Minutes of the Prees Parish Council meeting held on March 17 2025 7.15 pm in Prees Village Hall.

**Present**: Cllrs Mrs S Short, Mrs J Catterall, Mrs B Finch; Mrs S Jones; M Lanham, J Allen and J Redgate. There were two members of the public attending and also Nigel Thomas from NAT Home Surveillance and Mrs K Sieloff clerk to the PC.

**035/25 Public Session**

A member of the Public commented that the troublesome leaning tree on Whitchurch Road had not yet been addressed by SC. Clerk to report again.

**036/25 Apologies** had been received from Cllrs Mrs L Baer, Mrs R Clutton, J Whelan, R Hirons, D Ladd and P Wynn.

**037/25 For Members to disclose Pecuniary/Non-Pecuniary interests** **in items on the Agenda**.

Cllr J Allen declared a non-pecuniary interest in planning application 25/00775/VAR as the property is near the site of his own business.

**038/25 Minutes** of the Parish Council Meeting held on February 17 2025 (previously circulated.) The Minutes were agreed to be a true record and it was resolved that they should be signed. This was proposed by Cllr Mrs J Catterall and seconded by Cllr M Lanham. All were in favour.

**039/25 Actions arising from the Minutes**. There were none not on the Agenda.

**040/25 Community Policing Matters.**

There was no police officer present.

The Parish Council had been asked to confirm its current three policing priorities and these were agreed to be Highway safety, Anti-social behaviour and Farm thefts. Clerk to report in.

**041/25** Nigel Thomas of NAT Home Surveillance attended to advise about the possibility of erecting CCTV cameras at the crossroads in central Prees to discourage vehicles from parking on the double yellow lines. Mr Thomas advised that in his opinion CCTV cameras could legitimately be erected at the crossroads. There would be a need to obtain electricity and WiFi from a resident and permission gained from that person for the mounting of the camera on his/her property. Someone in the Parish Council would have to take responsibility for the data obtained and how it was used. Would it be passed to the Police? To Shropshire Council?

The cameras recommended by Mr Thomas can move left-to-right and up and down.

It was agreed after discussion that Jackie’s Shop was likely to be the most reliable source of power and WiFi, and that two cameras located on the shop corner could look down Mill Street and up Church Street.

Mr Thomas confirmed that the cameras could record number plates and store 3-4 weeks of activity. Night images would not be so good because of reflected light. A4 signage warning of the cameras’ activity would be necessary.

It was agreed that the PC needed to talk to Jackie Symons the proprietor at Jackies Shop, the Police and also the Conservation Dept at SC. Chairman and clerk to pursue this.

**042/25 Shropshire Council Report.**

Cllr P Wynn’s report made the following points

* He asked for any emails about cars being reported on double yellow lines at the crossroads in central Prees, as SC are asking for a trail so that they can look into it.
* He has an officer from SC going to look at the fly tipping at the Brook in Station Road, Prees.
* He has reported fly-tipping at the Anvil Cafe .

**043/25 Current planning applications for consultation**

**25/00775/VAR**:Variation of condition no.2 (approved drawings) attached to planning permission 24/00376/FUL: The Nook Farm, Whitchurch Road, Prees, Whitchurch, Shropshire. APPLICANT: Mr and Mrs Bennett.

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

**25/00101/TPO** (**For information only, consultation period closed.)** Crown reduction by up to 3m and crown lift to approx. 5m 3no. Oak trees (T1-T3) and remove 1no. Oak (T4) protected by The North Shropshire District Council (Prees Higher Heath No 6) TPO 1975 (NS/00051/75) Trafford House, Sylvan Close, Twemlows Avenue, Higher Heath, Shropshire.

The Parish Council noted the Application.

**25/00378/TPO (For information only, consultation period closed.)** Crown reduce by 20-25% and reshape 6no. Oaks (See Further Details) protected by The North Shropshire District Council (Prees Higher Heath No 6) TPO 1975 (Ref: NS/00051/75) LOCATION: 21 Birchwood Grove, Higher Heath, Whitchurch, Shropshire, SY13 2EX.

The Parish Council noted the Application.

**Planning Decisions received from Shropshire Council**.

**24/04835/VAR**: The Nook Farm, Whitchurch Road, Prees, Whitchurch, Shropshire, SY13 3JZ
Proposal:  Variation of condition no.2 (approved drawings) attached to planning permission 24/00376/FUL
Decision:  Refuse.

**25/00061/FUL**: Woodside, Lacon Street, Prees, Whitchurch, Shropshire, SY13 2EP
Proposal:  Replacement of conservatory and existing window openings, insertion of double doors and glazed screen balcony to first floor front elevation. Decision:  Grant Permission.

**25/00219/VAR:** Caravan And Camping Site, Green Lane Farm, Green Lane, Prees, Whitchurch, Shropshire, SY13 2AH. Proposal:  Variation of condition 4 attached to planning permission 24/00262/VAR  to substitute 6 camping pitches for 6 static caravan pitches. Decision:  Grant Permission.

**044/25**  **Parish and Parish Council Matters.**

**April Parish Council Meeting to be re-scheduled.**

The clerk apologised for her over-sight in booking a PC meeting for a Monday that was actually Easter Bank Holiday. As Prees Village Hall was not available at a convenient time on Tuesday 22 April, it was unanimously agreed that the clerk should book either Fauls Church Hall or Higher Heath Village Hall for 22 April at 7.15 pm.

**Sewage problems at Higher Heath**.

Cllr Mrs S Short reported that Helen Morgan MP had taken up the matter and spoken about it in the House of Commons.

Tankers are emptying the affected sewers in Higher Heath on a daily basis, as currently there is insufficient capacity for all the new development. The matter is progressing.

**Future of the Youth Shelter.** Cllr Mrs S Short advised that the parents of both young men whose tragic deaths are commemorated in the Youth Shelter have now been contacted and consulted, and have no objection to the demolition of the structure. They would appreciate copies of photographs taken of the commemorative artwork. Clerk to organise the photography by local Whitchurch photographic company at a cost of £50.00. Once this is done further decisions will have to be made about how the photographs are framed and displayed.

**Playground matters.**

* Update on new equipment installation. The clerk advised that a site meeting with the suppliers, Kompan, was arranged for Friday 4 April, at which details of the installation would be finalised. Installation was hoped to start in the week following Easter.
* The Parish Council resolved to accept the quote of £2,400 ex VAT from PlayMaintainRepair for playground repairs required by our last RoSPA report. This was proposed by Cllr M Lanham and seconded by Cllr Mrs B Finch. All were in favour. The clerk advised that one old and little-used piece of equipment at the Prees site would have to be removed as repair was not feasible.
* On-going maintenance quote. The clerk is researching costs for an on-going maintenance contract on all the PC-owned playground equipment, but it was agreed the reasonable course of action seems to be to delay until the new equipment is in.
* Planting on playground boundary at Prees. The clerk is endeavouring to contact the resident who is keen to enhance the playground by the provision of fruit trees and shrubs which he has planted on the boundary between his garden and the playground.

**Community Engagement Coffee Morning**.

The clerk advised that the Village Hall Committee had decided not to hold a Coffee Morning on March 22 after all. However, she knew that the local Royal British Legion branch was holding its own Coffee Morning on April 5, and wondered if it might allow the PC to have a presence at it. She was asked by Cllr Mrs S Short to find out if this was feasible and acceptable to the RBL Committee.

**Section 106 funds available to be used in Higher Heath on Highway matters**. The Chair reported that a communication had been received from Highways at SC advising that there were unspent Section 106 funds available to be used in Higher Heath. No mention had been made of the sum of monies involved.

Cllr Mrs S Jones said that she would be very keen to see a path for pedestrians from Holly Farm to Prees village.

Cllr Mrs Short suggested that she and the clerk have an initial meeting with the Highways officer and report back. All were in favour.

**Community-led build on Whitchurch Road**.

The Chair read out an update from Wrekin Housing confirming that all excavation works in the road, necessary to complete the supply of electricity to the site, were now complete, and power was expected to be live on site from 17 April 2025. This would allow final works to be done and the hand-over of the homes was expected to be around 16 May 2025. Morris still had the retaining wall to the pumping station to complete. The work would take one week and was expected to start at the beginning of April.

**Project Gigabit**.

Cllr Dr J Redgate advised that to his knowledge no one local had yet been connected and he has not been given any dates for when this can be expected to happen. However, he was able to report the evidence of activity locally, seen in Lower Heath. Cllr Mrs S Short reported she had spoken to one of the technicians seen, and had been told that there will be an 18 month wait before connections are made.

**Unmetered supply of electricity to streetlamps**. Clerk requested authorisation to pursue contract of supply through Shropshire Council’s Joint Energy Scheme at a current cost of £1594.30 plus VAT per annum (£132.85 plus VAT per month.) SC have advised that the cost will increase from April 1 but the amount is not yet known. Cllr J Allen proposed that the new contract should be accepted and this was seconded by Cllr Mrs S Jones. All were in favour.

**Elections May 2025**.

The clerk confirmed that Notices of Election concerning the Parish and Unitary elections to be held on May 1st had been on display since March 10. Completed Nomination forms were to be returned by hand to Shropshire Council by 4 pm on Wednesday April 2. She reminded the cllrs that she was very willing to help with any difficulties encountered in the election process.

Cllr M Lanham confirmed that he would not be standing for re-election.

**045/25 SALC news**.

Nothing to report.

**046/25** **Accounting matters**

* Accounts for Payment March 2025.

Cllr Mrs J Catterall proposed that the following accounts should be paid and this was seconded by Cllr Mrs S Jones. All were in favour.

K D Sieloff salary March 2025 537.55

HMRC PAYE 75.80

K D Sieloff clerks expenditure (12.2.25- 11.3.25) 22.25

Highline Electrical Ltd (new lantern etc Village Hall car park) 590.76

Pimlotts Ground Maintenance Ltd Lengthsman (Feb) 320.00

Pimlotts Ground Maintenance Ltd (monthly contract: Feb) 212.00

Scottish Power (streetlight energy 1.2.25-1.3.25) 193.03

 **Total £1,951.39**

Clerk’s expenditure 12.2.25-11.3.25

*BT line rental contribution March 2025: £ 12.50.*

*Petrol: two trips to notice-boards February Agenda etc and Election Notices: 2 x 8 miles @ 45p per mile = £7.20.*

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

Total = £22.25

* Replacement of printer

It was resolved that the quote from Technochip Computers Ltd for a new Epson ET Printer and Microsoft Office 2024 Home & Business software and the installation of these items, totalling £683.53 ex VAT, should be accepted. Proposed by Cllr Mrs J Catterall and seconded by Cllr M Lanham. All were in favour.

**047/25** **Housekeeping**.

Concern was expressed that although the abandoned caravan in the lay-by near Heathgates Crossroads had eventually been removed, a considerable amount of debris had been left behind. It was noted that this often seemed to be the case. Clerk to find out whose responsibility this is.

14. **Facebook.** Nothing currently to report.

15. **Correspondence.**

A parishioner had contacted the PC keen to see a 30mph limit imposed on the road to Soulton (Wem Lane.) Clerk to establish what the criteria for imposition of this limit are.

16**. Items for next Agenda.**

Meeting closed at 8.30 pm.

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