**Minutes of the Prees Parish Council Meeting held on 18 November 2024 in Prees Village Hall.**

Present: Cllrs Mrs S Short; Mrs J Catterall; R Hirons; J Whelan; J Redgate; D Ladd and M Lanham. Also present were one member of the Public and the clerk Mrs K Sieloff.

**167/24** **Public Session.** There were no contributions from members of the Public.

**168/24** **Apologies** had been received from Cllrs Mrs B Finch; Mrs B Clutton; Mrs S Jones; Mrs L Baer and P Wynn who was attending another PC meeting.

**169/24** **For Members to disclose Pecuniary/Non-Pecuniary interests** in items on this agenda. There were none.

**170/24** **Minutes** of the Parish Council Meeting held on October 21 2024 (previously circulated) were considered. Cllr D Ladd proposed that in Minute no 161/24 concerning social media, his claim about what the statistics showed should read “He cited statistics that showed that it was the most effective way of reaching a wider demographic among residents.” This was seconded by Cllr J Whelan

All were in favour of the amendment and the minutes were duly signed.

**171/24** **Actions arising from the Minutes** (which are not included on the Agenda.) There were none.

**172/24** **Community Policing Matters.** There was no rep

ort available.

**173/24 Shropshire Council Report.** Cllr P Wynn had told the clerk that he regretted there was no very positive news to report. However he had told Cllr Mrs S Short that there was a little movement in the on-going endeavour to source some land for parking at Prees School.

**174/24** **Planning Matters**

**Current planning applications for consultation**

**24/04059/FUL**: 6 Sandford, Whitchurch, Shropshire, SY13 2AW. Proposed extensions, internal alteration works, detached garage and new drainage system. Applicant: Mr C Cartwright (The Old Vicarage, Church Street, Prees, Whitchurch, Shropshire, SY13 2FF)

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.

**24/04187/VRA106**: Former Grocontinental Site, Heathwood Road, Higher Heath, Whitchurch, Shropshire, SY13 2HF. Variation of Section 106 agreement attached to planning permission NS/09/00111/OUT  
Applicant: Grocott Developments (Higher Heath) Limited (C/o Brookdale, Station Road, Prees, Whitchurch, Shropshire)

The Parish Council resolved to support this Application. This was proposed by Cllr R Hirons and seconded by Cllr D Ladd. All were in favour.

**24/03924/FUL**: The Hawthorns Farm, Prees Green; Whitchurch; Shropshire SY13 2BP. Proposed replacement farm building. Applicant: Mr and Mrs Watson.

The Parish Council resolved to support this Application. This was proposed by Cllr J Whelan and seconded by Cllr D Ladd. All were in favour.

**Planning decisions received from Shropshire Council.**

**24/03030/VAR**: Land To The East Of Ballacraine, Heathwood Road, Higher Heath, Whitchurch, Shropshire, SY13 2HH. Variation of Condition No. 1 attached to permission 20/05322/REM (Plot 2 only) dated 05 May 2021. Decision:  Grant Permission

**175/24**  **Parish and Parish Council Matters.**

**Whitchurch Road Community-led housing development**.

Cllr R Hirons reported an update from a meeting of the Project Board held on November 4 2024. It is expected that the houses will be ready for hand-over and occupation in February 2025. Final connections in the electricity supply still have to be made and these need agreements between the parties; road closures; notice to residents etc.  There is a Christmas embargo on road closures county-wide in Shropshire also.  This means the final electrical connections will not be made until January. The delay, however, does mean that the Lettings Team have the time they need to carefully check Local Connection claims. All 6 Shared Ownership homes have been sold. No applications were received from Prees residents, so applications were considered from people living within the second localities band i.e. within 10 kilometres of the site, bringing in areas such as Wem and Whitchurch.

Two of the adapted bungalows have been allocated directly by Shropshire Council to persons whose needs are for Accessible/Adaptable properties; it has been confirmed that they meet the local connection criteria.

**School parking at Lower Heath School: update from Cllr S Short.**

Cllr Mrs Short confirmed that she has been told a planning application for extra parking at Lower Heath School is in process.

**Access to postbox in Fauls. Update**.

Cllr Dr J Redgate confirmed that he has asked the PCC at Fauls to decide on the preferred location of the postbox. Once the PC has approved this, the coordinates can be given to Royal Mail and they will relocate it.

**Future of the Youth Shelter.**

Cllr J Catterall had not had an opportunity to make contact with the families of the two young men whose memorials are housed in the Youth Shelter. Cllr J Whelan reported that he had talked to the managers at the Rec Club explaining what the PC intended to do, and advising that it would be a long process. Clerk to check if any permissions are needed to demolish the building.

**Government domain address needed for Parish Council**?

This matter was carried forward to the next Agenda at the clerk’s request.

**PC Grants /Donations 2024 for consideration**.

The Parish Council resolved to make the following donations in response to applications received.

* Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal: £60.00. (This is in addition to £40.00 paid for the two wreaths.) Proposed by Cllr R Hirons and seconded by Cllr D Ladd. All were in favour.
* Higher Heath Village Hall: £200 towards removal of tree stumps. Proposed by Cllr M Lanham and seconded by Cllr Mrs J Catterall. All were in favour.
* Prees Baptist Church: £500.00 towards the purchase of a catering hot cabinet. Proposed by Cllr M Lanham and seconded by Cllr J Whelan. All were in favour.
* North Salop Wheelers: £500.00 towards the increasing running costs. This was proposed by Cllr R Hirons and seconded by Cllr D Ladd. All were in favour.

**The Parish Council and Social Media**.

This item was carried forward

**Carbon literacy.**

Cllr Dr J Redgate had produced a thorough report concerning the facts that are known about rising carbon emissions and this had been circulated to all cllrs. Cllr Mrs S Short thanked him for his assiduous work in producing this and suggested that it would be a very useful resource when the PC was engaging with the Parish about Carbon Literacy. The clerk was asked to put the report on the PCs website.

**Project Gigabit**.

Cllr Dr J Redgate had attended a Freedom Fibre webinar that had had the declared intention of updating those attending on the progress of the roll-out of Full Fibre in North Shropshire. Cllr Redgate declared himself not much better informed after the webinar than he had been before it. He had produced a report which had been circulated to all cllrs. He will check with Freedom Fibre that he has arrived at a version that they are happy to have published and the clerk will then put this on the PC website.

**Parish waste bins.**

The clerk confirmed that the missing bin halfway up Church Street had been reported to SC, but apart from this the item was carried forward as Cllr Mrs B Finch was due to lead and she had been unable to attend.

**176/24 SALC.** Nothing to report.

**177/24** **Accounting Matters**

Accounts for Payment November 2024

The clerk advised that she had added a late invoice to the originally published list (£40.00 for poppy wreaths, see below) This was an anticipated invoice.

K D Sieloff salary November 2024 540.14

HMRC PAYE 43.60

Clerks expenditure 16.10.24 – 12.11.24 14.20

Pimlotts (October Lengthsman visits x 2) 320.00

Pimlotts (Playgrounds and Whitchurch Rd) 212.00

Highline Electrical Ltd 198.11

Scottish Power (1.10.24 – 1.11.24) 213.15

Prees Cricket & Recreation Club 100.00

Total £1641.20

Late-added invoice

Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal (2 wreaths) 40.00

**Grand total £1681.20**

The Parish Council resolved to pay the accounts including the late addition. This was proposed by Cllr Mrs J Catterall and seconded by Cllr D Ladd. All were in favour.

**Budget-setting for 2025-26.**

Cllr Mrs Short advised that she had met with Cllrs Mrs R Clutton; Mrs L Baer and J Allen, together with the clerk, to produce a draft budget for 2025-6 and this would be brought before the Parish Council in due course.

**NJC non-discretionary pay award 2024.**

Clerk asked for authorisation to implement the non-discretionary pay award settled in October 2024, and to back-date this to April 1 2024. Cllr R Hirons proposed that she should be so authorised and this was seconded by Cllr D Ladd. All were in favour.

**178/24** **Housekeeping**. Clerk to report dislodged STOP sign at bottom of Church Street.

**179/24** **Facebook.** Nothing currently to report.

**180/24** **Correspondence.** Email received from resident concerned about the various parking problem areas in the Parish. Agenda item for December.

**181/24 Items for next Agenda**. Parish waste bins--Government domain for PC- Parking issues-Playground matters.

The meeting was closed at 8.15 pm.

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