lead on the matter, itself, but it would facilitate and support a group should local residents come forward to start one. Cllr J Whelan proposed that an item should be put in The Venture, asking anyone interested to contact the PC. This was seconded by Cllr D Ladd and all were in favour.

**Prees Crossroads**

The PC discussed the matter of some drivers ignoring the restrictions imposed by the double yellow lines, again. There was no appetite for embellishment of the current sign provided by the PC reminding drivers to respect the yellow lines, or for the erection of any additional signage. The general opinion was that drivers ignore the yellow lines because there is no fear of enforcement.

**Prees Primary School’s Daily Mile track.**

The PC had received an email from Prees Primary School confirming that the funding for the walking track had now reached a point where it was just £2,000 short of the total required. Cllr Mrs J Catterall reminded the meeting that the PC had pledged to donate the final £2,000 if this point was reached. As this promise had previously been resolved on and minuted the clerk had concurred with Cllr Mrs S Short’s request that, in order not to further delay the execution of the work, the cheque should be raised for the current meeting.

There was some discussion about the lack of clarity around the School’s previous indication that the exercise track would be available for the benefit of members of the community, not only the school’s children. The clerk was asked to note in the letter accompanying the donation cheque that the Parish Council looked forward to hearing the details of this commitment.

Proposed by Cllr M Lanham that the donation should be made, with the letter as detailed above, and seconded by Cllr Mrs B Finch. All were in favour.

**093/24 SALC**

Cllr Mrs J Catterall regretted that the North Shropshire Area Committee meeting had clashed with the Parish Council meeting tonight and so she had had to send her Apology.

**094/24 Accounts for Payment June 2024**.

Cllr D Ladd proposed that the following accounts should be paid. This was seconded by Cllr J Whelan. All were in favour.

K D Sieloff salary June 2024 540.14

HMRC PAYE 43.60

K D Sieloff (clerk’s expenditure 16.5.24-12.6.24) 218.68

Scottish Power (streetlight energy- 1.5.24-1.6.24) 408.58

Pimlotts Grounds Maintenance Ltd (works May) 320.00

Information Commissioner data protection annual fee 40.00

Prees Primary School (donation) 2000.00

Steven Oliver: repair to Prees Playground gate hinge 50.00

Highline Electrical Ltd (new Station Road streetlamps) 14,248.55

 **Total 17,869.55**

Clerk’s expenditure 15.5.24 – 12.6.24

*BT line rental contribution June 2024: £ 12.50*

*Petrol:1 x trip to noticeboards (May Agenda etc) 8 miles @ 45p per mile =£3.60*

*1 x return trip to internal auditor: 26 miles @ 45p per mile = 11.70.*

*2 copies of Parish Map A0 size @ £16.00 = £32.00*

*Stamps:4 x second class stamps @ 75p = £3.00*

*Zoom annual subscription: £155.88*

Total = £218.68

**095/24 Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2023-24: Internal Auditor’s Report.**

This was considered by the Parish Council and accepted. Proposed by Cllr R Hirons and seconded by Cllr D Ladd. All were in favour.

**096/24 Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2023-24: Annual Governance Statement**. The items were considered one by one and responded to. It was proposed by Cllr R Hirons that the document should be signed and submitted. This was seconded by Cllr J Whelan. All were in favour.

**097/24 Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2023-24: Accounting Statements**. These were considered and accepted. It was proposed by Cllr Mrs S Jones that the document should be signed and submitted to the external auditor. This was seconded by Cllr Mrs B Finch. All were in favour.

**098/24** **The clerk confirmed that the dates for the period for the Exercise of Public Rights** to scrutinize the Unaudited Accounts would begin on Thursday 27 June 2024 and end on Thursday 8 August 2024.

**099/24 Housekeeping**.1. Benches outside Jackie’s Shop and partway up Church Street need refurbishment. Clerk to obtain quote for works.

2. Clerk has reported long-term parked/abandoned cars in Village Hall car park. Remedial action from SC, who owns the land, is expected.

3. There is a build-up of litter on Manor House Lane. Clerk to ask SC to clear.

**100/24 Facebook**. Residents are talking about the playgrounds.

**101/24 Correspondence**. None outstanding.

**102/24 Items for next Agenda.** Place Plan. The Square. Unreliable local mobile network.

The meeting was closed at 9.30pm.

Signed…………………………………………………… Date………………………………………………….