

Minutes of the Prees Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 18th December 2018 at 7.00 pm in Prees Village Hall.

Present were: Cllrs R Hirons; J Whelan; Mrs B Finch; Mrs B Rainford; Mrs S Short; Mrs L Baer; Mrs D Foster; D Ladd; M Lanham; J Allen and P Wynn. Also present were one member of the public and the clerk Mrs K Sieloff.

149/18. Public Session. An owner of land in Lighteach Road which had not been selected by SC as a potential Preferred Site, spoke in support of his site. He was advised that the Parish Council is not privy to the scoring system that SC uses to choose one site over another, and Cllr P Wynn was asked to follow this up on behalf of the Parish Council, as this needs to be a transparent system. A reminder was given of the meeting about the Preferred Sites Consultation on Friday 11 January 2019 6.30-8 pm at Whitchurch Civic Centre.

150/18. Apologies were received from Cllrs Mrs S Jones and R List.

151/18. Disclosure of Pecuniary/Non-Pecuniary Interest: there were none.

152/18. The Minutes of the full Parish Council meeting held on 20.11. 2018 (previously circulated) were agreed to be a true record and it was proposed by Cllr Mrs B Rainford that they should be signed and this was seconded by Cllr Mrs L Baer. All were in favour and the Minutes were duly signed by the Chairman.

The Minutes of the Extraordinary Planning Meeting held on 24th September 2018, had previously been overlooked by the clerk, and for this she apologises. These had now been circulated prior to the meeting on 18th December and were now agreed to be a true record. It was proposed by Cllr J Whelan that they should be signed and this was seconded by Cllr Mrs D Foster. All were in favour and the Minutes were signed.

153/18. Actions arising from the Minutes. There were none that were not on the Agenda.

154/18 Shropshire Council report. Cllr P Wynn advised that CIL Local funds would not be available to help fund the plans to re-use the Churchyard burial ground. He also reported that it may be that Highways at SC do not raise objections to the proposed moving of the Auction site from the A49 to the A41. The Parish Council expressed disbelief that this could be the case when it is common knowledge locally that on sale days currently the A49 becomes a car park for people attending. Cllr Wynn also mentioned the SC's plans to abolish the Bring Bins in order to save money and 'reduce fly-tipping'.

155/18: Community Policing Report. PCSO Graeme Baines was unable to attend in person but had sent a report which Cllr R Hirons read out. This advised that there had been two incidents involving persons acting suspiciously in the area; one uninsured vehicle recovered; five road traffic collisions and one attempted burglary. PCSO Baines advised that special care should be taken with all property: all doors and windows should be locked and alarms set. Warnings were also given of the dangers of the low sun in the morning and evening when driving: he advised the use of sunglasses and dipped headlights.

156/18: Planning.

Current Planning Applications

18/05422/OUT: Outline planning (all matters reserved) for the creation of two dormer bungalows. 101 Twemlows Avenue, Higher Heath, Whitchurch, Shropshire. Applicants: Mr Kevin Hampton and Ms Menzies.

On the grounds that the Parish Council has always objected to backland development with no frontage to the highway, it was resolved to object to this Application. This was proposed by Cllr J Whelan and seconded by Cllr Mrs S Short. All were in favour.

AMENDMENT to 18/04836/FUL: Erection of former auction building for agricultural purposes (Building 1) Oaklands Farm, Weston Under Redcastle, Shrewsbury, Shropshire. Applicant: Mr D Whittall.

As SC's decision to grant permission to this Application had been received by email just as the Meeting had opened, there was no need for the Parish Council to comment.

AMENDMENT to 18/04891/FUL: Erection of former auction building for agricultural purpose (Building 2) Oaklands Farm, Weston Under Redcastle, Shrewsbury, Shropshire. Applicant: Mr D Whittall.

The Parish Council noted this Application but had no comment to make. Proposed by Cllr R Hirons and seconded by Cllr Mrs D Foster. All were in favour.

18/05526/PSPPA: Application for Prior Approval under Part 14, Class J of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015 for the installation of roof-mounted solar panels. Lower Heath Farm, Lower Heath, Prees, Whitchurch, Shropshire. Applicant: SAS Energy.

It was resolved to note this Application without comment. Proposed by Cllr R Hirons and seconded by Cllr Mrs L Baer. All were in favour.

18/05239/FUL: Construction of an agricultural slurry lagoon. Bridge Farm, Steele Heath, Prees Heath, Whitchurch, Shropshire. Applicant: J J B Powell

It was resolved to support this Application as long as proper fencing was stipulated. This was proposed by Cllr Mrs D Foster and seconded by Cllr J Allen. All were in favour.

18/01871/FUL: AMENDMENTS to proposal for erection of two dwellings with associated access and visibility splays. Land opposite Moreton Farm, Moreton Street, Prees, Shropshire. Applicant: Fieldcrest Associates LLP.

It was resolved to note the Amendments without further comment. Proposed by Cllr Mrs B Rainford and seconded by Cllr J Whelan. All were in favour.

Planning Decisions received from Shropshire Council.

18/05482/OHL: Retrospective application for 2nd underground line. Heathgates Farm, Lower Heath, Prees, Shrewsbury, Shropshire. Decision: No Objection.

18/05113/FUL: Erection of single storey side extension; two storey rear extension and rendering.

The Hollies, Broadhay Lane, Lower Heath, Prees SY13 2BJ. Decision: Grant Permission.

- 18/04556/COU: Application under Section 73A of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 for change of use of grassed area to domestic curtilage (retrospective.) Land East of Rose Cottage, Primrose Lane, Prees, Shropshire. Decision: Refuse.

157/18 Parish and Parish Council Matters

Smartwater roll-out. On 17.12.18 Cllr R Hirons and the clerk had met with representatives from Smartwater who will seek local police support for the Parish Council in distributing the kits. Sergeant Greenaway had promised support in delivering kits to more challenging locations early in the New Year. Clerk to ask Parish Councillors if they have a 2 hour slot available early in the New Year to help with this distribution. The issue of whether Parish Council officials should carry some form of identification was raised. To be discussed further at the next meeting. Clerk to research options.

Report from Town and Parish Council Forum 29th November 2018 attended by Chair and clerk. Cllr R Hirons reported that this had been an interesting and informative meeting, where the Consultation on the Preferred Sites had been launched and was now running until the end of January. The Community Infrastructure Levy and the Environmental Maintenance Grant had also been discussed and those attending also heard about grants for enhancing Road Safety available from the PCC. (See next item, below.) Official minutes of the meeting have been promised and will be circulated to all as soon as they are available.

Police and Crime Commissioner Safer Roads Fund.

Cllr R Hirons reported that a £30,000 fund is available to each local policing area from 1.11.18 to 31.3.20. The fund is primarily for use on road safety initiatives. It could perhaps fund the Vehicle Activated speed monitors the Parish Council has been considering. Clerk to research details.

Consultation on Preferred Sites for development. Consultation runs until the end of January 2019 and there will be a public meeting at Whitchurch Civic Centre on Friday 11 January 2019 6.30-8pm. The Parish Council was keen to know how the eventual selection of a preferred site is made. A couple of dozen sites were put forward: how was that list whittled down to one sole site? Surely this should be a transparent process? Concern was also expressed by the Parish Councillors concerning whether the two existing sites (Prees Hall and Shrewsbury Street) will ever actually deliver any homes. Is there not a need for at least one back-up site? Cllr P Wynn was asked to enquire of Edward West at SC and clerk to send an email.

Possibility of local community-led housing development. Carried forward to January Agenda.

Higher Heath Playground

- Rabbit problem. Clerk reported that this is turning out to be a tricky problem to find an answer to. She has been advised of the inappropriateness of gassing burrows in a public place and shooting the rabbits is also not an option as there is no available 'back-stop' feature to make this safe. She awaits a quote from a company who would use ferrets and nets.
- Strimmer damage to wooden posts as mentioned in RoSPA report. Clerk to find cost of protective collars.
- Incorrectly-installed sit-up exercise equipment: clerk is following this up and hopes to have good news to report next time.

Planned re-use of St Chad's church yard burial ground. Prees Parochial Church Council has approached the Parish Council with a request for £1,000.00 towards the costs. Cllr P Wynn advised that this would not be considered for

funding from CIL Local. The Parish Council agreed to further consider the matter when setting the Budget for 2019-20. The Parish Council is happy to have the Notice of the intended works to be advertised on its noticeboard and website.

Potentially hazardous trees on Parish Council land. Cllr J Allen suggested that a register of all trees on Parish Council land that could prove hazardous because of their proximity to roads, buildings, etc, is required. On this would be recorded the dates when the trees are checked for safety, which a recent court ruling suggests should be every two years. Clerk to find out from our insurers who they would judge to be a competent person to carry out these inspections.

At this point mention was made of a beech tree that is overhanging and impinging on the highway in Whitchurch Road. Clerk to check and to ask Shropshire Council to cut it back. She was also asked to request John Walker of Garden Services to remove the dead cherry tree at Prees playground.

SALC North Shropshire Area Committee 19th November 2018.

Cllr J Whelan had attended and reported back.

A presentation was made by David Perridge Operations Manager for Warwickshire and West Mercia Safer Roads Partnership on the policy of setting speed limits. Salient points were:

- Speed limits imposed have to match the environment and driver perception. It is inappropriate to set low speed limits on a wide open road with little or no built environment.
- Prosecution in West Mercia follows guidelines of speed limits exceeded by 10% + 2 mph (35/46/57/68 mph.)
- A camera van will only be used in locations expecting at least 200 vehicles an hour.
- Funding is available for Community speed watch schemes and applications from groups such as Parish Councils are welcomed.
- New type of speed guns are awaiting approval.
- Vehicle activated signs are effective in controlling speed.
- Average speed cameras are unlikely to meet funding criteria in Shropshire.

Professor Mark Barrow spoke about Place Plans and advised that new funding was in place to appoint six Place Plan Members before Christmas 2018. He also told of Shropshire Council forming a not-for-profit housing development company to build community needs property that commercial developers are reluctant to build. There are also plans to tackle empty buildings and bring them back into use, especially buildings currently forming eye-sores at the entrance to a village or in other key locations.

Edward West gave an update on the Public Consultation for the Preferred Sites in the revised Local Plan.

An additional matter under discussion was the provision of disabled access to the Southbound Platform at Whitchurch Railway Station in consultation with Trains for Wales, the new franchise holder.

The Square, Prees. The clerk reported a telephoned response received from Shropshire Council's Frank Whitley regarding consideration of the use of Section 215 enforcement legislation at the Square in the centre of Prees. Mr Whitley came out and assessed the site himself and while he understands the frustrations caused by this long-standing and on-going stale-mate situation he regrets that it is not an appropriate site for the invocation of Section 215 legislation. This is because the unsightly parts of the site are not overlooked by residents so it cannot be claimed that amenity is affected, and it is this that is the criteria.

The Parish Councillors were very disappointed with this response and asked the clerk to request Mr Whitley to document his response more fully in a letter.

Regarding the matter of the damaged and potentially dangerous basement cover on pavement at The Square, the clerk reported that she had heard from Highways that they were sending a technician to investigate.

Wrafton Terrace: annual pruning required. The clerk was authorized to ask John Walker to undertake this work ensuring that all the sycamore seedlings were removed. Proposed by Cllr J Allen and seconded by Cllr Mrs S Short. All were in favour.

158/18 Accounting matters

Accounts for Payment December 2018

	£
Mrs K Sieloff clerks salary December 2018	421.69
HMRC PAYE	3.80
Clerks expenses (detailed below)	34.17
Gardening Services	
Grass-cutting Prees	1500.00
Grass-cutting H Heath	1050.00
Fauls Church Hall hire 3.11.18: 3 x hours @£7.50	22.50

Scottish Power streetlight energy 31.10.18-30.11.18	<u>£154.26</u>
Total	£ 3186.42
Late-arriving invoice:	
Jones Lighting streetlight maintenance for November 2018	<u>132.19</u>
Grand total	£3318.61

Clerks expenses 14.11.18-13.12.18

Delivery of November Agenda: 13 miles @ 45ppm = £5.85
 December BT line rental contribution = £12.50
 Mileage to Guildhall and return (meeting 28.11.18) 30 miles @ 45 ppm = £13.50
 Stamps: 4 x 2nd class stamps = £2.32
 Total = £34.17

It was proposed by Cllr Mrs D Foster that the accounts should be paid. This was seconded by Cllr Mrs L Baer and all were in favour.

Preliminary look at Budget-setting for 2019-20. The Parish Councillors looked at sheets showing the existing Budget for 2018-19 and the current spend against Budget. Cllrs R Hirons, J Whelan, Mrs D Foster, Mrs L Baer and Mrs S Short agreed to meet in the early days of the New Year to look more closely at Budget requirements for the coming year (Precept request needs to be in by the end of January 2019.) Clerk to liaise and organize.

159/18 Correspondence

- Request from Mr Peter Richards that the Parish Council should express a preference for the style of bus shelter preferred for Heathwood Road, Higher Heath alongside the new Grocott housing development. In response the Parish Council unanimously agreed that the new bus-shelter should resemble the old brick-built one as closely as possible. Clerk to relay this to Mr Richards.
- Notice received from Severn Trent of planned road closure at Shrewsbury Street Prees commencing 21.2.19 for 4 days to facilitate work to connect new water supply.
- Notice of proposal to remove Shropshire-Council-owned Bring Bank sites across Shropshire. Consultation closes 25th January 2019.
- Email received from Mrs Marilyn Patrick, Poppy Appeal Organiser, advising that the Parish Council's October Minutes mistakenly recorded that the Silent Soldier purchased generously by Cllr Mrs B Finch was donated by Prees Parish Council, whereas it was in fact donated by Prees Hodnet and Districts Royal British Legion.
- Notification received from Environment Agency that it will be completing routine tree work and blockage removal on the brook through Prees early in the New Year.
- Email received 11.12.18 from Environmental Maintenance at SC in response to an email sent by the clerk detailing a resident's complaints about the state of the road and the disruption caused by the construction of roadside paths as part of the new development in Mill Lane Higher Heath. The matter has been passed to Highways Development Control.
- Email received 23.11.18 from Environmental Maintenance at SC advising that the sunken grid on Wem Lane, Souton (B5065) which is very noisy when lorries move over it and is causing distress to nearby residents, would be due for another inspection and assessment in December.

160/18 Items for next Agenda

- 'House-keeping' matters to be raised with SC
- Community-led planning.

Meeting closed at 8.55 pm.

Signed.....

Date.....