

Minutes of a Meeting of Prees Parish Council held on Tuesday August 15 2023  
at 7.00 pm in Prees Village Hall

Present were Cllrs Mrs S Short; Mrs B Finch; Mrs J Catterall; Mrs L Baer; R Hirons and M Lanham. Mrs K Sieloff clerk to the Parish Council was also present along with Mrs Lucy Roberts, Whitchurch Place Plan Officer.

There were two members of the public attending.

**112/23 Public Session.** There were no contributions from members of the public.

**113/23 Apologies.** Apologies were received from Cllrs J Whelan; Mrs B Rainford; and P Wynn.

**114/23 For Members to disclose Pecuniary/Non-Pecuniary interests** in items on this agenda. There were none.

**115/23 Minutes** of the Parish Council Meeting held on July 18 2023 (previously circulated.) The clerk had realised that she had inadvertently omitted the report supplied by Cllr J Whelan concerning the Royal British Legion from the Minutes and confirmed that she would attach these to the file copy. With this addition the Minutes were agreed to be a true record. It was proposed by Cllr R Hirons that these should be signed and this was seconded by Cllr M Lanham. All were in agreement.

**116/23 Actions arising from the Minutes.** Nothing not included on the Agenda.

**117/23 Shropshire Council Report.**

Cllr Paul Wynn was not in attendance but had provided a brief report advising that 90% of Shropshire Council's budget is now spent on Social Care; 5% is spent on Waste Management and the other 5% has to pay for everything else.

**118/23 Community Policing Report.** There was no officer available to attend the meeting but the following report was provided.

Burglary x 1: Prees.

Highways incidents x 5: Prees; Prees Heath.

Assaults x 4: Prees; Higher Heath.

Domestic incidents x 10.

Concern for safety x 9: Prees; Prees Heath.

Anti-social behaviour x 4: Prees Heath; Higher Heath.

Suspicious circumstances x 4: Prees.

Criminal damage x 1: Prees.

Robbery x 1: Prees.

The clerk was asked to request more information, where possible, in these reports of incidents.

**119/23 Whitchurch Place Plan.**

The Chair brought this item forward to avoid inconvenience to Mrs Lucy Roberts, who was attending.

Lucy Roberts is one of the Whitchurch Place Plan officers from Shropshire Council. Prees is included in the Whitchurch Place Plan.

Lucy explained that the Place Plan records the infrastructure priorities and aspirations of each contributing parish or town. A new Place Plan is being developed to replace the 2020 one. The new one is using more IT to ensure it is readily accessible and so more useful.

Lucy explained that she needs the PC to give her a list of its current infrastructure priorities, as the Place Plan feeds into the Local Plan, and helps to direct and prioritise funding. A review of what Prees currently has stated as its priorities is necessary, as these may have changed. The new Place Plan should be 'live' on-line in September, and it will then be easy for anyone to check what the infrastructure priorities for Prees are, and how the delivery of them is progressing. Lucy also reminded the PC that she is able and available to help in the investigation and evaluation of any new infrastructure projects that the PC aspires to.

The Chair thanked Lucy for her attendance at the meeting and told her that she would ensure that Prees's contribution to the Place Plan was reviewed.

## **120/23 Planning Matters**

### **Planning Applications received for consultation**

23/02959/FUL: Conversion of an existing barn into residential storage and formation of gravel driveways to existing plots 2, 3 and 5. The Lighteach, Lighteach Road, Prees, Whitchurch, Shropshire.

Applicant: Warm Beautiful Homes Operation Ltd.

The Parish Council resolved to support this Application but to request that conditions should be attached ensuring the barn is used exclusively for storage, not for residential purposes, and that the storage is domestic only, not commercial. Proposed by Cllr R Hirons and seconded by Cllr M Lanham. All were in favour.

23/03237/FUL: Erection of glazed link to join the existing granary to the existing development; two-storey rear extensions; single storey side extension and internal re-modelling. Waverley, Nook Lane, Weston-Under-Redcastle, Shrewsbury, Shropshire. Applicant: Nick Bell.

The Parish Council was unsure whether this Application involved a listed building and felt it lacked information about other necessary details. Clerk to check.

23/03312/FUL: Proposed treatment plant drainage system. Katrina Kitchens, Prees Green, Whitchurch, Shropshire SY13 2BN. Applicant: Mrs Noss.

The Parish Council resolved to support this Application. Proposed by Cllr Mrs L Baer and seconded by Cllr Mrs B Finch. All were in favour.

23/03238/FUL: Proposed demolition of existing Conservatory, proposed single storey side and rear extensions to include balcony with glass balustrade. The Beeches, Lower Heath, Prees, Whitchurch, Shropshire.

Applicant: Mr and Mrs Binnersley.

The Parish Council resolved to support this Application. Proposed by Cllr Mrs B Finch and seconded by Cllr R Hirons. All were in favour.

23/03217/FUL: Erection of general purpose agricultural building. Sunnyside, Prees Green, Whitchurch, Shropshire SY13 2BL. Applicant: D Griffiths.

The Parish Council felt unable to comment as it was unsure whether the property involved is an agricultural one or a domestic one. Clerk to check.

23/03225/FUL: Change of use of and erection of single storey side extension to existing garage to holiday lot accommodation with one vehicular parking area and private garden (revised scheme.) Proposed Holiday Let Accommodation at Moreton Grange, Moreton Street, Prees, Shropshire. Applicant: Mr Richard Barlow.

This Application had been withdrawn.

23/03182/FUL: Installation of a concrete slab and plastic bunded tank. Manor House Cottage, The Pinfold, Prees, Whitchurch, Shropshire. Applicant: Mr Philip Birch.

The PC resolved to support this Application as long as the installation meets all necessary regulatory criteria. Proposed by Cllr Mrs B Finch and seconded by Cllr Mrs L Baer. All were in favour.

### **For information only:**

23/03209/CPL: Erection of single storey side extension including application of render. Brookside, Lacon Street, Prees, Shropshire. Applicant: Mr and Mrs Groom.

### **Planning decisions received from Shropshire Council:**

23/02578/FUL: 9 Sandford, Whitchurch, Shropshire SY13 2AW. Erection of a single storey front and two storey rear extension, conversion and extension of outbuilding to provide garden room and erection of domestic garage. Decision: Grant Permission

23/02801/FUL: Tobar Tigh, 3 Birchwood Grove, Higher Heath, Whitchurch, Shropshire SY13 2EX. Erection of single storey rear extension (revised scheme.) Decision: Grant Permission.

23/02703/FUL: Erection of garage with store over including Change of Use of land and a new log store (amendment to 21/01016/FUL) Cornerwood, Higher Heath, Whitchurch, Shropshire SY13 2HZ.

Decision: Refuse.

## **121/23 Parish and Parish Council Matters**

### **The Square, Prees.**

The Parish Council awaits further news of the enforcement action that it was told is underway.

### **Hazardous highway situations around our local Primary Schools:**

The Chair advised she has still received no response from the Chief Executives of the two Academies of which our two local primary schools are part. She had hoped to receive responses before she approached the two Heads, however this was not possible so she contacted both. A response has been received from the Headteacher at Prees. Cllr Mrs Short intends to visit both schools when the new school year starts in September. She emphasised her belief that a united front in addressing the problem is necessary.

### **Lengthsman.**

Cllr Mrs S Short reported that she had met again with Cllrs J Allen and D Ladd. They had hoped to obtain 3 quotes for the lengthsman work but had managed to obtain two. The third company had in the end declined to quote.

Cllr Mrs Short reported that the options available are

1. 1 man working 8 hours per week @ £12,400 per annum.
2. 1 man working one full day per fortnight @ £4,160 per annum.

During discussion the view was agreed that one day a fortnight for the jobs proposed might well be sufficient, and there was the option to increase the hours worked if thought necessary.

It was resolved that the second option should be pursued. It is from a grounds maintenance company with all the appropriate equipment and licenses so avoiding the complications of employing someone. That this course should be pursued was proposed by Cllr M Lanham and seconded by Cllr Mrs B Finch. All were in favour. Cllrs Mrs Short, J Allen and D Ladd are working on a draft contract, based on a basic job description, and will report back at the next meeting.

### **Vacancy for Prees Parish Councillor.**

The clerk confirmed that the closing date for applications for the Parish Councillor vacancy is 10 September. Candidates will then be invited to the September meeting where if necessary a vote will be taken until the remaining candidate can be co-opted. Currently the clerk has received two applications.

### **Community-Led Build, Whitchurch Road.**

Report from site visit 9.8.23: Members of the Project Board who attended to visit the site were impressed by the lovely views and spacious feel of the development and by the technological advantages from which tenants and owners will benefit. A public meeting will be held on August 22 2023 in Prees Village Hall 4.30-7.30pm to explain how the allocation of the homes will work. The first homes will be released early 2024.

### **Improvements to playground facilities.**

Cllrs R Hirons; Mrs B Finch and Mrs J Catterall, along with the clerk, had met on August 2 2023 with representatives from a few local families who had shown interest in being involved in guiding possible enhancements to the playground provision in Prees and Higher Heath.

All age groups were represented at the meeting and there was lively discussion of the pros and cons of the current provision, along with lots of ideas for improvements/additions.

The Parish Councillors involved are to meet on August 24 2023 to consider a way forward and will report back.

**Review of PC documents.** The clerk had recommended that the LGA Code of Conduct 2020 should be adopted and this document had been circulated for all councillors' consideration. Cllr Mrs J Catterall proposed that it should be approved and adopted and this was seconded by Cllr R Hirons. All were in favour.

Cllr D Ladd was not at the meeting and so his proposed amendments/additions to the Risk Assessment were carried forward. Clerk to consult other clerks considering safe storage of documents; access to information etc.

### **Two trees on verge outside Brades Road playground need replacing by PC.**

Clerk has received one quote for the taking down of the two dead trees (along with removal of conifer bough obscuring streetlamp on Station Road and cutting of playground hedge) and expects a second imminently.

Cllr J Allen will advise on trees to replace the dead ones.

**122/23 Housekeeping matters to report?** Clerk had two bits of good news to report:

- 1 The right-hand half of the industrial estate's border with Shrewsbury Street (in front of where the furniture sales business was) has been cleared of weeds and overhanging vegetation and looks much tidier.
- 2 The reflective beacons in the island at the Southern end of Shrewsbury Road, guiding traffic turning in, have been replaced.

**Any potential hazards/risks to report?**

Nothing to report.

**Facebook: anything to report?**

Nothing to report.

**123/23 SALC.**

Clerk reported that the next North Shropshire Area Committee meeting 17 September 2023 has the matter of 20 mph speed limits outside schools on its Agenda.

**124 /23 Accounting Matters**

It was proposed by Cllr R Hirons that the following accounts should be paid and this was seconded by Cllr Mrs L Baer. All were in favour.

Accounts for Payment August 2023

	£
K D Sieloff salary August 2023 + back-pay April 2022-July 2023	1087.65
HMRC (PAYE)	201.09
K D Sieloff (expenditure 13.7.23-8.8.23)	18.74
Groundforce Landscape Ltd (works July 2023)	264.22
Scottish Power (streetlight energy 1.7.23-1.8.23)	469.02
Morelock Signs Ltd	3648.00
Keep Britian Tidy	<u>168.00</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>5856.72</b>

Clerk's expenditure 13.7.23-8.8.23

*BT line rental contribution August 2023: £ 12.50*

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

*Stamps:4 x 2<sup>nd</sup> class stamps @ 66p= £2.64*

Total = £18.74

Progress of Audit 2022-23: Clerk confirmed that period offering opportunity of public scrutiny of unaudited documents relating to the Accounts has now come to a close (ended August 4<sup>th</sup> 2023) and the Annual Governance and Accountability Return is now with the external auditors.

**125/23 Correspondence.**

Clerk has heard from Jeremy Chambers, lead officer at the Prees Fire Station, that they are down to five fire-fighters and are desperately in need of new recruits. Jeremy fears that the Fire Station may get to a point where it cannot offer a daytime service.

**126/23 Items for next Agenda.**

Wrafton Terrace. Lengthsman. Roads at schools. Playgrounds. Solar lights. Industrial Estate development.

**127/23 Move to Exclude Press and Public.**

Cllr Mrs S Short proposed that under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the public and representatives of the press and broadcast media be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the following item of business as publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest because of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted. All were in favour.

**128/23 Discussion of Confidential matter.** This item is minuted in ‘Part 2: Confidential Items’ of these Minutes.

**129/23 Meeting closed at 9.20 pm.**

Signed..... Date.....

DRAFT