Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Prees Parish Council

held on Monday May 20 2024 at 7.15pm in Prees Village Hall.

Present: Cllrs Mrs S Short; Mrs L Baer; Mrs J Catterall; Mrs B Finch; Mrs R Clutton; R Hirons; M Lanham; J Redgate; J Whelan and P Wynn. Mrs K Sieloff clerk to the PC and one member of the public were also present.

**063/24** Election of Chair of the Parish Council for 2024-25

Cllr Mrs S Short asked if anyone was interested in being nominated as Chair. No such interest was declared. Cllr Mrs Short said that she was happy to continue in the role if required to. Cllr Mrs J Catterall nominated Cllr Mrs Short as Chair and this was seconded by Cllr Mrs L Baer. All were in favour. Cllr Mrs Short signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

**064/24** Election of Vice-Chair. Cllr J Whelan said he wished to step down as Vice-Chair. Cllr Mrs J Catterall said she would like to be nominated to the role. Cllr R Hirons proposed that she should be nominated as Vice-Chair and support was unanimous. Cllr Mrs J Catterall signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

**065/24** Apologies had been received from Cllrs Mrs S Jones; J Allen and D Ladd.

**066/24** Public Session. The member of the public congratulated the Chair on her re-election and thanked her for her contribution over the past year.

**067/24** Declaration of interest in items on the Agenda. There were none.

**068/24** The Minutes of the meeting held on April 15 2024, which had been previously circulated, were agreed to be a true record. Cllr J Whelan proposed that they should be signed and this was seconded by Cllr R Hirons. All were in favour.

**069/24** Matters arising from the Minutes not included on the Agenda. There were none.

**070/24** Appointment of Representatives to outside bodies.

Prees Village Hall (mgt committee) : Cllr Mrs J Catterall confirmed she was happy to continue.

Higher Heath Village Hall: Cllr Mrs B Finch confirmed she was happy to continue.

Prees Cricket & Rec. Club: Cllr J Whelan confirmed he was happy to continue.

Prees Parochial/ Elizabeth Barbour Charities: currently Cllr J Allen, who was not at the meeting. Clerk to

ascertain if he is prepared to continue in the role.

North Shropshire Area Committee/SALC : Cllr Mrs J Catterall confirmed she was happy to continue.

RAF Shawbury Liaison Group: Cllr Mrs Short confirmed she was happy to continue.

Parish Public Rights of Way representative :Cllr M Lanham confirmed he was happy to continue.

Patient Participation Group for Prees & Wem Medical Centres: Cllr Mrs S Short confirmed she was happy to

continue.

**071/24** Review of Policies etc.

* Councillors report back on their perusal of Parish Council documents.

1. Financial Regulations. Cllrs Mrs R Clutton and Mrs L Baer had read the newly-released latest Model Financial Regulations from NALC. Cllr Mrs Clutton proposed that the PC adopt these, and this was seconded by Cllr Mrs Baer. All were in favour. Clerk to copy across the necessary ‘personalisations’ from the previous Regulations.
2. Code of Conduct. This latest version was adopted only last year and Cllrs Mrs S Short and Mrs B Finch declared it suitable and fit for purpose.
3. Standing Orders. Cllr J Whelan reminded the Parish Council of the importance of familiarity with our Standing Orders and adherence to its rules. He and Cllr Mrs S Jones had perused the document and found it fit for purpose.
4. Complaints Procedure. Cllr Dr J Redgate pointed out a few administrative errors that needed sorting by the clerk but found the document fit for purpose.
5. Social Media Policy. Cllrs M Lanham and D Ladd found this fit for purpose.

* Bank Signatories to be reviewed. (Currently Cllrs Mrs S Short; R Hirons; J Allen and J Whelan.)

Cllr R Hirons suggested that he should be removed as a signatory and replaced by the Vice-Chair, Cllr Mrs J Catterall. Cllr Mrs J Catterall was in agreement and all were in favour. Clerk to arrange.

* Agree representatives for
* Play Area Committee (currently Cllrs Mrs B Finch; Mrs J Catterall and R Hirons.)
* Clerk’s Appraisal and Review panel (currently Cllrs M Lanham and J Allen.)

All cllrs involved confirmed that they were happy to continue.

**072/24** Schedule of meeting dates for rest of the year to be approved.

The schedule of meetings from June 2024-May 2025 proposed by the clerk was approved by all. All are scheduled for the third Monday in the month excepting for April 2025 which falls on Easter Monday. It was agreed that the April 2025 meeting would be on Monday 14 April.

**073/24** Annual insurance renewal due 1 June 2024. Clerk reported that she had expected to bring three quotes to the meeting but had unfortunately only received two. After discussion it was agreed that a renewal would be arranged with Zurich at a cost of £1298.47. This was proposed by Cllr L Baer and seconded by Cllr Mrs R Clutton. All were in favour. The clerk requested authorization to raise the cheque following the meeting and have it signed. This was proposed by Cllr Mrs S Short and seconded by Cllr R Hirons. All were in favour.

**074/24** **Shropshire Council Report.** Cllr Paul Wynn delivered the following Report:

*Can I start with talking about the financial situation of the Council. Last year we had to save £52m from our Budget and the coming year we must save £64m which is going to be a struggle. There will be cuts and charges for certain things. There will be redundancies made across the Council.*

*The finances are already cut to the bone. Under proposals set out in the Budget you will see more visible changes to the residents then have been seen to date. Council tax will rise and charges will be introduced for your green bins.*

*Our main cost to the council is Adult and Social Care and Public Health: this is around 80% of the council's budget which goes up year on year by 10%. We as a Council cannot put the rates up any more than 4.95% so you can understand the conundrum that we find ourselves in.*

*Active Travel Around Schools continues with the work we are doing to implement the 20 mile an hour zones outside schools.*

*The Council has continued to deliver a wide range of facilities and activities across Shropshire. With outdoor recreation sites, leisure facilities, libraries, theatres, museums, armed forces support and more, it is very easy to forget how much we provide and are involved with.*

*Shropshire Council continues to support the Homes for Ukraine project as the Russians invasion stretches into its third year.*

*Car parking has been in the headlines recently as we need to increase charges to help us pay for investment in both the parking team and the car park infrastructure.*

*I must say it is quite a depressing situation we find ourselves in but hopefully we will be able to come through this dreadful time. Sorry I cannot be more positive or bring you good news as such at this time.*

**075/24** Community Policing report. None received.

**076/24** Planning Matters.

**Current Applications for consultation**:

24/01396/FUL: Erection of single storey rear extension. 24 Whitchurch Road, Prees, Whitchurch, Shropshire, SY13 2DG. Applicant: Rachel Law.

The Parish Council resolved to object to this Application on the grounds that the works would cause overlooking and loss of privacy to neighbouring properties. Proposed by Cllr J Whelan and seconded by Cllr Mrs B Finch. All were in favour.

24/01594/FUL: Proposed extension to detached garage to form garden room.  
Address:  Kerry, Heathwood Road, Higher Heath, Whitchurch, Shropshire, SY13 2HF  
Applicant: Mr And Mrs Haycocks

The Parish Council resolved to support this Application. This was proposed by Cllr R Hirons and seconded by Cllr J Whelan. All were in favour.  
24/01432/FUL: Conversion and extension of traditional brick barn to provide 2-bedroom dwelling. Broadhay, Broadhay Lane, Lower Heath, Prees, Shropshire. Applicant: Mr Edward Appleby.

The Parish Council resolved to support this Application. This was proposed by Cllr M Lanham and seconded by Cllr Mrs L Baer. All were in favour.

The following Planning Application was received For Information Only and was noted.

24/01855/CPL Application for a Lawful Development Certificate re: use of a C3a dwelling as a children's home for a maximum of three children, with up to three carers, two of whom will sleep overnight, working on a rota basis. 112 Twemlows Avenue, Higher Heath, Whitchurch, Shropshire, SY13 2HD. APPLICANT: Shuaib Ishaq

**Planning decisions received from Shropshire Council**

24/00778/FUL: 36 Woodlands Grove, Prees Higher Heath, Whitchurch, Shropshire, SY13 2JB  
Proposal:  Erection of side and rear extension, internal alterations and associated works  
Decision:  Grant Permission  
24/01172/FUL: The Hawthorns Farm, Prees Green, Whitchurch, Shropshire, SY13 2BP. Erection of replacement farm building for housing of livestock and storage. Decision: Refuse.

24/01029/FUL: Grocott Heritage Centre, Brookdale, Prees, Whitchurch SY13 2DW. Change of Use of commercial building (B2/B8) to Heritage Centre (F1) and Café (Retrospective.) Decision: Grant Permission.

**Other planning matters**

Notice received of Appeal against a planning decision:

Application ref: 23/04441/FUL Appeal ref: 24/03252/REF.

Former Anvil Café, Sandford, Whitchurch, Shropshire. Proposed Redevelopment of Site of Former Transport Café to provide new café and facilities building with associated landscape works, trailer and car parking and servicing areas.

The Parish Council understood that all comments it had already made would be passed on and it had no further comments to make.

**077/24 Parish and Parish Council Matters.**

* **80th Anniversary of D-Day: June 6 2024.**  Cllr J Whelan explained the details of the 80th Anniversary of D Day Commemorative events that would be based at the Prees Cricket and Recreation Club, with the Beacon being lighted at 9.15 pm.
* **Refurbishment of play areas:** update. Cllr R Hirons to lead. Tim Simmonds of the Playgrounds dept at SC is to obtain costings on three pieces of equipment selected by the PC Playgrounds Group to enhance and broaden the appeal of the provision at Prees Playground. The Group will bring a proposal to the PC as soon as it has the information it needs in order to do so.
* **Local defibrillators**. The Parish Council resolved to fund the replacement of defibrillators at Prees Village Hall; Higher Heath Village Hall and Fauls Church Hall when necessary and to take on the on-going costs for the foreseeable future. This was proposed by Cllr M Lanham and seconded by Cllr Mrs J Catterall. All were in favour.
* **Grants and Donations**. Cllr Mrs S Short confirmed that she had attended a ceremony at Lower Heath School which opened the sensory garden recently built, and which included the Buddy Bench to which the PC was contributing £100.00.
* **Aspirations**. Cllr J Whelan reported that he had been reviewing the PC’s declared aspirations. He reminded the meeting that among these the shortage of burial space; local traffic hazards (especially around the Primary schools, at Heathgates Crossroads and on Station Road) the Community-led build; improvements to street-lighting and upgrading of the playgrounds were still on-going concerns. It was agreed that provision of allotments and a playground at Manor Place were no longer aspirations of the PC. Clerk to ensure that all the PC’s live aspirations are recorded on the Whitchurch Place Plan. Clerk also to invite the Whitchurch Place Plan officer to attend a meeting to explain further how the Place Plan works and what the PC can expect from it.

**078/24** SALC

**079/24** Accounting matters

Accounts for Payment May 2024.

It was resolved that the following accounts should be paid. Proposed by Cllr Mr R Clutton and seconded by Cllr R Hirons. All were in favour.

K D Sieloff salary May 2024 540.14

HMRC 43.60

K D Sieloff (clerk’s expenditure 10.4.24- 15.5.24 ) 53.45

Scottish Power (streetlight energy- 1.4.24-1.5.24) 395.62

Pimlotts Grounds Maintenance Ltd (works April) 320.00

ALC annual affiliation fees 1380.79

Lower Heath School (donation) 100.00

Steven Oliver: repairs to HH playing field gate 150.00

Steven Oliver: external display for Parish Map 350.00

£ 3,333.60

Clerk’s expenditure 10.4.24-14.5.24

*BT line rental contribution May 2024: £ 12.50*

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

*1x copy of Parish Map A0 size: £16.00*

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

*1x black ink printer cartridge: £18.35*

Total = £53.45.

**080/24** Housekeeping.

Reports had been received of anti-social behaviour at the Youth Shelter: evidence of small fires; rubbish and broken glass. Clerk to notify local police.

**081/24** Facebook. Cllr D Ladd had reported that there was disquiet expressed on Facebook concerning the current state of the playground in Prees.

**082/24** Correspondence**.**

Cllr Dr J Redgate reported that Freedom Fibre had released plans of the new infrastructure they intend to install locally in order to facilitate the roll-out of full-fibre Broadband. Despite Freedom Fibre’s declared intention of using existing telegraph poles whenever possible, their plans show new poles are to be installed close to old ones in lots of cases. Cllr Redgate is following this up with Freedom Fibre. Clerk to put information on the website signposting residents to the Freedom Fibre website where they will find all the information about the roll-out.

**083/24** Items for next Agenda.

Place Plan.

Meeting was closed at 8.55pm.

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