Minutes of the Meeting of Prees Parish Council

held on August19 2024 at Prees Village Hall at 7.15 pm.

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

**121/24**: Public Session. There were no contributions from members of the public.

**122/24**: **Apologies** had been received from Cllrs Mrs L Baer; D Ladd and J Allen.

**123/24:** **Declaration of Interests**. Cllr J Whelan declared a non-pecuniary interest in Planning Application 24/02729/TPO as the aboriculturalist advising is a family member.

**124/27**: The **Minutes** of the Parish Council Meeting held on July 15 2024 had been circulated previously. Cllr M Lanham pointed out that he was recorded as being both present and absent! He had actually been absent and the clerk amended the minutes appropriately. After that they were agreed to be a true record. It was proposed by Cllr R Hirons that they be signed and this was seconded by Cllr Mrs B Finch. All were in favour.

**125/24**: **Actions arising from the Agenda** not included in the Minutes.

The clerk confirmed that all necessary paperwork for the proposed changes to signatories on the bank accounts had been provided to Barclays and she awaited confirmation that the changes had been made.

**126/34**: **Community Policing Matters**.

The clerk circulated the August edition of the “On the Beat in North Shropshire” Safer Neighbourhood Team Newsletter

**127/24**: **Shropshire Council Report**. Cllr P Wynn attended to provide a report which made the following points:

1. The new Whitchurch Swimming Pool complex will open at Easter 2025. It will include a gym, an infinity pool, a dance space and a café.
2. In a cost-saving move, it has been agreed that the five Recycling Centres in the county will each be closed one day a week. It will be necessary for users to book a visit on-line and in advance.

Cllr Wynn was asked about the process around paying for green bin use, which is to be introduced in October of this year. He said he would check the procedure and report back.

**128/24**: **Planning matters**:

Planning applications received for consultation:

**24/02729/TPO:** Proposed works: Fell 1no Pine protected by North Shropshire District Council (Drumcote, Heathwood Road, Prees) TPO 1981 (Ref: NS/00055/81.) Location: The Oaks, Heathwood Road, Higher Heath, Whitchurch, Shropshire.

Cllr J Whelan refrained from discussing and voting on this matter.

The Parish Council resolved to support this Application, as long as the Tree Officer at SC is happy with it. Proposed by Cllr Mrs S Jones and seconded by Cllr Mrs R Clutton. All were in favour.

**24/02878/FUL**: Formation of new agricultural access. Agricultural land South of Mickley, Tern Hill, Shropshire TF9 3QW. Applicant: S Brookshaw.

The Parish Council resolved to support the formation of a new agricultural access. Proposed by Cllr R Hirons and seconded by Cllr Mrs R Clutton. All were in favour.

**Planning decisions received from Shropshire Council.**

**24/00574/FUL:** Land at Prees Industrial Estate, Shrewsbury Street, Prees SY13 2DJ. Residential development of 14 dwellings including 2 Affordable dwellings and provision of public open space. Decision: Refuse.

The clerk was asked to enquire of the Planning Dept concerning the perceived inconsistency of this decision. It has been refused, again, because of possible noise issues, whereas planning application 22/03298/FUL for the five bungalows behind the flats opposite Turnpike Rise, which are surely no further away, was granted permission.

**129/24 Parish and Parish Council Matters**

**Whitchurch Road Community-led Build.**

Cllr R Hirons reported that all the necessary easements allowing access over Medical Centre land had now been signed, so the connection of electricity could be completed. Wrekin Housing had reported that some of the Shared Ownership homes had already got accepted offers on them. There is to be another meeting of the Project Board on September 2 2024.

**Wrafton Terrace**

Cllr Mrs S Short reported that she had met with Wrafton Terrace residents and also a horticulturalist advisor. She explained that she saw the main criteria to be visibility, and therefore safety, for vehicles emerging on to Whitchurch Road. The consensus of opinion after those meetings was that the roses should be retained, but that all unplanned green growth should be completely removed. An edging would need to be installed to discourage parking on the site. (Cllr Mrs Short was awaiting a response from SC advising her concerning this.) Cllr Mrs Short proposed that she ask Pimlotts to remove all the unwanted growth, so that the roses have a chance to flourish, and there was unanimous support for this initial course of action.

**Village Hall car park being inconsiderately used.**

Cllr Dr J Redgate reported that there were currently five vehicles in the car park with no tax, and one of these had no MOT. He said he would report them to the DVLA. Cllr P Wynn said he has asked Shropshire Council, who owns the car park, to put up signage prohibiting mis-use of parking spaces. He also gave the clerk the contact details of the officer directly in charge of car parks.

**Access to Notice-boards and post-box in Fauls.**  Clerk had been asked to check what obligations if any existed on the PC to ensure any modifications to the provision made it fully-accessible to those with disabilities. The clerk now reported that there seemed to be no statutory obligations of this sort but that the advice was to provide a ramp and steps if possible, but that a ramp was preferable to steps if both could not be fitted in. There was unanimous approval among the cllrs for the idea of the installation of a tarmac ramp.

Clerk to invite contractors to meet with her and Cllr J Redgate on-site to make a plan.

**Refurbishment of play areas.**

Cllr M Lanham reported that there was lots of lively discussion on facebook concerning the proposed new equipment: not all of it supportive of the Parish Council.

The Chair reminded the meeting that the PC had made considerable efforts to engage the community in discussion of what was required in the playgrounds, and the decisions it had subsequently made were based on the comments of those very few families who had got involved.

Since the last meeting, the contractor had confirmed that there would also be room in the Brades Road playground for the installation of 4 flat-seat swings. Cllr Mrs J Catterall proposed that these should be purchased at a cost of £4,880 ex VAT and this was seconded by Cllr Mrs S Jones. All were in favour.

The Chair and the clerk to draft a statement to put on facebook. Cllr Mrs Short to talk to Cllr D Ladd beforehand.

All agreed a better drawn plan of the proposed lay-out of the new equipment would be helpful. Clerk to request this.

**Request from SC for partnering in delivery of services**.

Cllr Mrs S Short read out the letter from SC asking if town and parish councils could consider contributing at their own cost to the provision of certain services. The services initially under consideration are Culture and Leisure services and facilities and local ‘Street Scene’ services (roadside verge-cutting; sign-cleaning etc.)

The clerk had been provided with a brief survey to be completed. After discussion the PC was unanimous that it felt that it was already doing what it could to support the provision of services locally (for example the employment of the Lengthsman) and the survey was completed accordingly.

**Future of the Youth Shelter**.

The meeting was reminded by the Chair that the Youth Shelter is needing repair to keep it safe.

Cllr J Whelan reminded the meeting that the Management Committee of the Prees Cricket and Recreation Club have already decided they will not renew the lease on the bit of ground that the structure stands on when it comes up for renewal in 2029. The Rec Club would have no objection to the Youth Shelter being removed before that time at the Parish Council’s expense. The clerk had received estimates for the demolition of the Youth Shelter of between £1200 and £3000.

Cllr J Whelan said he would visit the Youth Shelter and provide a report of its current condition to the PC. The Chair suggested that it would be difficult to justify spending a lot of public money on it in the knowledge that the lease will not be renewed and the Youth Shelter will have to be removed at that time.

**Whitchurch Place Plan: discussion of local community projects to be included**.

It was necessary to carry this item forward.

**130/24**: **SALC.**

Nothing to report. Cllr Mrs J Catterall commented that it is unfortunate that the North Shropshire Area Committee Meetings tend to clash with the meetings of Prees PC.

**131/24: Accounting matters**

**Accounts for Payment August 2024**

K D Sieloff salary August 2024 540.14

HMRC PAYE 43.60

K D Sieloff (clerk’s expenditure10.7.24 – 10.8.24 15.50

Scottish Power (streetlight energy- 1.7.24-1.8.24) 408.58

Steven Oliver 520.00

Playsafety Ltd 300.00

Highline Electrical Ltd 8710.20

Prees Village Hall (hire 30.7.24) 25.00

**Total £10,563.02**

Clerk’s expenditure 10.7.24-10.8.24

*BT line rental contribution August 2024: £ 12.50*

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

Total = £15.50

**Progress of Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2023-24.**

The clerk reported that the external auditors have acknowledged receipt of the documentation provided to them.

**132/24:** **Housekeeping**: Shrewsbury Street surface outside industrial estate is badly damaged. Clerk to report to SC.

**133/24**: **Facebook.** As documented under Refurbishment of Playgrounds, above.

**134/24:** **Correspondence.** None outstanding.

**118/24**:  **Items for next Agenda**.

Carbon literacy. Place Plan. Enforcement. Social Media Policy. Litter bins. The Square.

Signed…………………………………………………….. Dated………………………………………………