

Minutes of Prees Parish Council Meeting held at Prees Village Hall on Tuesday 19th Jan 2016.

Present were Cllrs P Gill (Chairman), R Hirons (Vice-Chairman), Mrs B Finch, Mrs B Rainford, M Lanham and J Whelan. Mrs L Rumney Clerk to the Council, Shropshire Cllr Paul Wynn, Police Sgt Tim Lever, PC Deb Wheeler, PCSO Chris Hirons, Mick Simpson - We don't buy crime team, Gary Higgins - Smart Water, Graham Oliver - Police and Crime Commissioner's Shropshire Ambassador and 13 members of the public.

Apologies for absence had been received from: Cllrs J Allen – work commitments, J Smith – work commitments, B Collins – family commitments, R List – work commitments and Mrs J Stokes – unwell.

Disclosure of Interests: Cllr R Hirons declared a possible “bias” to item 8, Community Policing, his son is the CSO.

001/16 Public Session

Cllr P Gill welcomed members of the public to the meeting all of whom wished to comment on planning application 15/05563/FUL. Several people, including Chair of Governors at Lower Heath School, spoke to the Council about the application highlighting the following points of concern:

1. Impact on traffic and roads, majority of feedstock for digester will be brought in and all resulting waste product will be removed/taken off site. Increase in vehicle movements impacts on local residents, safety of pupils at Lower Heath School, and ability of local road network to cope with extra traffic. Vehicle movements likely to be concentrated in harvest periods not spread over 12 months as traffic report suggests. Given impact and increased vehicle use fail to accept it's green energy. Roads inadequate, old A442 now down graded.
2. Visual impact, height of proposed unit.
3. Reports suggest isolated site, small community reduces impact, plenty of local residents, school children and parents will be affected. One person's Human Rights as important as many.
4. Lack of information on owner, absentee landlord and funding for project, who is responsible if problems occur, other biodigestors have “failed”.
5. Contamination, water table high in the area, smell and ditches to neighbouring land.
6. Not an agricultural process; could use food waste in future.
7. Impact on agricultural industry taking land away from food production.

One person spoke in favour of the application, farming community looking to diversify to remain economically viable, this is one way forward. Biodigestors used in Germany for many years. The Agents for the application were given the opportunity to respond and stated that the application was comprehensive and addressed all issues required by the Planning Authority. Traffic appears main concern, willing to talk to the school, Parish Council and Planning Officer to condition a route and plan for vehicles using the site. Landowner will have significant input in running the site and want to remain “good neighbours”.

002/16 Minutes of the previous meeting.

Proposed by Cllr Mrs B Rainford, seconded by Cllr M Lanham that the minutes of the previous Meeting held on Tuesday 15th Dec 2015 be signed as a true record of that meeting. **All agreed.** There were no matters arising.

Cllrs agreed to bring forward item 7 planning – 15/05563/FUL and item 8 – Community Policing.

003/16 Planning

15/05563/FUL – Mr H Waite - Lower Heath Farm, Lower Heath – installation of an on farm Anaerobic Digestion plant and associated infrastructure, for the production of both renewable heat and electricity. Several Cllrs attended a site visit, for those that hadn't Cllr P Gill gave an overview of the site and issues discussed. Located at rear of the farm, set into bank same level as chicken sheds, overall height therefore reduced. Thousands of tonnes of soil moved, bund built up round site for planting and screening. All storage undercover, insufficient for all feedstock. Finance/ownership not yet agreed.

Increase in traffic and impact on roads, reports state up to 8 extra vehicle movements per day, but will be concentrated into harvest period. Lower Heath school has issues around parking, traffic at school opening and closing times, continues after school day, road safety major concern plus impact on the 100+ pupils at the school. Cllrs discussed issues raised and agreed siting of the plant reduces visual impact and safety concerns about operation of plant. Impact of increased traffic on local community, road network and children accessing the school is a major concern, huge impact on community with little or no benefit to it. Cllrs agreed application should be “called in” and decided at committee level due to its potential impact and a full traffic and road safety appraisal undertaken. Conditions to reduce impact of traffic. Cllrs agreed local residents concerns should be taken on board and Parish Council should support them. Proposed by Cllr R Hirons, seconded by Cllr Mrs B Finch that the Council objects to the application due to its impact on the local community. The increase in traffic and the safety issues surrounding the school needs to be controlled. A Full traffic survey/plan should include sending traffic away from school, reviewing HGV route past school and down grading of the A442. Responsible person for site needs to be identified, recommend it’s called in to fully consider impact on traffic, safety, smell, water table, visual amenity and overflow of gas. Conditions to include traffic management to avoid using route past the school, consider school timetable and provide traffic calming measures on all approach roads – vehicle activated signs which can collect traffic data. Increase to height of bund to minimise visual impact. **All agreed.**

004/16 **Community Policing.**

Higher Heath, Smart Water campaign - Sgt Tim Lever spoke to the council to outline an initiative to give smart water packs to all properties in Higher Heath to make it a “Smart Water – we don’t buy crime” area. Higher Heath has suffered a long term pattern of burglary from outbuildings and houses, some 10% of properties have been affected. All properties marked using smart water, advertise using road signs to “harden target” whole village, smart water can identify an individuals property and is admissible in court. Have secured half the funding, asking Parish Council to support the initiative and consider contribution to funding. Two people recently identified for some crimes, Police would rather “prevent” crime, need to make the area unattractive to criminals. Garry Higgins spoke to the Council about the use and benefits of smart water – proven track record and deterrent to criminals. Smart water home security package is £69, offering price of £25 to anyone in West Mercia Police area, working with Police in Higher Heath packs would be provided for approx £9 per household plus signage. Mick Simpson - asking Council to support the initiative, funding will be found, asking housing association to support. Cllr Hirons asked for feedback on scheme - Police will provide stats majority will come from residents. Mick Simpson indicated that Warwick University are assessing whole project, smart water fits every house. Asking Parish Council to support the project, need to identify people who can help distribute packs, collect and assist with registration forms. Cllr R Hirons supported initiative, has worked elsewhere. Cllrs concerned only targeting part of the parish suggested buying 100 packs for use elsewhere in Parish. Proposed by Cllr P Gill, seconded by Cllr J Whelan that the Council fully supports the Police and the initiative and thanks them for their input, can commit £500 from unallocated reserves to the project and will consider further £500 at their extraordinary meeting on 27/01/16. **All agreed.** (Cllr Hirons didn’t vote) Police thanked Council for their support. Cllr R Hirons commented to Graham Oliver that Council had had no feedback from residents on the PCC precept proposals.

005/16 **Shropshire Council (SC) report**

Big Conversation going well, next 5yrs will be difficult cutting finance and services. Planning, Prees, Whitchurch Rd application withdrawn, Biodigestor controversial will “call in”.

006/16 **Planning**

15/05412/FUL - Ms Lawson & Ford - 34 Mill Street, Prees - Erection of extension to provide ancillary accommodation and alterations to existing dwelling; alterations to driveway to improve disabled parking and access. Proposed by Cllr R Hirons, seconded by Cllr J Whelan that the Council supports the application. **All agreed.**

15/05517/OUT - P B Investments Ltd - Residential Development at Silver Birch, Mill Lane, Higher Heath - Outline application for the erection of 2 dwellings with detached garages and associated landscaping to include means of access following demolition of existing dwelling.

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Proposed by Cllr J Whelan, seconded by Cllr M Lanham that Council welcomes the reduction to two dwellings but only if the Highway/access concerns can be met. **All agreed.**

15/05622/LBC- Mr D Breese - Laburnum Cottage, Lower Heath - proposed renovations to be carried out on the west Elevation to include replacement of decayed and poor timber; repairs to timber frames; creation of deeper overhang; fitting of new barge boards; replace brick infill panels; insertion of two replacement windows. Proposed by Cllr J Whelan, seconded by Cllr R Hirons that the Council supports the application. **All agreed.**

15/05512/OUT - Mr J Beharrell - Land Adjacent Heathcote, Mill Lane, Higher Heath - outline application for the erection of a single dwelling including access. Proposed by Cllr P Gill, seconded by Cllr M Lanham that the Council objects to the application, the site is outside the development boundary and SAMdev. The dwelling has been shoe horned onto the site and results in over development not in keeping with surrounding properties. **All agreed.**

15/05555/PMBPA - Mrs J F Peuleve -Barns at Northwood House Farm, Faults – application for prior approval under Part 3, Class Q of the Town & Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015 for the change of use from agricultural to residential use. Proposed by Cllr J Whelan, seconded by Cllr R Hirons that the Council supports the application. **Majority agreed, one against.**

16/00029/FUL – Mr J Allen – Holly Farm Nurseries, Whitchurch Road, Prees – replacement septic tank and drainage field. Proposed by Cllr R Hirons, seconded by Cllr Mrs B Rainford that the Council supports the application. **All agreed.**

007/16 **Parish Matters.**

Streetlights –Clerk reported on issues with light fittings and legislation, supply of parts which may require all lights to be replaced as lanterns fail. Advice sought from SC, may be able to purchase through them at reduced cost but need clarification and agreement form contractors. Cllrs agreed this could take time, proposed by Cllr P Gill, seconded by Cllr R Hirons that the Council approves up to £375 for a replacement light on Moreton Street, if agreement isn't reached in short term. **All agreed.**

008/16 **Parish Council (PC) matters.**

War Memorial – Cllr J Whelan reported, Mr Humphries will consider and quote for a gateway.

Parish Council Web Site – SC proposal to close Shrop. NET on 31/03/16, Council will need new web site/provider, proposed by Cllr P Gill, seconded by Cllr R Hirons that the Clerk attends the SALC web site training course 8th Feb, authorise costs, £30 course fee, any overtime and travel expenses. **All agreed.** Domain name may be required.

Accounts – Proposed by Cllr Mrs Rainford, seconded by Cllr R Hirons that the Council accepts the end of quarter bank reconciliation and appoints Cllr P Gill to check books. **All agreed.**

2016/17 Council Tax Precept Requirements – request form for SC completed and signed.

Prees Village Hall – Cllrs welcomed correspondence accepting funding for provision of broadband.

009/16 **Payment of Accounts.**

Proposed by Cllr Mrs B Rainford, seconded by Cllr R Hirons that the following accounts be paid:

19th January 2016

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| Mrs L Rumney – Jan salary | £ 482.27 | |
| Mrs L Rumney – expenses 1/12/15 –31/12/15 (see below) | £ 34.70 | |
| Jones Lighting Ltd – Street Light Maintenance & repairs | £ 574.60 | |
| Scottish Power – Street light electricity | £ 186.44 | |
| Prees Village Hall – hire fees and energy for car park light | £ 155.50 | |
| BT – phone bill | £ 118.22 | |
| Scottish Power – energy Higher Heath Pavilion | £ 13.86 | |
| Prees Village Hall – payment for provision of Broadband. | £ 200.00 | |
| Garden Services – Wrafton Terrace | £ 225.00 | Total £1,990.59 |

Clerks expenses in detail 01/12/15 – 31/12/15

| | | |
|--|---------|-------------|
| 01/12/15 – Post Office, stamps | £ 15.12 | |
| 09/12/15 – Post office, agenda postage | £ 19.58 | Total 34.70 |

All agreed.

03/2016

010/16 **Play areas**

New equipment Higher Heath – Clerk reported, Contractor assigned and application to Awards for All completed and submitted. Suggested Council might want to consider a name for the field.

011/16 **Future agenda items.**

PC Annual dinner.

Meeting closed at 9.50pm.

CHAIRMAN

DATED

04/2016