

Minutes of the Meeting of Prees Parish Council held on Tuesday October 18th 2022
at 7.00 pm in Prees Village Hall

Present were Cllr R Hirons; Mrs B Finch; Mrs L Baer; Mrs J Catterall; J Whelan; J Allen; M Lanham; D Ladd and Paul Wynn. Mrs K Sieloff clerk to the Parish Council was also present along with one member of the public.

131/22 Public Session. No matters were raised.

132/22 Apologies received from Cllrs Mrs S Short; Mrs B Rainford; Mrs S Jones; and R List.

133/22. Declaration of Interests. There were none.

134/22 Minutes. The Minutes of the meeting held on September 27th 2022 which had been previously circulated were agreed to be a true record. Cllr Mrs B Finch proposed that they should be signed and this was seconded by Cllr J Allen. All were in favour.

135/22 Matters Arising from the Minutes (which are not included on the Agenda.)

Cllr P Wynn was asked to have a further word at SC concerning the misleading Road Closed sign on Mickley Lane.

Cllr J Whelan reported that no further expenditure on the War Memorial garden was anticipated before the Spring.

136/22 Shropshire Council Report.

Cllr P Wynn made the following points:

- He would look into the continuing display of misleading signage at Mickley Lane
- He was to meet with the new Head-teacher at Lower Heath School to discuss ways of getting parents' cars off the road. He said that he had personal experience of how dangerous the situation is there, at either end of the school day.
- Complaints he had received about noise from Highbury Poultry had been followed up and Highbury Poultry was looking into the possibility of sound-proofing the area around the cooling machine responsible for the noise.
- He regretted he had nothing optimistic to report concerning changes to speed limits in the area.

When Cllr Wynn invited questions Cllr J Whelan asked why Parish Councils were not listened to when they raised concerns. For instance it had taken letters to the MP and more for Ian Henderson to get someone to pay attention to the potentially hazardous fencing bordering his land (but owned by SC) by the bus stop on Whitchurch Road. Only then had (temporary) barriers been recently erected.

Cllr Lanham expressed his frustration concerning the appearance of the Parish: weeds; potholes; over-growth; rubbish. He challenged Cllr Wynn concerning his endeavours on the PC's behalf, which Cllr Lanham perceived as insufficient. Cllr Lanham noted that other parishes seemed to benefit from a more energetic involvement by their SC representative. He cited the bad condition of some of our parish roads as an example of an issue which badly needed Cllr Wynn's active support and vigour.

137/22 Community Policing Report.

PCSO Hannah Lister was unable to attend the Meeting but had supplied the following report.

Incidents to be aware of 1.9.22-1.10.22

- 3 x RTCs A49 Prees Green all Non-Injury.
- Harrassment/stalking investigation on-going
- Diesel theft Sandford. Investigation on-going.
- Concern for safety Higher Heath. Individual located safe and well.
- Scam call. Higher Heath resident advised and educated on scams.

The report also advised that Whitchurch SNT was had conducted speed checks in the 50 mph zone along the A49. No drivers caught exceeding the speed limit. Further areas within the Parish to be tested during National Speed Enforcement Week and results report would follow.

A reminder was also given to sign up to Neighbourhood Matters a brand new community messaging service.

Sign up at www.neighbourhoodmatters.co.uk

The clerk was asked to suggest to PCSO Lister that the reports would be even more useful if a little more detail about accidents and offences was included, where possible, so that parishioners can be warned more precisely when there is hazard locally. For example, where were the RTCs? And what was the nature of the scam? The PC needs to know what action it can take as a result of reading the report.

138/22 Planning

Current planning applications for consultation:

- 22/04218/TPO. 22/04218/TPO: To fell 1no. Pine protected by The North Shropshire District Council (Prees Higher Heath No 6) TP 1975 (Ref. NS/00051/75). Tobar Tigh, 3 Birchwood Grove, Higher Heath, Whitchurch, Shropshire.

Planning decisions received from Shropshire Council.

- 22/02826/CPE . Church Farm Bungalow, Fauls, Whitchurch, Shropshire. SY13 2AU. Application for a Lawful Development Certificate in relation to a breach of an ‘agricultural occupancy condition’ tied to property. The property has been occupied continually by person or persons not connected with agriculture for a period of over 10 years. We request therefore that occupancy by any person be confirmed as lawful and the that the condition is therefore no longer applicable to the property. Decision: Certificate – Lawful.
- 22/03972/FUL: 17 Mill Street, Prees, Whitchurch, Shropshire SY13 2DL. Proposal: installation of an air source heat pump. Decision: Grant Permission.

Other planning matters:

Enforcement. Parish Council feels it is not kept sufficiently informed on progress of Enforcement procedures. Cllr P Wynn was asked if a monthly update of progress of individual cases could be provided by SC.

139/22 Parish and Parish Council Matters

Lack of burial space at St Chad’s.

Cllr R Hirons reported that he has just heard that there are now no new burial spaces at St Chad’s Church. He advised that the churchyard will be declared Closed, SC will be told and then SC can ask the Parish Council to take on the maintenance of the closed burial ground. The Parish Council can refuse to take the maintenance on in which case SC is obliged to do it but in all likelihood will pass on all the costs to the Parish through the precept.

Cllrs R Hirons and M Lanham are attempting to find alternative land that could be used for burials. Advice from the Archdeacon says that the Glebe land (by the School, behind the old Vicarage) is not available for this purpose and will only be sold on at a premium price. The Parish Council has a contact at the diocese who can be approached for further information on this.

Cllrs Hirons and Lanham have also been negotiating with the owners of land adjacent to the churchyard. A water-pipe runs through the strip of land under discussion and it will be necessary to have a site visit from Severn Trent if the discussions progress further.

The Parish Council has also contacted Peter Richards, a local planning agent, concerning the possibility of using him as a consultant should it be necessary to find out about the process of purchasing land and changing its use to burial land. The matter is complex as land for burial is subject to various conditions.

Extended discussion ensued in order to find a way forward and the following points arose:

- The Parish Council finds it hard to understand why none of the Glebe land would be available to benefit local parishioners.
- Could a parcel of land NOT in the vicinity of the Church serve the purpose just as well?
- Would neighbouring parishes (Ightfield; Fauls; Edstaston; Whixall) be prepared to bury Prees residents?
- Could Prees accommodate quite a different sort of burial ground, such as the beautiful one in a woodland setting in Alkington?

Cllrs Hirons and Lanham declared themselves happy to continue the quest to find local burial space for Prees parishioners. The following actions were resolved on, proposed by Cllr D Ladd and seconded by Cllr J Whelan. All were in favour.

- The diocese should be asked for more explanation about the Glebe land not being available for this purpose
- Severn Trent should be contacted to come and discuss the question of the water-pipe
- Peter Richards should be consulted if/when the appropriate time came
- The Parish Council should advertise the need for land
- The possibility of a business opportunity arising for an outside body, arising out of the need for a burial ground, should be made public.
- The Parochial Church Council (with the Vicar being the point of contact) should be asked whether the Church would be intending to take on the role of administering any new burial space that was provided.

Community Engagement Activity report. Cllr Hirons had attended meetings of the Higher Heath Village Hall Committee; the Tuesday Club and the Walking Club in order to raise the Parish Council's profile, explain what it does and to encourage suggestions for the spending of the considerable amount of Neighbourhood Fund money that the PC now has. Cllr Hirons professed himself disappointed by parishioners' lack of ideas. He asked if any cllr had visited similar associations in Prees, and commented that so far ideas for the spending of the funds seem to centre around improving the playgrounds and connecting the various parts of the Parish and its main facilities by pedestrian/cycle paths. Clerk was asked to find the cost per metre of laying a paved dual purpose pedestrian/cycle path. It was noted that the A49 has a broad verge and this could possible accommodate such a dual purpose path to connect Higher Heath with Prees village. A question was also raised about what happened to the SC sustainable transport scheme to connect towns with outlying villages. The PC saw a presentation a couple of years ago, but nothing has been heard since. Clerk to enquire.

Playground news.

The clerk advised that she is meeting with Ray Parry the contractor who repairs the playground equipment in the early days of November. He has been sent copies of the RoSPA report and will advise on how best to proceed with reports' recommendations.

Clerk also reported that she has communicated with both Primary schools and both are happy to send leaflets home with all children asking for ideas of enhancements to the two playgrounds (and also for any ideas parents have.) Clerk is producing these leaflets and they will go out after half-term. Mrs Nicola Brayford head-teacher at Prees also invited cllrs to attend Parents' Evenings in early November as a chance to meet parents and seek their views on how the Parish could be improved by the use of Neighbourhood Fund monies.

Trees

- Feathered trees available from SC. It was agreed that there is currently no site on Parish-Council-owned land that suggests itself as suitable for one of these trees.
- The Parish Council had received a response from Higher Heath Village Hall Committee in response to its offer to provide a Platinum Jubilee Commemorative tree in each of the three wards. Higher Heath expressed a desire to have a Bramley cooking apple tree, to plant in the grounds of Higher Heath Village Hall. This would have the added benefit of providing cooking apples for the VH kitchen.

Cllr J Allen generously offered to donate a Bramley tree from his own stock at Holly Farm for this purpose.

Remembrance Sunday November 13 2022

It was agreed that Cllr Hirons will lay the Wreath at Prees (11 am) and Cllr Allen will lay the one at Fauls (6 pm) Clerk to deliver the wreaths to the cllrs.

Heathgates Crossroads.

In response to the Parish Council's enquiry concerning the proposed closure of the road out from Heathgates Crossroads towards Sandford, Shropshire Council had advised that a study/report to look at the feasibility and options of closing the road is currently underway.

The Parish Council was rather disappointed with this news as when parish cllrs met with Dave Gradwell on-site concerning this matter some while ago, they had understood that the course of action had already been decided. Clerk to convey this to SC.

Dog poo nuisance locally.

The Parish Council resolved to initially supplying free dog poo bags in four key areas of Prees village centre. This will be for a trial period. Clerk offered to supply suitable boxes to hold the bags and to install them. It was resolved to allow a budget of £30.00 for set-up. Proposed by Cllr J Whelan and seconded by Cllr D Ladd. All were in favour.

Possible bike rack provision in village centre.

Clerk to investigate whether bike racks are allowed in the Conservation Area as the obvious site would be near the Crossroads by Jackie's Shop.

Website training for clerk

Clerk reported that training is available from the providers of the website for £30.00 an hour. It was resolved to fund three hours of training at a cost of £90.00. Proposed by Cllr D Ladd and seconded by Cllr M Lanham. All were in favour.

Parish Councillors' Christmas 'Do' 2022.

Clerk to book Spice Heaven in Whitchurch for 13th December at 7.30 pm.

Housekeeping.

Clerk reported she had heard from SC that the subsidence on Station Road is scheduled for repair.

Facebook.

Nothing current to report.

140/22 SALC.

Cllr Mrs B Rainford had advised that she would report in due course on the meeting held 17th October 2022.

141/22 Accounting Matters

It was proposed by Cllr Mrs B Finch that the following accounts should be paid and this was seconded by Cllr M Lanham. All were in favour.

Accounts for Payment October 2022

	£
Mrs K Sieloff clerks salary October 2022	481.62
HMRC (PAYE)	8.12
Clerk's expenditure (21.9.22-12.10.22)	52.74
Scottish Power (streetlight energy 31.8.22-30.9.22)	475.07
Groundforce Landscape Ltd (September 2022)	<u>347.64</u>

TOTAL £1365.19

Clerk's expenditure 22.9.22-12.10.22

BT line rental contribution October 2022: £ 12.50

Trip to noticeboards for September Agenda etc: mileage allowance of 8 miles @ 45 ppm: £3.60

Stamps: 4 x 2nd class stamps @ 66p = £2.64p

2 x poppy wreaths @ £17.00 each = £34.00

Total: £52.74.

- Consideration of Actual Spend against Budget, second quarter 2022-23

The Parish Councillors looked at the document setting the figures out. They agreed that the only real cause for concern was the huge hike in current expenditure on streetlamp electricity. Fortunately the Parish Council has Reserves available. Clerk to enquire from SALC if there is currently any funding available for Parish Council expenditure on energy. Clerk also to research whether solar-powered street-lighting is an option.

- Audit of financial year 2021-22. The clerk reported that she had heard from the external auditor that for an undisclosed reason that organisation had not been able to complete its review work in time to enable

the publication of the required documentation in line with statutory requirements. An ‘interim’ letter, with certification not completed, was provided, and this was to be published with a Notice of Audit and Right to Inspect. A final report will eventually be provided, by the external auditor, with the Certificate of Completion detailing any qualifications/other matters.

- Cllr Mrs Julie Catterall requests PC funding for ‘Fundamentals for Councillors’ training online 24.11.22 at a cost of £30.00. It was resolved to fund this training. Proposed by Cllr Mrs B Finch and seconded by Cllr M Lanham. All were in favour.

142/22 Correspondence.

- Mrs Nicola Brayford head-teacher at Prees Primary School had been in contact with the clerk to explain that since the academization of the school the organisation of the governing body has changed. There is no longer a requirement for the Parish Council to supply a representative. Mrs Brayford reported that the only current vacancies are for parent governors but when an appropriate vacancy on the board does arise, the Parish Council will be advised in case it wishes to suggest a representative.

143/22 Items for next Agenda.

Linesman - Governors at Prees Primary School - Progress at The Square - Progress report on Enforcement - Community-led housing project – Streetlighting - Speed limit Whitchurch Rd.

Meeting was closed at 9.20 pm.

Signed.....

Date.....

DRAFT