

Minutes of Prees Parish Council Meeting held at Prees Village Hall on Tuesday 21st June 2016.

Present were Cllrs R Hirons (Chairman), J Whelan (Vice Chairman), Mrs B Finch, Mrs S Jones, Mrs S Short, J Allen, P Gill and J Smith. Mrs L Rumney Clerk to the Council, CSO Chris Hirons and 6 members of the public.

Apologies for absence had been received from: Cllrs B Collins – away and M Lanham – away.

Disclosure of Interests: none declared.

062/16 Public Session.

Mr & Mrs Hunt spoke to the Council about their planning application for Moreton Cottage which used to be on a larger footprint. Miss L Harrison and her partner spoke to the Council about their planning application for 2 Oak Cottages, born and raised in the area she wants to make it a family home.

063/16 Minutes of the previous meeting.

Proposed by Cllr J Allen, seconded by Cllr P Gill that the minutes of the previous meeting held on Tuesday 17th May 2016 be signed as a true record of that meeting. **All agreed.** No matters arising.

064/16 Vacancy for a Cllr.

Cllrs considered the application received from Mrs S Short. Proposed by Cllr J Whelan, seconded by Cllr J Allen that the Council co-opts Mrs S Short to the vacancy for the Higher Heath ward. **All agreed.** Mrs S Short signed a “declaration of acceptance of office” and joined the Cllrs for the remainder of the meeting.

065/16 Shropshire Council (SC) report.

In Cllr P Wynn’s absence Cllr P Gill reported that Town & Parish Councils are being drawn into the debate with SC about running leisure services across Shropshire, there is no funding. SC stated it will close facilities not taken over. Town & Parish Councils asked to consider “clustering” to offer financial/management support. SC is reviewing its 5 yr supply of housing.

066/16 Planning

16/02048/FUL – Miss L Harrison – 2 Oak Cottages, Whitchurch Road, Prees - Erection of a single storey rear extension and two storey side extension. Cllrs discussed the application and asked the applicant (present) for clarification of ownership of the adjacent strip of land. Cllrs were informed the strip of land is the access to the land at the rear and belongs to the applicants father. Proposed by Cllr P Gil, seconded by Cllr J Allen that the Council supports the application. **All agreed.**

16/02075/FUL – Ms L Baer – 3 Oakleigh, Lower Heath – Erection of two storey extension to side elevation and single storey extension to rear elevation. Proposed by Cllr J Whelan, seconded by Cllr P Gill that the Council supports the application. **All agreed.**

16/02260/FUL & 16/02183/LBC – Mr & Mrs Hunt - Moreton Cottage, Moreton Street, Prees – erection of a two storey rear extension and minor alterations. Proposed by Cllr R Hirons, seconded by Cllr J Whelan that the Council supports the applications. **All agreed.**

16/02307/FUL – Mr M Bower – Lawns Farm, Willaston – erection of an agricultural straw store. Proposed by Cllr R Hirons, seconded by Cllr J Smith that Council support the application. **All agreed.**

16/02309/FUL – application not considered as currently withdrawn by SC.

16/02401/FUL - Erection of 4 Dwellings - Land South of Longwood Park, Higher Heath –resubmitted to SC over a legal technicality. Cllrs noted the application but agreed to make no comments.

067/16 Parish Matters.

Community Policing – CSO Chris Hirons reported, last months crime statistics 7 incidents including attempted burglary, drink related assault, domestic theft and I vehicle crime. Vans being targeted, thieves looking for tools. Bike meets at Prees Heath being managed, local policing team working with all stations to crew an antisocial behaviour van. CCTV now operating in Manor Place.

Cllrs noted an email from Sgt Greenaway raising resident's request for a mirror by their property on the A49 at Higher Heath to assist with access. Clerk reported SC Highways has an application process for mirrors. Cllrs agreed to write to the resident, enclosing a copy of the application forms, the same information having already been passed to SG Greenaway.

Bus Shelter, Whitchurch Rd – Clerk reported on the incident which resulted in a panel being broken, thought to have been accidental when contractors were strimming the grass, J Walker had been called in to clear all the glass. Cllrs agreed that while no insurance claim would be submitted, Clerk should pursue the grounds maintenance contractor via SC. Cllrs authorised the Clerk's actions and considered the quote from the manufacturer to supply and fit a replacement panel, proposed by Cllr R Hirons, seconded by Cllr J Smith that the Council accepts the quote for repair (£313.58) and writes to Mr I Henderson thanking him for his help with the clear up.

Fibre Optic Broad Band for Faults – Cllr R List's suggestion to write to BT – in Cllr List's absence Cllrs agreed to defer the matter to the Aug meeting.

Over grown hedge – Church St Prees, resident had complained, Clerk to report to Highways, Cllr P Gill agreed to reply to resident.

068/16 **Parish Council (PC) matters.**

Internal Auditors report – Cllrs considered the Internal Auditors report. Proposed by Cllr R Hirons, seconded by Cllr Mrs B Finch that the report be formally accepted, no further action being required.

All agreed.

Annual Return – Cllrs reviewed completed sections, Proposed by Cllr R Hirons, seconded by Cllr Mrs B Finch that Council confirms their responses are correct. **All agreed.**

Notification to view accounts – Clerk presented the notice, proposed by Cllr J Whelan, seconded by Cllr P Gill that the period for electors to view accounts would be from 27th June to 5th Aug and the External Auditor be notified of 10th August 2016. **All agreed.**

SC - Road Safety submission, Cllrs agreed to review the previous submission and agree a response at the Aug meeting. Cllr J Whelan asked if the Clerk could get the recent traffic survey information for the A41 from Highways and Cllr J Allen suggested the cross roads at Heathgates continued to be an issue with a recent "near miss" being reported.

Clerks letter of resignation – Chairman read the letter, Councillors formally thanked the Clerk and reluctantly accepted her decision to resign. Proposed by Cllr R Hirons, seconded by Cllr Mrs S Jones that the Clerk's formal finishing date will be 31st July 2016, but that in the absence of a replacement Mrs Rumney would be retained as "Locum" Clerk on an hourly rate for the present time. **All agreed.** Proposed by Cllr R Hirons, seconded by Cllr J Smith that the Council sets up a temporary Personnel Committee consisting of Cllrs P Gill, J Whelan, Mrs S Short and M Lanham with delegated powers to advertise for and recruit a new Clerk, including the power to spend £200 on advertising. **All agreed.**

Laptop & software – Clerk reported, laptop 6yrs old and "temperamental", may be issues transferring software to a new location due to the way it was originally purchased. Clerk advises purchasing a new laptop and Microsoft Office programme to bring everything up to date for the new Clerk. Finance to replace the laptop is in budget. Cllrs considered a quote from the present IT supplier but asked the Clerk to look elsewhere as well, including local firm Rainford IT. Review in July.

NALC – Cllr J Whelan reported on a recent meeting, presentation given by SC on future delivery of Services. Suggest clustering Local Council's centred around Town Councils (LJC boundaries possibly) to share responsibility for funding/running leisure services. SC were told date of 1st Sept unrealistic, town & parish Cllrs volunteers, lack of skills, finances, pensions for staff and freehold of buildings all major issues. SC saving £4.8 million to be reinvested in statutory services. Prees has no direct impact but could be asked to "share" responsibility, was suggested could use S137 for expenditure. SC retaining rural rights of way but withdrawing Market Drayton to Telford bus service. Next NALC meeting 19th Sept includes discussion on "Rural Broadband" suggest Cllr R List may like to attend.

069/16 **Payment of Accounts.**

Cllrs considered the NJC 2016/17 pay scales to be implemented immediately and backdated to 1st April 2016. Proposed by Cllr J Allen, seconded by Cllr P Gill that the new hourly rate is implemented immediately and back dated to 1st April 2016, payment included in the June accounts. **All agreed.** Clerk reported that the second cheque issued to Higher Heath Village Hall Committee for the 2015/16 grant had been presented to the bank and rejected as the cheque was out of date.

In order to balance the 2016/17 accounts the amount of £1000.00 would need to be shown as income from an unrepresented cheque. Proposed by Cllr P Gill, seconded by Cllr J Allen that the Council acknowledges the £1000.00 to be shown as income and reissues the cheque for one final time. **All agreed.**

Proposed by Cllr P Gill, seconded by Cllr J Allen that the following accounts be paid:

21st June 2016

Mrs L Rumney – June salary, includes salary increase & back pay	£ 501.44	
Mrs L Rumney – expenses 1/05/16 –31/05/16 (see below)	£ 47.82	
Prees Village Hall- 2016/17 grant	£ 1,000.00	
Fauls Church Hall- 2016/17 grant	£ 1,000.00	
Higher Heath Village Hall – 2016/2017 grant	£ 1,000.00	
Prees Church yard – maintenance grant	£ 300.00	
Fauls Church yard – maintenance grant	£ 100.00	
Jones Lighting – street light maintenance	£ 125.62	
SALC – training fees	£ 20.00	
Bernard Townsend – Internal Audit fees	£ 110.00	
Scottish Power – Street light energy	£ 186.07	
Higher Heath Village Hall – 2015/16 grant reissued	£ 1,000.00	<u>Total £ 5,390.95</u>

Clerks expenses in detail 01/05/16 – 31/05/16

11/05/16 – Post Office, agenda postage & stamps	£ 10.22	
16/05/16 – Black Ink cartridges	£ 3.40	
31/05/16 – Mileage, books to and from Auditor		
016/05/16 & 23/05/16 76 miles @ 45p	£ 34.20	Total £47.82 All agreed.

070/16 Play areas

Nothing to report.

071/16 Correspondence.

Cllr J Whelan reported that he had been asked who authorises the renting of a single plot affordable dwelling subject to a 106 agreement. Cllrs agreed the Clerk should raise the issue with planning and/or the Housing Enabling team at SC.

072/16 Future Agenda Items

The Square – ask Cllr P Wynn to report.

073/16 Exclusion of Prees and Public.

To resolve: 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 items of business as publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest because of the confidential and personal nature of the business to be transacted.

Fitness equipment Higher Heath – Grant offer – Cllrs considered the contract. Proposed by Cllr J Whelan, seconded by Cllr Mrs S Jones that the Council accepts the contract and authorises the Clerk to sign it on the Council’s behalf. **All agreed.**

Meeting closed at 9.45pm.

CHAIRMAN

DATED

22/2016