

Minutes of Prees Parish Council Meeting  
held on 15<sup>th</sup> August 2017 at 7 pm in Prees Village Hall

Present were: Cllrs R Hirons (Chair); Mrs S Jones; Mrs S Short; Mrs B Rainford; Mrs L Baer; J Whelan; J Allen; D Ladd; R List; Also present were Mrs K Sieloff clerk to the Council and three members of the public.

**092/17 Public Session**

A Member of the Public expressed grave concerns about the excessively high speeds of some vehicles using the newly-resurfaced part of the B5065 known as The Straight, which has Lower Heath Primary School at one end and Mick's Mill at the other. The road is part of the designated route to Prees Industrial Estate. The new surface seems to be making the urge to speed along here even more tempting and grave concerns were expressed for the safety of the road's residents. Cllr R Hirons assured the Meeting that this matter would be returned to later in the Agenda.

**093/17 Apologies**

Apologies received from Cllrs Mrs B Finch; Mrs D Foster; M Lanham.

**094/17 Disclosure of Pecuniary/Non-Pecuniary interests**

There were none.

**095/17 Signing of Minutes (previously circulated.)**

Cllr J Whelan pointed out the necessity of two amendments to the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> July 2017; in Minute no 079/17 the record should read 'Another member of the public expressed concerns about the dangers of speeding traffic on the A49' and in Minute no 087/17 the words 'Cllr M Lanham took the Chair' were to be inserted. With these amendments made and signed by the Chairman, the Minutes were agreed to be a true record. Cllr Mrs B Rainford proposed that they be signed and this was seconded by Cllr J Whelan. All were in favour and the Chairman duly signed the Minutes.

**096/17 Matters Arising from the Minutes.**

Cllr J Whelan reported that there had very nearly been a collision on the A49 between a car coming out of the drive by Hawthorn Cottage and a lorry coming round the bend heading North.

**097/17 Shropshire Council Report.**

Cllr P Wynn had telephoned the clerk with the following report:

- Prees residents have been expressing concern to him about the state of the houses on The Square in the centre of the village.
- Cllr Wynn wanted the Parish Council to have advance notice of an extensive resurfacing project on the roundabout at Prees Heath Common on A49/A41, which will necessitate diversions. The work is scheduled for November.

**098/17 Community Policing.**

PCSO Chris Hirons attended to deliver his report.

Since the last meeting, 8 crimes had been reported within Prees parish: 2 x anti-social nuisance, 3 x theft, 2 x assault and 1 x business burglary. Other incidents reported included cold callers (police advice is not to answer the door to anyone you do not know or are not expecting.) PCSO Hirons also reminded the Meeting of the importance of keeping property protected with Smart Water, following an increase in the number of break-ins Whitchurch is experiencing. In addition he asked that any unsecured building site, or any children playing where they are not safe to do so, should be reported to him. Lastly PCSO Hirons assured the Meeting that speed checks were being conducted in Higher Heath, close to Towers Drive, following concerns raised by the Parish Council and plans were in place to issue tickets to speeders on this and other local roads.

**099/17 Planning Matters**

Current Applications:

**17/03343/FUL:** Erection of single-storey front extension. 22 Turnpike Rise, Prees SY13 2FD. Mr Owen.

The Parish Council could see no reason to object to this proposal and resolved that its support should be registered.

Proposed by Cllr Mrs S Jones and seconded by Cllr J Whelan. All were in favour.

**17/03406/FUL:** Replacement windows to front elevation. 4 Shrewsbury Street, Prees SY13 2DH. Mrs Watson.

The Parish Council could see no reason to object and resolved that its support should be registered. Cllr J Allen proposed this and Cllr Mrs S Short seconded it. All were in favour.

**17/03491/FUL:** Proposed treatment plant to serve new workshop. The Birches, Nook Lane, Weston-under-Redcastle, Shrewsbury. Sean Kinsella.

The Parish Council was happy to support this Application, with the proviso that the ecologist's recommendations about the hedging were adhered to. Proposed by Cllr R Hirons that this view should be registered and seconded by Cllr Mrs B Rainford. All were in favour.

**17/03469/OUT:** Outline application for the erection of one detached dwelling to include access, layout and scale. Land to the rear of 11 Moreton Street, Prees SY13 2EG.

The Chairman noted concerns expressed by residents to the Parish Council about this proposal. The Parish Council is of the opinion that this is undesirable backland development on a site to which entry and exit is unsuitable, being both difficult and busy. Sight-lines go across the neighbour's garden and the permanence of these could not be guaranteed. In addition, the proposed building would not sit well with the surrounding properties which all have road frontage. For these reasons the Parish Council resolved to object to this proposal. This was proposed by Cllr R Hirons and seconded by Cllr Mrs S Jones. All were in favour.

**17/03237/FUL:** Erection of a two-storey side extension. 10 Pheasant Close, Prees

The Parish Council saw no reason to object to this proposal and resolved that its support should be registered. Proposed by Cllr J Whelan and seconded by Cllr J Allen. All were in favour.

**17/03501/FUL:** Erection of agricultural storage building and stables to include change of use of land. Newbury House, Lower Heath, Prees

The Parish Council expressed concerns that the proposed building looks more like a house than an agricultural building: it is two-storey with windows and stairs and its design is inconsistent with its stated purpose. The Parish Council resolved to register its objection to the proposal. This was proposed by Cllr R Hirons and seconded by Cllr Mrs L Baer. All were in favour.

**17/03585/FUL:** Erection of part two-storey/part single-storey rear extension. Wood Cottage, Lacon Street, Prees SY13 2EP. Mr W and Mrs C Edwards.

The Parish Council could see no reason to object to this proposal and resolved to have its support registered. Proposed by Cllr R Hirons and seconded by Cllr Mrs B Rainford. All were in favour.

**17/03775/OUT:** Outline application for the erection of up to five residential dwellings including access of Shrewsbury Street. Proposed residential development to the West of Shrewsbury St, Prees. Messrs John and William Nash. Cllr R Hirons reminded the Meeting that this site is part of an area identified and approved for housing development and therefore the Parish Council would have no objection in principle, but the stumbling-block is the access. Cllrs expressed the view that in order to minimise the issues of access, the site needs to be considered as a whole: piecemeal development will not work. SAMDev was approving the *whole* site, and in the view of the Parish Council the various owners of the parcels of land need to consult together and decide on a holistic approach to the development of the land. The Parish resolved to register its objection to the current proposal: proposed by Cllr R Hirons and seconded by Cllr J Whelan. All were in favour..

Planning Decisions received:

- 17/02001/FUL: Change of use from Tyre Depot to mixed use Tyre Depot and Car Sales. Tyreworks, London Road, Higher Heath, Whitchurch. *Permission granted.*
- 17/02403/FUL: Siting of a static caravan for holiday-let use. Platt Farm, Whitchurch Road, Prees. *Permission refused.*
- 17/02632/LBC: Demolition of the 'Piggery' building by hand to maximise the re-use of listed materials, retaining and rebuilding the main outer wall and small outbuilding with stated reclaimed materials affecting a Grade 2 listed building. The Clock House, Sandford, Whitchurch SY13 2AW. *Permission granted.*
- 17/03134/TPO: Proposed tree works: 1 x Beech – crown reduce over roadside by up to 2.5m protected by the North Shropshire District Council (Grocontinental Ltd, Heathwood Rd, Higher Heath) TPO 1993. Road Haulage Depot, Heathwood Road, Higher Heath, Whitchurch SY13 2HF. *Permission granted.*

Other planning matters:

Report on site-visit 4th August 2017 by Cllrs R Hirons, Mrs D Foster and Cllr D Ladd, in connection with 17/03646/TCA: Reduce by up to 50% mixed species hedge of Hawthorn and Hazel and remove two branches of one Cherry tree within Prees conservation area. Orchard Cottage, Constables Courtyard, Shrewsbury St, Prees SY13 2GA. Cllr R Hirons reported that no reason to object to the proposal had been identified, and that the clerk had been asked to register the Parish Council's support for the application.

### **100/17 Parish Matters.**

- Mobile Phone Tower update: Cllr R Hirons reminded the Meeting that the Parish Council has sent a letter to Shropshire Council objecting to the fact that they have not upheld our formal complaint about their mistake. A response is awaited. Also, although the Applicants have been invited to meet with the Parish Council, they have declined to do this at the current time. Cllr Hirons suggested, that as we seem to have no recourse to redress at all in this matter, that the law itself needs to be

reviewed. He suggested that a letter be sent to the Minister responsible for planning matters. Cllr J Whelan proposed that the letter should be written and this was seconded by Cllr Mrs S Short. All were in favour.

- Additional defibrillators to be held locally? There are currently defibrillators at Higher Heath Village Hall, at the Fire Station and at the Cricket Club. In Prees an ambulance can be 30 minutes to an hour away, and the huge advantage of this equipment is that it can be successfully used by complete amateurs. Cllr J Whelan told the Meeting that his work-place was provided with a defibrillator free-of-charge by the Ambulance Service and it is also maintained without charge by them. It was resolved that enquiries should be made of the West Midlands Ambulance Service and Cllr D Ladd offered to take this forward.
- Pavilion demolition: update. The clerk reported that she is having difficulty persuading any suitably-qualified contractor to quote for the groundworks part of the disconnection of the electricity. The Parish Council resolved that Scottish Power should be engaged to do the complete work of disconnection. Proposed by Cllr Mrs S Jones and seconded by Cllr Mrs B Rainford. All were in favour.
- Hazardous buildings at The Square, Prees. The clerk was asked to write to the Conservation Department at Shropshire Council to advise them of concerns about the safety of the roof on the front building in particular, amidst general concern for the state of this group of unfinished buildings. The clerk reported that she has written to Miss Melanie Hollis to ascertain who is now the owner of these buildings following Mr Denzil Hollis's demise.
- Traffic priorities in Prees village centre. Cllr J Whelan spoke of the difficulties the bus faces when trying to access the village centre and it is confronted with vehicles parked inconsiderately. Double yellow lines would not help as they cannot be enforced. Cllr Whelan suggested that the Parish Council could collate any complaints reported and send them to Shropshire Council.
- Cycle groups use of the A49. Cllr J Allen expressed his concern about the hazardous activities he witnessed as a spectator of a recent cycle race held on the A49. He reported that during dreadfully wet weather the road was flooded, it was dark, cyclists had no lights and were in the middle of the road to avoid the puddles. Resting cyclists congregated at the petrol station and were spilling out on to the road. Neither motorists or cyclists could see properly in the awful conditions. Cllr Allen advised that it had been a potentially very dangerous situation and he proposed that the Parish Council should find out who licenses these activities and who is responsible for ensuring the safety of those involved. This was seconded by Cllr Mrs B Rainford and all were in favour. Clerk to enquire of Police.
- Speeding vehicles on B5065 at Lower Heath: Clerk to write to Highways requesting traffic-calming measures and emphasising that since the resurfacing this road has become a dangerous race-track.

#### **101/17 Parish Council Matters**

- Possible employment of a handyman by Parish Council. This item was carried forward to await Cllr M Lanham's return.
- Reminder of photoshoot at Higher Heath Playground Wednesday August 16<sup>th</sup> 2.30 pm. All councillors who can were asked to attend the photoshoot documenting the donation of a seat by Grocontinental to complement the fitness equipment funded by an Awards for All grant from the Big Lottery fund.
- Possibility of applying for a Heritage Lottery Grant to fund activities commemorating Prees Heath Common's part in WW1: Cllr Mrs B Rainford reported that this project only needed Prees Parish Council to head it up: all the work apart from a small amount of administration would be done by Shropshire Wildlife Trust. Cllr R Hirons expressed concerns that the clerk's workload would be increased and he also expressed unease about applying for a grant to be used on land that belonged to a different parish. The Parish Council wondered why Whitchurch Rural Parish Council were not interested in applying for the funding themselves. (The clerk reported that she had emailed the clerk of Whitchurch Rural to ascertain their thoughts on these matters, but their next Parish Council meeting was not until early September.) Cllr Rainford offered to invite a representative from Shropshire Wildlife Trust to come and explain the proposed project to the Parish Council and this course of action was supported by all.
- West Mercia Fire and Rescue Governance Consultation. Cllr J Whelan reported on the proposal for the West Mercia Police and Crime Commissioner to take over the governance of Hereford and Worcester Fire and Rescue Service and Shropshire FRS. He advised the Council that it is claimed that this would save £4m, but as the police and fire services have fundamentally different roles it is difficult to see how the scheme would work and how the Fire and Rescue Services, who already provide an excellent service, could be improved by

having a joint Police and Fire Commissioner. Cllr Whelan also expressed disquiet about so much political power being in one pair of hands. In summary, he advised the Parish Council not to support the proposal. Cllr R Hirons thanked Cllr Whelan for his work on this matter and proposed that the Parish Council withhold its support. This was seconded by Cllr Mrs L Baer and all were in favour.

- Community Infrastructure Levy: spending the Neighbourhood Fund. The clerk reported that the Neighbourhood Fund currently stands at £3146.13. Clerk to source advice on appropriate expenditure of this money.
- Shropshire Council car-parking survey. Cllr R Hirons to lead. Carried forward to next meeting.
- Shropshire Council has advised the clerk that no more village-sign installations can be considered until at least the beginning of the next financial year (2018-19) as this work can only be undertaken by contractors appointed by Shropshire Council and the current contractors, whose contract ends at the end of this financial year, are not able to take on any further works. It is not yet known who the next contractors will be. Noted.
- Does the Parish Plan, compiled in 2006, need updating? Cllr R Hirons suggested that volunteers might like to carry this forward. Initially the matter will be carried forward to the next Agenda.

**102/17 Accounting matters**

- Payment of Accounts for August 2017 (previously circulated.) Cllr J Whelan proposed that the following accounts should be paid and this was seconded by Cllr S Short. All were in favour.

Accounts for Payment: August 2017

Mrs K Sieloff: clerk's salary August 2017	£ 340.39
HMRC PAYE payment August 2017	£85.10
Scottish Power : Electricity charges- street lighting 30.6.17-31.7.17	£ 159.20
Jones Lighting Ltd street light monthly maint July 2017	£127.09
Fauls Parochial Church Council : church hall grant (replacement cheque: wrong payee on cheque made out to Fauls Village Hall last month)	 £1000.00
Fauls Parochial Church Council: churchyard grant (this item was on the Accounts for Payment July 2017 but there were insufficient cheques available.)	 £100.00
<b>Total:</b>	<b>£1811.78</b>

- Clerk confirmed receipt of £690.20 Environmental Maintenance Grant.

**103/17 Correspondence**

- Receipt of documentation confirming that we have fulfilled our obligations pertaining to the Parish Council's receipt of the Awards for All grant from the Big Lottery Fund in 2016.
- Appreciative note from Brian of North Salop Wheelers (7.8.17) thanking Prees Parish Council for their donation of £200.

**104/17 Future agenda items**

- Unkempt and untidy appearance of Manor Place, Higher Heath. Cllr Mrs S Jones to lead

The meeting closed at 9.35 pm.

Next meeting: September 19<sup>th</sup> 2017

Signed .....

Date .....