Minutes of Prees Parish Council Meeting held 7.15pm on Tuesday April 22 2025 at Fauls Church Hall.

Present: Cllrs Mrs S Short, Mrs J Catterall, Mrs S Jones, Mrs B Finch, Mrs R Clutton, M Lanham, J Whelan, J Allen, Dr J Redgate and P Wynn. PCSO Sarah Parker attended the first part of the meeting. Prospective candidates for election to Shropshire Council Kate Hague and Tom Monaco, four members of the public and Mrs K Sieloff the clerk were also present.

**051/25 Public Session**.

Members of the public raised the following matters:

* Damage to Village ‘gateway’ sign on A49.
* Leaning tree on Whitchurch Road.
* Station Road: surface sinkage.
* Inadequacy of SC pothole repair policy.

Clerk to report to SC, as appropriate.

**052/25 Apologies** received from Cllrs Mrs L Baer, R Hirons and D Ladd.

**053/25 Disclosure of Pecuniary/Non-Pecuniary interests** in items on this agenda.

Cllr Mrs J Catterall disclosed a non-pecuniary interest in the planning application 25/00911/FUL as she was once in the employ of the applicant. She completed the relevant form and refrained from taking part in the discussion or vote on the matter.

**054/25 Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on March 17 2025** (previously circulated.) These were agreed to be a true record. Proposed by Cllr Mrs J Catterall that they should be signed and this was seconded by Cllr J Allen. All were in favour.

**055/25** **Actions arising from the Minutes** (which are not included on the Agenda.) There were none.

**056/25** **Community Policing Matters.** PCSO Sarah Parker attended. She was asked if the PC could be kept more closely informed about the details of offences and vehicle incidents happening locally as the PC would like to be more proactive in warning local residents of likely hazards. PCSO Parker responded that it would be very difficult to extract the specific data to pass on, and that operational policing units would need to be consulted to ascertain the causes of individual incidents, and that this was beyond the remit of a PCSO. She reminded the meeting that Neighbourhood Matters records information for parishioners including spates of crimes and it is parish-specific. However it is not able to pass on details of crimes/incidents.

**057/25 Shropshire Council Report**.

Cllr P Wynn’s contribution was of necessity very brief as the Elections loom, but he assured the PC that if he has the opportunity he will continue to help with planning issues in Prees whenever he can.

**058/25 Planning Matters**

Current planning applications for consultation

**25/00733/FUL**: Change of use from agricultural building to residential dwelling and internal alterations. Agricultural Building B At Rose Cottage, Prees Green, Whitchurch, Shropshire. Applicant: Don Carissimo.

The Chair noted that the PC has always been concerned about access issues at this site, situated as it is on a dangerous bit of the A49. She and two other of the Parish Councillors had met with the owner and made a site visit. They had been unable to ascertain whether the precise site and size of the agricultural storage building to be converted were accurately represented in the planning application. No objections to the application had been received by the PC and it was unlikely that it would adversely affect anyone else.

However, Cllr J Whelan advised that amongst all the documentation on the planning portal he had been unable to find a Design and Access Report, which is necessary to prove the authentic history of the building as an agricultural one. It was also noted that there is no satisfactory support from Highways on access on to the A49, in an area of the road renowned for hazard.

The PC resolved to oppose the application on these two grounds.

This was proposed by Cllr J Whelan and seconded by Cllr M Lanham. All were in favour.

**25/00911/FUL**: Siting of three glamping units for overnight guest use and partially-covered external timber decking areas. Expansion of existing parking area to add 3no. additional parking bays, connection to public sewer and associated works. Birch Grove , Sylvan Close, Higher Heath, Whitchurch, Shropshire, SY13 2TB. Applicant: Adam Holden.

The Chair reported that the PC had received communications from local residents objecting to this Application. She read out one to the meeting and noted that there were similar ones on Shropshire Council’s planning portal. After discussion the PC resolved to object to the Application on the grounds that a quiet residential cul-de-sac is an inappropriate site for such a venture. Residents in neighbouring homes are bound to be disturbed by the inevitable noise generated by holiday-makers No shops or facilities nearby would inevitably mean more traffic coming and going. Sewage facilities in Higher Heath are already under severe strain. The objection was proposed by Cllr J Allen and seconded by Cllr M Lanham. All were in favour.

**25/01151/FUL**: Creation of new access and car park. Lower Heath C.E. School, Lower Heath, Prees, Whitchurch, Shropshire, SY13 2BT. Applicant: Mrs Katherine Mills.

The PC was in unanimous agreement that it is very keen to improve the safety of those associated with Lower Heath School. However it has come to the Chair’s attention that the plans submitted to SC are not the same as those originally discussed with the land-owner, who is raising the matter with SC. The PC resolved to object to the current plans as they contain elements that the PC believes to be hazardous for pedestrians. Proposed by Cllr J Whelan and seconded by Cllr J Allen. All were in favour.

Planning Decisions received from Shropshire Council.

**24/04187/VRA106**: Former Grocontinental Site, Heathwood Road, Higher Heath, Whitchurch, Shropshire, SY13 2HF. Proposal:  Variation of Section 106 agreement attached to planning permission NS/09/00111/OUT. Decision:  Grant Permission.

25/00101/TPO: Trafford House, Sylvan Close, Twemlows Avenue, Higher Heath, Whitchurch, Shropshire, SY13 2TB. Proposal:  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.) Decision:  Grant Permission

25/00276/TCA: 25/00276/TCA. Old Vicarage, Church Street, Prees, Whitchurch, Shropshire, SY13 2EE. Proposal:  Fell 1no Holly within Prees Conservation Area. Decision:  No Objection

**059/25 Parish and Parish Council Matters**.

**Election update**.

Clerk confirmed that 8 parish cllrs had been elected unopposed which meant that when the Election was over the Parish Council would need to co-opt 4 additional members. The current PC would remain in place until May 6 when the new PC would take over.

**Demolition of Youth Shelter**.

Cllr Mrs S Short confirmed that the photographs of the commemorative artwork will not be displayed in the Recreation Club as the Committee there feels it would not be appropriate as the young men in question were not members of the Club. The photographs will be displayed in the Village Hall instead.

Once the photographs are received from the photographer decisions will have to be made about the size of the prints needed and how they are to be framed.

An announcement of the demolition will be made jointly by the PC and the Rec Club. Clerk to provide the draft to Cllr J Whelan for him to carry it to the Rec Club for the Committee’s approval. (Cllr J Whelan is stepping down from the Parish Council on May 6 but confirmed that he is happy to still help in this way.)

**Community outreach matters**

1. Coffee Morning 5 April 2025. Cllr Mrs S Short thanked Cllr J Whelan, who is the Chair of the local RBL branch, for allowing the PC to have a stall at the RBL coffee morning on 5 April. She reported that several members of the public had spoken to her to voice their concerns about planning matters and to compliment the PC on the work undertaken by the Lengthsman.
2. Cllr Mrs Short advised that the Parish Council had been invited to participate in a Community Fair at Prees Primary School on Saturday 12 July 11.30-3.30 and the PC had been asked for a donation towards the expenses of staging event. After discussion it was proposed that the PC should take a stall at a cost of £20.00. This was proposed by Cllr Mrs J Catterall and seconded by Cllr J Allen. All were in favour.

**Playground matters**

**Anti-social behaviour at Prees Playground**. Cllr Mrs S Short reported that she had originally gone to talk to Mr Dave Morgan about the planting he had done on his gardens boundary with the playground in Prees. Some of the plants had already been damaged, and they have all subsequently been removed. The discussion soon turned to the anti-social behaviour of youngsters using the playground, who scale the adjoining residents’ fences and throw bottles over. Cllr Mrs Short said she had asked Shropshire Council for advice on how the current fencing could be improved.

The clerk was requested to ask SC if it would be acceptable for the removed fruit trees to be planted in the grassy area in the middle of Harven Gardens.

There was unanimous support for Cllr Mrs Short’s proposal that she obtain a quote for cutting the playground hedges back.

**Update on installation of new equipment**. The clerk was asked to put a note on the PC website and facebook when she was told of a firm date for the start of the installation.

**Pot-holes in road surrounding War Memorial**. Cllr Mrs Short reported that the ownership of the road had historically proved impossible to determine. When remedial works to the road’s surface had been required previously the costs had been shared by the Church, the residents and the Parish Council. The clerk was asked to obtain quotes for the repair work currently required.

**Community-led building development**, Whitchurch Road. Update from clerk.

Charlotte Prince of Wrekin Housing had confirmed that there was now power to the site. The electrical contractor will be commissioning the heating and hot water. The electricity meters have been ordered and will be fitted over the next two weeks. There are a couple of outstanding matter which will be reported on at the meeting scheduled for 29.4.25.

Clerk was asked to find out if all homes are now allocated/sold.

**Possible installation of CCTV at Prees Crossroads**. The clerk was asked to set up a meeting between Jackie Symonds at ‘Jackie’s Shop’ and Nigel Thomas proprietor of the CCTV company.

**Revision of energy supply costs** for streetlamp energy supplied by SC. The clerk reported that she had received a revised costing of the electricity supply to be be obtained by SC as our contractors had made alterations to the original schedule they had supplied to SC, and also SC’s suppliers costs had gone up in April, as we had been warned they would. The clerk asked for authorisation in accepting the new quote of £2151.48. This was proposed by Cllr J Allen and seconded by Cllr J Whelan. All were in favour.

**Section 106 funds to be spent in Higher Heath**. Cllr Mrs Short had met with Graham Downes from SC Highways concerning funds of £70,000 to be spent. Cllr Mrs Short mooted the idea of a path from Higher Heath to Prees Village and the costs of this will be investigated and reported back on. If this proves too costly it will be necessary to think of smaller projects.

**060/25 SALC news**.

Cllr Mrs J Catterall had attended the North Shropshire Area Committee meeting 24.3.25. A representative of Crane Counselling had made a presentation and Cllr Mrs Catterall was impressed by the services they offered to local communities. She noted that Shropshire Council had withdrawn its funding.

**061/25 Accounting matters**

* Accounts for Payment April 2025.

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

K D Sieloff clerk’s salary April 490.68

HMRC PAYE 122.67

K D Sieloff clerks expenditure (11.3.25 – 11.4.25) 22.31

Highline Electrical Ltd 201.97

Pimlotts Ground Maintenance Ltd: Lengthsman (March) 320.00

Pimlotts Ground Maintenance Ltd (monthly contract.) 212.00

Scottish Power (streetlight energy 1.3.25 – 1.4.25) 213.64

Technochip Computers Ltd 820.24

Prees Village Hall (donation) 5,120.00

Whitchurch Photography 50.00

TEEC Ltd (annual website hosting fees) 194.00

 **Total 7,767.51**

Clerk’s expenditure 11.3.25-11.4.25

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

*Petrol: two trips to notice-boards: Confirmation of Nomination Notices and Notice of Uncontested Election with April Agenda: 2 x 8 miles @ 45p per mile = £7.20.*

*Stamps:3 x second class stamps @ 87p = £2.61*

Total = £22.31.

* Spend Against Budget for final quarter of 2024-25.

This document was perused by all and it was agreed there were no matters for concern. Cllr J Whelan asked the clerk to ensure that the accounts showed clearly that the apparent overspend of £15,889.68 on the conversion of streetlamps to LED had been a planned use of Reserves.

**062/25 Housekeeping**.

* A touring van appeared to be permanently parked in the car park at Higher Heath playing-field. Clerk to have a look.
* Clerk to report again to SC the large area of damage to the surface of Shrewsbury St outside the Industrial Estate.

**063/25 Facebook**. Nothing new to report.

**064/25 Correspondence**

Email received from resident concerned about dog excrement spoiling children’s enjoyment of the Higher Heath playing field. Item to be on next Agenda.

**065/25 Items for next Agenda**

* 30 mph speed limit request for road to Soulton.
* Linesman to clean up near mobile home park?

The meeting was closed at 8.50pm.