**Minutes of the Prees Parish Council Meeting held on 21 October 2024 in Prees Village Hall at 7.15pm.**

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

Before the meeting was started, a Minute of Silence was observed to remember the loss of her son Stephen very recently suffered by Cllr Mrs B Finch and her family.

**153/24** **Public Session.** A memberof the public reported that the damaged surface of Station Road still awaits repair and also that there is a tree leaning over onto the highway on Whitchurch Road near the A49.

**154/24** **Apologies** had been received from Cllrs Mrs B Finch and Mrs L Baer.

**155/24** **For Members to disclose Pecuniary/Non-Pecuniary interests** in items on this agenda. There were none.

**156/24** **Minutes** of the Parish Council Meeting held on September 16 2024 (previously circulated) were agreed to be a true record. This was proposed by Cllr J Whelan and seconded by Cllr D Ladd. All were in favour.

**157/24** **Actions arising from the Minutes** (which are not included on the Agenda.) There were none.

**158/24** **Community Policing Matters.** There was no report available.

**159/24 Shropshire Council Report.** There was no report available.

**160/24** **Planning Matters**

**Current planning applications for consultation**

* APPEAL UNDER SECTION 78 TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990

Rose Cottage, Prees Green, Whitchurch, Shropshire. Description of development: 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. Application reference: 24/01875/PMBPA Appellant’s name: Don Carissimo Planning Inspector ref: APP/L3245/W/24/3351197 Appeal reference: 24/03299/PAPD.

The Parish Council noted the information. It understood that all its previous comments would be forwarded and it had nothing new to add.

* 24/03691/VAR: DEVELOPMENT PROPOSED: Variation of condition number 3 attached to planning permission SC/CC2004/0027 to allow for the retention of the demountable unit for a further temporary period of 10 years Conditions(s) Removal: The date by which the building is to be removed and the land re-instated to read as '31st August 2034. LOCATION: Prees C.E.(controlled) Primary School, Cross End, Prees, Whitchurch, Shropshire. APPLICANT: Miss Nicola Brayford.

The Parish Council resolved to support this Application. This was proposed by Cllr J Allen and seconded by Cllr Mrs B Clutton. All were in favour.

**Planning decisions received from Shropshire Council.**

* 24/03129/VAR  (validated: 14/08/2024). Address:  Outbuilding North The Lighteach, Lighteach Road, Prees, Whitchurch, Shropshire, SY13 2DR. Proposal:  Variation of Condition no.2 (approved drawings) and removal of condition 19 and 20 (ancillary use restriction) attached to planning permission ref 23/00833/FUL dated 01.06.2023. Decision:  Grant Permission

**161/24**  **Parish and Parish Council Matters.**

* Whitchurch Road Community-led housing development. Cllr R Hirons reported that none of the properties for rent have yet been allocated. Wrekin Housing is scrutinising all bids to ensure that only those with the required proven local connections are considered for the rented homes. The six Shared Ownership homes have sales agreed on them.

Cllr D Ladd asked the clerk to find out if it was true that the crossroads in the centre of Prees would need to be dug up again do additional work on the culvert. He also asked the clerk to pass on his appreciation of the courtesy and consideration the contractors working on the roads to effect the electrical connection to the new development had shown, sometimes in the face of considerable aggravation.

* Access to Notice-boards and post-box in Fauls**.** The clerk had obtained three quotes for steps and a path and hand-rail in front of the notice-boards. The quotes ranged from £1800 to £3500. In addition a permit allowing work on the verge would have to be purchased from SC at a cost of £550. Most cllrs were of the opinion that the price was too high for the benefit obtained.

The clerk was asked to contact Royal Mail and remind them that the consequence of their having moved the post-box was that it was now accessible for fewer people. She was asked to request that it

 is relocated by Royal Mail to a position offering maximum accessibility. This course of action was proposed by Cllr J Whelan and seconded by Cllr Mrs R Clutton. All were in favour.

* Links with Barcani, Romania. Clerk advised that she had not been contacted from anyone who was prepared to carry this project forward. Clerk was asked to contact the resident who had initially made contact with the PC and regretfully explain. Chair to write to the Mayor of Barcani in response to his letter.
* Future of the Youth Shelter**.**  Cllr J Whelan and Cllr Mrs R Clutton had visited the site to assess the current condition of the structure. As a result of their visit they were confident that there was no immediate hazard but repairs are necessary. The lease on the land the Youth Shelter stands on runs out in October 2029 and will not be renewed. This being the case Cllr J Whelan suggested that spending money on repairs now does not make economic sense. The PC acknowledged that the Youth Shelter houses artwork that was painted in memoriam of two young men of the village, Tom Nixon and Adam Childs, who died tragically. Cllr Mrs J Catterall offered to make contact with the parents of these two boys and to talk the demolition plan over with them. Cllr J Whelan proposed that this should be the first step and this was seconded by Cllr R Hirons. All were in favour. The clerk was asked to draw up a plan of action and also to check that there was no official permission that needed to be gained before demolition could be carried out.
* RoSPA Playground Report 2024. Clerk reported that she had only been able to obtain one quote for the necessary repairs, to date, but that she had other contractors to contact. Cllr R Hirons reminded her that SC has its own team and suggested she contact them.
* Government domain name needed for Parish Council? Clerk advised that it is considered good practice for Parish Councils to have a domain name that is connected to the government. She has signed up to attend free training to find out more and will report back at the next meeting.
* Carbon Literacy. Way forward. Cllr Dr J Redgate had produced a report that explained his belief that much of the science surrounding carbon emissions and ways of reducing them is not explained clearly and accurately and therefore many people are not able to make sensible decisions concerning the matter. It was agreed that the PC needs to find ways of engaging with parishioners about the matter of reducing our carbon footprint. Clerk to research sources of advice and bring to next meeting.
* Arrangements for Remembrance Sunday 10 November 2024. It was agreed that Cllr Mrs J Catterall would lay the wreath at Prees in the morning (gather at the War Memorial at 10.45 am) and Cllr Mrs R Clutton would lay the one at Fauls in the evening. (6.30pm.) Clerk to deliver wreaths to the cllrs at least the day before.
* Prees PC and social media. Cllr D Ladd argued strongly in support of the PC using social media to communicate with and engage local people. He cited statistics that showed it was the most effective way of reaching residents. Cllr Ladd suggested that perhaps the Social Media Policy should be replaced with a Community Engagement Policy.

Cllr M Lanham had circulated guidance from the Local Government Association concerning parish councils’ use of social media and he exhorted all members of the PC to read it as it was full of detailed advice on how to use social media (especially Facebook) to engage usefully and productively with the local community.

Cllr D Ladd agreed to put his thoughts on paper for further discussion at the next meeting.

* Renewal of lengthsman and grounds maintenance contracts. Most cllrs were in agreement that the work of the Lengthsman was making an appreciable difference to the appearance of parts of the parish.

After discussion it was agreed that, as long as the contract contained a clause that enabled the PC to withdraw at any time if it so wished, the contracts for the lengthsman duties and the ground maintenance schedule should be renewed for three years with the current contractor. This was proposed by Cllr J Allen and seconded by Cllr J Whelan. All were in favour.

* PC Grants /Donations 2024 including request from Prees Cricket and Recreation Club concerning Dementia Training Day. The clerk reported she had received a couple of grant requests to be considered at a later date. Cllr J Whelan had previously told the Parish Council that he would be making an application on behalf of the Prees Recreation Club for a contribution towards dementia awareness training that was planned and open to members of the community. He now suggested a contribution of £100 would be appropriate. Cllr D Ladd proposed that this amount should be donated and this was seconded by Cllr M Lanham. All were in favour. Clerk to raise the cheque for the November meeting.

**162/24**. **SALC** Nothing to report.

**163/24Accounting matters**

* Accounts for Payment October 2024

It was resolved that the following accounts should be paid. This was proposed by Cllr R Hirons and seconded by Cllr Mrs S Jones. All were in favour.

K D Sieloff salary October 2024 540.14

HMRC PAYE 43.60

Clerks expenditure 11.9.24 – 15.10.24 22.25

Scottish Power (streetlight energy 1.9.24-1.10.24 ) 395.62

PKF Littlejohn LLP (external auditor) 252.00

Fauls PCC (reimbursement of defib costs) 164.39

MedUK Group Ltd (defib costs at Prees Village Hall) 171.60

 Total 1589.60

Clerk’s expenditure 11.9.24-15.10.24

*BT line rental contribution October 2024: £ 12.50.*

*Stamps:3 x second class stamps @ 85p = £2.55*

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

*1 x trip to noticeboards (AGAR documents) 8 miles @ 45p per mile = £3.60.*

Total = £22.25.

* Conclusion of Audit 2023-24. The clerk confirmed that she had received notification of the conclusion of the Audit for the year 2023-24 from the external auditor, together with the External Auditor’s Report and Certificate. The Report highlighted one concern, which reads as follows:

“Information has come to our attention highlighting the fact that the smaller authority does not have an email management system in place whereby it has an email account that belongs to the smaller authority and to which the smaller authority has access.”

The clerk reads this to mean that the PC does not currently have a government-related domain name. This matter is being addressed.

* Perusal of Receipts and Payments for second quarter and consideration of Spend Against Budget at mid-point of year. The documents showing these figures were shared with the cllrs and considered. It was agreed that the only apparent overspend on the Budget was on replacement LED streetlamps but this had been anticipated and Reserves had been allocated to cover it. It was agreed that there were no overspends causing alarm.
* Second Quarter Bank Recs were ready for checking. Clerk to deliver to Cllr Mrs L Baer who was unable to attend the meeting.

164/24 **Housekeeping**. Clerk to action the matters pointed out by the member of the public in the Public Session.

165/24 **Facebook.** Nothing currently to report.

166/24 **Correspondence.** None outstanding**.**

167/24 **Items for next Agenda**. Social Media-Budget- Carbon literacy- Project Gigabit-Parish waste bins-Grants/Donations-Government domain for PC-Footpath matter.

The meeting was closed at 9.55 pm.

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