

Minutes of the Meeting of Prees Parish Council held on Tuesday November 15 2022
at 7.00 pm in Prees Village Hall

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

144/22 Public Session. A parishioner reiterated the concerns he has about planning application 22/04593/FUL which he had documented fully in an objection he had registered with Shropshire Council's planning department. He asked for the Parish Council's support on this matter.

He also noted that the local pheasant-rearing business still retains all the caravans for which it was denied planning permission and mentioned the long stretches of hedging that have been removed at the A41/ Mill Lane junction.

A resident of Shrewsbury Street attended to explain that she had applied for planning permission to replace her front elevation windows with heritage style uPVC windows. Despite having researched the style of windows that would be acceptable in her Victorian worker's cottage, her planning application had been refused on the grounds that the building was within the Prees Conservation Area with an Article 4 (which allows more stringent restrictions.)

She pointed out that within the boundary of the lower half of the Prees Conservation Area, there were 10 properties that had white uPVC, non-heritage style, replacement double-glazed windows. All these properties, in theory, should have been subject to the same restrictions.

She said that she had requested the North Shropshire MP to write to the Secretary of State to remove the Article 4 restriction, as she believed it was inappropriately applied in Prees, and now asked the Parish Council to write to support this request. Request to be put on the December Agenda for consideration.

145/22 Apologies received from Cllrs Mrs S Short; Mrs S Jones; R List and D Ladd.

146/22. Declaration of Interests. There were none.

147/22 Minutes. The Minutes of the meeting held on October 18 2022 which had been previously circulated were agreed to be a true record. Cllr M Lanham proposed that they should be signed and this was seconded by Cllr Mrs L Baer. All were in favour.

148/22 Matters Arising from the Minutes (which are not included on the Agenda.)

- Cllr Joe Whelan reported that Prees Cricket and Recreation Club still has to make a decision on its selection of a Platinum Jubilee tree and the clerk was asked remind Fauls of the need for a decision. Higher Heath Village Hall has already requested a Bramley apple tree. It was resolved that a parish cllr for the Ward would attend the planting of each tree. This was proposed by Cllr Hirons and seconded by Cllr M Lanham. All were in favour. The clerk was asked to find the cost of a plaque commemorating the planting, to be fixed on a post by each tree.
- Cllr J Allen asked for news about the proposed closure of the road from Heathgates Crossroads. The clerk reported that she had gone back to SC to register the Parish Council's disappointment that this matter was still at the discussion stage only, and to ask that the PC is kept up to date with the progress of the matter.

149/22 Shropshire Council Report.

Cllr P Wynn made the following points:

- He confirmed that the site of the Anvil Café on the A41 has been cleared, and that so far SC has been unable to contact the owner or the agent. SC is of the opinion that no trees of any value were removed and the hedge would not have been classed as agricultural because it was on the site of a café.
- The imposition of a 30 mph limit along the remainder of Whitchurch Road would cost in the region of £4,000.00. It is not perceived as a high priority for SC to fund as they do not regard it as a high-risk area. (Clerk to put this matter on December Agenda and to ask Whittington PC what the process is.)
- Six 20 mph zones outside schools are being trialled: one of the areas is Whitchurch.

- Cllr Wynn had met with the Headteacher at Lower Heath School concerning the problem of parking. In the recent past land had been offered, at a peppercorn rent, for the school to use for parking but the previous Headteacher had decided not to proceed. The current Head says there is no capital funding available for such projects.
- Nook Lane Stables. Highways were not worried about the gate opening directly onto Nook Lane, but Cllr Wynn had asked that the gate should be moved 20 yards off the road, and this had been done, making access and exit much safer.
- Mickley Lane sign: these have been altered, so problem of false ROAD CLOSED claim is resolved.
- Emma Green head of Enforcement regrets that her department cannot provide monthly reports to 93 councils, but that the PC is welcome to contact the dept for updates on specific cases. Also, a self-service system for the use of councils is being developed.

150/22 Community Policing Report provided by PCSO Hannah Lister.

Incidents in October to be aware of:

2 X Reports of Poachers in the field behind the Dr's surgery. Area search both times with no trace of anything untoward occurring. Patrols continuing.

Car Vs Cyclist Prees Green area. Non injury incident and currently under investigation.

1 X Single car RTC Lower Heath (just passed school junction) occupants passed over to ambulance service due to injuries.

1 X Report of Burglary in progress Higher Heath, officers attended and located 'suspects' who turned out to be family members locked out. No burglary occurred- however thank you to public for looking out for neighbours.

1 X Missing Person located and returned home safely.

1 X Car seized centre of Prees for no tax, MOT or insurance.

1 X Theft of fuel from Prees Industrial estate, on-going investigation.

3 X Visits to School in Prees around pick up time with several drivers had words of advice to park in a better location.

1 X Speed enforcement completed on Whitchurch Road Prees with 2 out of 50 drivers being above the 30mph limit.

23rd November 2022 : The Mobile Police Station will be at Higher Heath Village Hall from 10am until 11am. Please spread the word. Smart Water will be available and we will be on hand to offer any advice or support.

151/22 Presentation by Chris Hirons from the Community Wellbeing Team: Whitchurch Joint Strategic Needs Assessment from Shropshire Council's Wellbeing Outreach Team. Chris Hirons explained that the team had four aims: health protection (vaccination) ; health promotion; emergency response community outreach and the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment.

He explained that the survey circulated as part of the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment aims to capture local feeling about what is needed locally to enhance well-being. It aims to make sure that funding is allocated where the real need is. A stakeholder event will be held, to which the PC will be invited, and further meetings will decide on priorities and hopefully a plan of action.

Clerk to promote survey on PC website and facebook.

152 Planning

Current planning applications for consultation:

22/04593/FUL: Application under Section 73A of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 for erection of storage building, WC and rug store, office/mess room with kitchenette and dog kennels. Location: Menage and Caravan, Manor House Lane, Higher Heath. Applicant: Heathfield Stables.

It was noted that some of the application is retrospective. After much discussion, including the points made from the attending member of the public, the Parish Council resolved to object to this application, on the basis that the planning history of the site seems muddled; the explanation of the applicants needs seems confused and unconvincing; the site is messy leading to a loss of amenity for the local area because of negative visual impact. In addition the PC asked that, in view of the applicant's past breaches of planning requirements, there should be strict conditions imposed on any permission given. The PC also noted that a footpath through the applicant's

land has been neglected so thoroughly that it is currently impassable and no right of way has been respected or maintained. The objection was proposed by Cllr Hirons and seconded by Cllr J Whelan. All were in favour. T
22/04611/COU: Change of Use from C3 Residential to C2 Childrens Care Home. Pine Lodge, London Road, Higher, Shropshire. Applicant: Liam Wordley.

The Parish Council resolved to support this application, on the condition that there was assurance that the dangers of the nearby traffic on the A41 had been fully assessed. Proposed by Cllr M Lanham and seconded by Cllr Mrs L Baer. All were in favour.

22/04705/FUL: Proposed extension and internal alterations. Lily Court, Lighteach Road, Prees. Applicants: Mr and Mrs Tim Towers.

The Parish Council resolved to support this application. Proposed by Cllr M Lanham and seconded by Cllr Mrs Julie Catterall.

22/04887/FUL: Application under Section 73A of Town and Country Planning Act 1990 for change of use of land from agricultural to residential curtilage. Acorn Barn, Nook Lane, Weston-under-Redcastle, Shropshire. Applicant: Mrs A Green

The Parish Council resolved to support this application. Proposed by Cllr J Whelan and seconded by Cllr M Lanham.

Planning decisions received from Shropshire Council.

22/04218/TPO: Address: Tobar Tigh , 3 Birchwood Grove, Higher Heath, Whitchurch, Shropshire, SY13 2EX. Proposal: To fell 1no. Pine protected by the The North Shropshire District Council (Prees Higher Heath No 6) TPO 1975 (Ref. NS/00051/75)

Decision: Grant Permission

22/03974/FUL: Address: Proposed Stable Building South Of, Nook Lane, Weston Under Redcastle, Shropshire. Proposal: Erection of a stable building with access via Nook Lane.

Decision: Grant Permission

22/04117/TPO: Address: Trafford House, Sylvan Close, Twemlows Avenue, Higher Heath SY13 2TB. Proposal: Fell to ground level 4no Scots Pine protected by the NSDC (Prees Higher Heath No 6) TPO 1975 (Ref: NS/00051/75). Decision: Grant Permission.

22/04948/OHL: Address: Wood Farm, Armoury Lane, Prees SY13 2EN. Proposal: Diversion of existing overhead HV line with poles and stays. Decision: No objection OHL/Circular Notification.

139/22 Parish and Parish Council Matters

Lack of burial space at St Chad's.

The Parish Council has been informed by the Archdeacon of the Diocese that the Glebe land by the school is not available for burial use, and that financial return from that land must be maximised. Some cllrs were surprised to be told this, as they understood that the Diocese's charitable status would mean that its primary consideration would not necessarily be financial gain.

Cllr Hirons suggested that it was vital to know from the Parochial Church Council whether it would take on a new burial site if the PC was able to find suitable land. Clerk to set up a meeting with the aim of obtaining a clear answer to this question. Clerk also to contact other local parishes to ask whether they would be prepared to offer burial to Prees residents. Some cllrs were very concerned that many local people set a high value on having loved ones buried right here in our Parish.

Playground Matters

The clerk reported that she had met with Ray Parry, playground repair contractor, and gone round both playgrounds with him to review suggestions made by the RoSPA report. Swing seats needed replacing, as did the 'zip wire' in the Prees playground. Mr Parry suggested that one piece of equipment at the Brades Road site should be removed altogether as spare parts were no longer available. Clerk awaits quote for work.

Youth Shelter roof repair

The clerk had experienced difficulty obtaining quotes for this work and it was resolved to accept the quote received of £2800 plus VAT. The roof is to be re-boarded and will then have a sheet rubber roof applied. This

will be in one piece and will be extremely durable with a life-span of up to 60 years. Acceptance of the quote was proposed by Cllr Hiron and seconded by Cllr Mrs L Baer. All were in favour.

A Hard Winter Ahead. In discussion it was acknowledged that the Parish Council has no property of its own which it could offer as a focus for services. The clerk was asked to contact organisers of local food bank provision (eg Trussell Trust in Whitchurch) and other pertinent organisations to try to ascertain what local need is.

Should the PC employ a Linesman? All agreed that the Parish has several areas that are badly in need of some TLC to sort untidiness/rubbish/ overgrown vegetation. Cllrs Mrs B Finch and Mrs B Rainford to compile a draft job description for a linesman. Clerk to pull out previous helpful information obtained from other Parish Councils. It was noted that this matter would need to be considered as a Budget item for the year 2023-24.

Possible bike rack provision in the village centre. The clerk reported that she had spoken to the proprietor of Jackie's Shop who was happy to have bike racks installed by the side of the shop. Clerk circulated details of a simple low cost bike rack which was agreed to be suitable at a cost of approximately £50.00 (depending on size) SC say planning permission may be required and that they need to see details of intended rack and precise location. Cllr Lanham and the clerk agreed they would meet on-site to agree on size of rack and its best position.

Change to the way Governors are appointed to the Board at Prees Primary School.

The clerk had been advised by the Headteacher at Prees Primary School that there was no longer a need for Prees Parish Council to provide a representative on the Board of Governors (now Trustees.) However, when a vacancy occurred the PC would be informed, in case it chose to put forward a candidate for selection.

The Square: update.

Clerk reported that there had been some local concern that one of the buildings was possibly subject to trespass or unauthorised occupation. Police had investigated and found no cause for concern.

Concerns about Enforcement process.

This matter had been dealt with earlier in the Agenda.

Community-led housing project: update.

Clerk had been advised by Steve Swann from Wrekin that the contract with the new building company was due to be signed later in the week.

Initial information concerning solar-powered streetlamps.

The consensus of opinions sought by the clerk from other councils is that solar power provision is currently sufficient for, say, motion-sensor footway lighting, but not yet for streetlamps.

Local road issues

- Speed limit Whitchurch Road/vicinity of Primary Schools.
These matters were dealt with earlier in the Agenda.
- Shropshire Council has advised that re-surfacing on Mill Street and Church Street will happen in the new financial year.

Housekeeping: Nothing current to report

Facebook: It was reported that comments had been made concerning recent local road closures and diversions on the A49 caused by works in Hadnall, some twelve miles away. To some, the closures had appeared inappropriate and disproportionate, and some individual signage downright dangerous (for example that by the turnings into Heathwood Road and Holly Farm Nursery, which placed one line of traffic in the path of another.) Cllr Paul Wynn was asked to raise this with SC.

SALC. Nothing to report currently.

Accounting Matters

- Payment of Accounts for November 2022.

It was resolved that the following payments should be made. This was proposed by Cllr Mrs L Baer and seconded by Cllr Joe Whelan. All were in favour.

Mrs K Sieloff clerks salary November 2022

£
481.62

HMRC (PAYE)	8.12
Clerk's expenditure (13.10.22-9.11.22)	18.08
Groundforce Landscape Ltd (October 2022)	347.64
TEEC Ltd (one hour website training)	<u>36.00</u>
TOTAL	891.46

Clerk's expenditure 13.10.22-9.11.22

BT line rental contribution November 2022: £ 12.50

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

Stamps: 3 x 2nd class stamps @ 66p = £1.98

Total = £18.08

- External audit: Clerk advised that she had heard nothing further from the external auditors and still awaited the formal conclusion of their audit for financial year 2021-22.

Correspondence. None outstanding.

Items for next Agenda.

Dead trees by Prees playground - Neighbourhood Fund potentially to finance 30 mph limit - Budget

Hazardous road crossing nr Prees playground – Bike racks.

Close of Meeting: the meeting was closed at 9.25.

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