

Minutes of Prees Parish Council Meeting held at Prees Village Hall on Tuesday 16th August 2016.

Present were Cllrs R Hirons (Chairman), J Whelan (Vice Chairman), Mrs B Finch, Mrs B Rainford, Mrs S Short, J Allen (arrived later), M Lanham and R List. Mrs L Rumney Clerk to the Council and 3 members of the public.

Apologies for absence had been received from: Cllrs Mrs S Jones – family commitments, B Collins – work commitments, J Smith – work commitments and P Gill - holiday.

Disclosure of Interests: Cllr J Whelan declared a pecuniary interest in item 7, 15/05307/REM, as the applicant is his employer and a non-pecuniary interest in 16/03129/REM applicant is a close friend.

085/16 Minutes of the previous meetings.

Clerk had altered the page number to follow on from the minutes of personnel committee meeting. Proposed by Cllr M Lanham, seconded by Cllr Mrs B Finch that, with amended page numbers, the minutes of the meeting on Tues 19th July 2016 be signed as a true record of that meeting. **All agreed.**

086/16 Matters arising.

076/16 – Written complaint not received. 079/16 – Lime Trees, Cllr J Allen to advise – Sept agenda.

087/16 Shropshire Council (SC) report.

No report received, Cllr P Wynn confirmed, via the Clerk, that he had been unable to contact Mr Hollis re The Square. Cllrs expressed disappointment that they had not received a written or verbal report from Cllr P Wynn for a few months now.

088/16 Planning

16/02933/FUL – Mr & Mrs Barrow – Land West of The Spinney, Heathwood Road, Higher Heath - erection of detached dwelling, integral garage & associated drainage. Cllr R Hirons reported on site visit, many of the trees are very small saplings and of little consequence. The Tree Officer advised updating the TPO's in the area to protect the larger specimens for the future. Recent application for the site already approved. Proposed by Cllr Mrs B Finch, seconded by Cllr J Whelan that Council supports the application provided a full tree survey is submitted to the satisfaction of the Tree Officer and that within 2yrs of permission being granted there is a comprehensive survey and renewal of the TPO's in the area. **All agreed.**

16/03125/FUL – Mr M Langdown - 1 Hawkstone Terrace, Fauls – Erection of rear & side extension with alterations following demolition of conservatory. Cllrs noted application already approved.

16/03249/TCA – Mr Sands - Rough Pasture Adjacent High Meadows, Moreton Street, Prees - fell 1 Scots Pine (T1) within Prees Conservation Area. Proposed by Cllr J Whelan, seconded by Cllr Mrs B Rainford that Council supports the application. **All agreed.**

16/03129/REM – Mr & Mrs Rees - Land adj Northside, Mill Lane, Higher Heath – Approval of Reserved Matters (appearance, landscaping, layout & scale) (15/00689/OUT) for the erection of 2 No dwellings to include access. Proposed by Cllr M Lanham, seconded by Cllr B Rainford that Council objects to the application, following its comments on 15/00689/OUT, the application is for two storey dwellings, not in keeping with neighbouring properties which will be overlooked and dominated by the proposed development. **All agreed.** *Cllr J Whelan did not take part in the vote.*

Re-consultation 16/01612/FUL - High Bank, Shrewsbury Street, Prees - Erection of a detached double garage, with wc, small store at rear and hobbies room over at first floor following demolition of existing. Cllrs welcomed the plans for a single storey building. Proposed by Cllr J Whelan, seconded by Cllr Mrs S Short that Council supports the revised application. **All agreed.**

16/03396/VAR – Lower Heath C.E. School, Lower Heath - Variation of Condition 1 of planning permission CC2006/0019 (11.07.06) allow for the retention of the demountable accommodation for a further temporary period of 10yrs. Proposed by Cllr Mrs B Rainford, seconded by Cllr Mrs S Short that Council supports the application. **All agreed.**

27/2016

Reconsultation on application **15/05307/REM** - Gro Continental Ltd, Approval of Reserved Matters (access, appearance, landscaping, layout and scale) for NS/09/00111/OUT, for the erection of 115 dwellings and associated public open space – new plans showing detail of road layout at bus stop. Cllr R Hirons reported on the site visit with Highways and the Planning Officer, Highways support the proposed location of the bus stop and do not support a “pull in”. Cllrs agreed the technical requirements do not reflect the reality, local knowledge suggests this is a narrow part of Heathwood Road struggling to accommodate current level of traffic. Proposed by Cllr R Hirons, seconded by Cllr Mrs B Finch that Council continues to object to location of the bus stop. The development will have a huge impact on the flow of traffic generated in the area, all and any effort should be made to alleviate this were possible. Siting the bus stop at this location is not in the Parish Council or local resident’s opinion the best solution. **All agreed.** *Cllr J Whelan did not take part in the vote.*

Decisions noted – 16/02401/FUL refused, Clerk to speak to Officers to ascertain where the original application stands.

SC – consultation on Prees Footpaths 38 & 17B diversion and Bridleway creation. Proposed by Cllr M Lanham, seconded by Cllr Mrs B Rainford that the Council supports the proposals and appreciates the work undertaken to reach the agreement. **All agreed.**

089/16 **Parish Matters.**

Community Policing – Cllrs had read the report sent by the local Policing team. Cllr R Hirons had written to the Highways Section about the A41 and A49, with little response and would write again. Police are doing more speed traps on both roads.

Prees Church yard – comments noted in the Press about maintenance and appearance of the Church yard. Clerk had informed the Press that it was the responsibility of the Church to maintain the church yard but this information had been ignored. Individual grave owners are responsible for their plots.

Road Safety – Cllrs to agree some dates in early Sept to meet Highways at Heathgates Cross roads.

The Square, Prees – Paul Wynn having difficulty contacting the owner. Sept agenda item.

Streetlighting – Lighteach Rd, complaint from resident, light shining into living room. Cllr M Lanham reported issue is with brightness and angle of new LED light. Maintenance engineers have been asked to investigate, await response – Sept agenda item.

090/16 **Parish Council (PC) matters.**

Recruitment of new Clerk – following applications and interviews the Council has appointed Karen Sieloff as its new Clerk, Karen was at the meeting and was introduced to the Councillors, she will take up office on the 1st September 2016.

Chairmanship board – proposed by Cllr R Hirons, seconded by Cllr M Lanham that the Clerk contacts Roy Bickley, sign writer, about updating the boards. **All agreed.**

SC, Clustering for Whitchurch – Cllr R Hirons reported, SC withdrawing funding for local services looking to Town Council to take over services including library, swimming pool, Brown Moss and Whitchurch Country Park. Parish Council’s in the local cluster will be asked to contribute. One idea was if 8% of the library users come from Prees, Prees PC could pay 8% of the running costs. Could have huge impact on precept, if increased over 9% Parish Council could be forced to have a referendum. Don’t have to agree to fund the services but Parish Council needs to be prepared to discuss the issues and have an idea of what it should do. Next meeting 11th October 2016, Cllr Hirons requested that several members should attend. Sept and Oct agenda item.

Severn Trent (ST) – Cllrs expressed concern that ST appear to lack a plan for the Parish. Cllrs would like to know what the capacity is and if there is a contingency plan to deal with future development. Need confidence in ST’s responses, if they have a strategic plan could they share it, if not how do we start to develop one. Proposed by Cllr J Allen, seconded by Cllr M Lanham that Council write to ST to request information for Prees and a meeting to discuss a strategic approach. **All agreed.**

091/16 **Payment of Accounts.**

Proposed by Cllr Mrs S Short, seconded by Cllr J Allen that the following accounts be paid:

16th August 2016

Mrs L Rumney – Aug salary	£ 487.06
Mrs L Rumney – expenses 1/07/16 –31/08/16 (see below)	£ 117.88

28/2016

Jones Lighting – street light maintenance	£	140.85
Playsafety Ltd – RoSPA annual safety inspections. Prees & Higher Heath	£	184.80
Prees Cricket & Rec Club – annual rent for youth shelter	£	1.00
Scottish Power – Street light energy	£	186.07
Streetscape – Exercise equipment Higher Heath field (Grant money, Council to reclaim VAT)		£11,976.00
	Total	£13,093.66

Clerks expenses in detail 01/07/16 – 31/08/16		
13/07/16 – Post Office – agenda postage	£	9.60
03/08/16 – Post Office- stamps and agenda postage	£	17.28
05/08/16 – Tesco – box file	£	3.00
16/08/16 – use of home as office 1/04/16 – 31/08/16		
22 weeks @ £4.00 per week	£	88.00
	Total	117.88 All agreed.

092/16 **Play areas**

Higher Heath Field – Cllr R Hirons reported, new exercise equipment is installed and in use. Clerk to confirm that equipment has been installed and grant money spent, ask about promotional signs to show where grant money came from. Consider reclaiming the VAT. Ask suppliers for extra stickers to show how equipment should be used, one is on upside down. Cllr J Whelan thanked Cllr R Hirons for all his work in getting the project completed. Councillors agreed to write to GroContinental to ask if the grant they pledged could be used for another bench rather than play equipment. Climbing net has been re-tensioned for free, may need an annual check, also noted ants nests at base of ropes, contact John Walker to deal with.

RoSPA reports for Prees and Higher Heath, play area committee, Cllrs Mrs B Rainford, R Hirons and P Gill to meet in Sept to consider reports. Recommendations Oct agenda item.

Pavilion, Higher Heath field – quote of £190 to remove window grill and replace glass. Cllrs agreed to postpone repairs and get quotes to demolish and remove the pavilion, Council will consider future of the pavilion.

093/16 **Correspondence.**

SALC – Training, proposed by Cllr J Whelan, seconded by Cllr M Lanham that Council pays for Karen Sieloff to attend “Agendas & Minute Taking” and Cllr S Short to attend “Be a Better Councillor - 28/10/16 at Dawley Town Hall. **All agreed.**

PPC - Safer West Mercia Plan for consultation – Cllrs agreed not to participate.

Cllr R Hirons thanked the Clerk for all her guidance, support and work with the Parish Council over the past 9 years, the Cllrs and local residents have appreciated her efforts and support to them and the community. Cllrs presented the Clerk with a potted rose to mark her last meeting and leaving date of 31st August 2016. The Clerk thanked the Cllrs for the rose and all their good wishes.

094/16 **Exclusion of the Press and Public**

Cllrs resolved: That under Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 the public and press be excluded from the meeting for the items of business numbered 6 and 7 as publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the *confidential and personal nature* of the business to be transacted. *Proposed by Cllr J Whelan and seconded by Cllr Mrs B Finch that the Council will pay Mrs L Rumney at her current hourly rate to provide support for the new Clerk up to and not exceeding 47 hrs for the month of Sept. All agreed. Cllrs discussed provision of a telephone line or mobile, internet connection, hand over of equipment and papers, exact details to be agreed with new Clerk. Contract of employment was agreed subject to correct wording of the “relevant qualifications”, Clerk initially appointed to salary point SCP 16. References to be requested and returned to Cllr R Hirons.*

Meeting closed at 9.20pm.

CHAIRMAN

DATED

29/2016