

Minutes of Prees Parish Council Meeting
held on February 20th 2018 at 7 pm in Prees Village Hall

Present were: Cllrs R Hirons; Mrs B Rainford; Mrs S Short; Mrs D Foster; Mrs L Baer; J Whelan; M Lanham; J Allen and R List. Also present were Mr Tim Shrobbree Housing Needs officer from Shropshire Council; Mrs K Sieloff clerk to the Parish Council and two members of the public.

014/18 Public Session

There were no contributions from members of the public.

015/18 Apologies

There were apologies from Cllrs Mrs B Finch; Mrs S Jones; D Ladd and P Wynn and also from PCSO C Hirons.

016/18 Disclosure of Pecuniary/Non-Pecuniary interests

There were none.

017/18 Signing of Minutes (previously circulated.)

The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 16th January 2017 were agreed to be a true record. Cllr Mrs S Short proposed that they should be signed and this was seconded by Cllr Mrs B Rainford. All were in favour and Cllr R Hirons duly signed the Minutes.

018/18 Matters Arising from the Minutes.

There were no matters arising from the Minutes that were not on the Agenda.

019/18 Report from Tim Shrobbree Housing Needs Officer.

Tim Shrobbree, newly-appointed Housing Needs Officer at Shropshire Council was welcomed to the meeting. He told the meeting that community-led housing initiatives are considered to be the way forward and that the initial task is to identify local housing needs and then proceed to consider suitable sites, which would not necessarily need to be existing sites. Mr Shrobbree explained that Affordable Housing is not the same as Social Housing, but is housing that is sold at 60-80% of the market price. He spoke about a new initiative called Right Home Right Place which involves a simple on-line survey which will be launched in March of this year and which the Parish Council could publicize. Cllr M Lanham suggested that what our area needs is small family homes and bungalows, not four-bedroom 'executive' houses. Mr Shrobbree reminded the meeting that a Neighbourhood Plan gives robust control over local development. Cllr R Hirons thanked Mr Shrobbree for attending the meeting and looked forward to working with him in the future.

020/18 Shropshire Council Report.

Cllr Wynn had sent his apologies but had asked the clerk to report that residents in Lower Heath along the road known as The Straight (the part of the B5065 with Mick's Mill and Lower Heath School on it) had asked for a sign warning about horse-riders using the road, and also residents in Cruckmoor Lane had requested if possible a mirror near the entrance to Broadhay Road, to help with safe access to the B5065. The clerk was asked to research these matters, including who would be expected to finance them.

021/18 Community Policing.

Apologies had been received from PCSO Chris Hirons, but he had supplied a report which Cllr R Hirons read aloud.

There were 32 incidents requiring police action during the reporting period and eight of these were recorded as crimes: three thefts; one burglary; one concern for safety; one malicious communications; one criminal damage and one threat to life.

PCSO Hirons reported that police officers are often called out when there are fears for the safety of an elderly resident and he emphasised the importance of elderly residents having a key-safe, or leaving a key with a neighbour, and most importantly having a note somewhere clear that explains who should be contacted to provide access to the key.

PCSO Hirons advises there have recently been individuals selling items from door to door in the area. Most of course are perfectly courteous, but any difficult encounters can be reported to him and they will be followed up.

He also reported that he has been attending Prees Primary School to remind drivers not to park on the yellow lines outside the school.

022/18 Planning Matters

- 18/00051/OHL: Erection of 11KV overhead line supported by wood poles. Land at Fernyleas, Station Road, Prees, Whitchurch, Shropshire. Applicant: SP Manweb PLC.
It was resolved that the Parish Council's support for this application should be registered. This was proposed by Cllr R Hirons, seconded by Cllr M Lanham and all were in favour.
- 17/05986/FUL: Erection of single-storey rear extension. Marchwood, Mill Lane, Higher Heath, Whitchurch, Shropshire SY13 2HR. Applicant: Mr and Mrs D Eccleston.
It was resolved that the Parish Council's support for this application should be registered. This was proposed by Cllr J Whelan and seconded by Cllr Mrs D Foster and all were in favour.
- 18/00443/TPO: To fell one Silver Birch and remove area of small trees belonging to North Shropshire District Council (Prees Higher Heath No 6) TPO 1975. 7 Birchwood Grove, Higher Heath, Whitchurch, Shropshire SY13 2EX.
Concern was expressed by some councillors at the number of trees currently being felled locally and it was resolved to support this application on the understanding that the Tree Officers' professional opinion would prevail and allow only essential felling. Proposed by Cllr J Whelan and seconded by Cllr Mrs S Short. All were in favour.
- 18/00303/FUL: Erection of an agricultural silage clamp. Fernyleas, Station Road, Prees, Shropshire SY13 2DW. Applicant: Mr Steve Walley.
18/00321/FUL: Erection of agricultural slurry tower/store. Fernyleas, Station Road, Prees, Shropshire. SY13 2DW. Applicant: Mr Steve Walley.
It was resolved to support these two applications with the proviso that the materials used were of a colour to blend into their surroundings. Proposed by Cllr J Whelan and seconded by Cllr J Allen. All were in favour.
- Amendments to 17/05815/FUL: Residential development of thirteen dwellings including public open space and demolition of existing buildings at Prees Industrial Estate. Land at Prees Industrial Estate, Shrewsbury Street, Prees, Whitchurch, Shropshire. Applicant: Mr Steven Birch.
The Parish Council did not have further comment to make on the minor amendments made, but it noted that it had received no assurances about who would be responsible for the upkeep of the proposed open space included in the design and the clerk was asked to contact the planning officer and remind him or her of these concerns.
- 18/00104/FUL: Erection of a first floor extension over existing single storey rear extension. Elm Cottage, Manor House Lane, Higher Heath, Whitchurch, Shropshire. Applicant: Mr P Dobson.
It was resolved that the Parish Council should register its support for this application. Proposed by Cllr J Whelan and seconded by Cllr Mrs L Baer. All were in favour.
- 18/00635/FUL: Erection of first floor extension to form upper floor along with the erection of a single storey rear extension and detached double garage. Alandale, Preeswood, Prees, Whitchurch, Shrops. Applicant: David and Sally-Ann Munro and Butter.
It was resolved to register support for this application: proposed by Cllr Mrs D Foster and seconded by Cllr Mrs L Baer. All were in favour.
- 18/00691/LBC: Repairs to timber frame and floor following flood damage affecting a Grade II listed building. Edenhurst, 15 Moreton St, Prees, Whitchurch, Shrops. Applicant: Mrs Shelley Brown. It was resolved to register the Parish Council's support for this application. Proposed by Cllr R Hirons and seconded by Cllr Mrs S Short. All were in favour.
- 18/00258/PMBPA ; Application for prior approval under Part 3, Class Q of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015 for the change of use from agricultural to residential use. The Piggery, Northwood House Farm, Fauls, Shrops.

Applicant: Mr Jason Scott

18/0259/PMBPA; Application for prior approval under Part 3, Class Q of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015 for the change of use from agricultural to residential use. Barns adjacent to Northwood House Farm, Fauls, Shrops.

Applicant : Mr Jason Scott

As these two last applications had come in very recently and there was a considerable amount of documentation to peruse, it was resolved that a separate public meeting should be arranged to consider the matters. Clerk asked to arrange a site visit and subsequent meeting with the attendant advertisement. Proposed by Cllr R Hirons and seconded by Cllr Mrs S Short. All were in favour.

Planning Decisions received from Shropshire Council.

- 17/05750/FUL: Erection of two storey side extension. Laurel Bank, Painters Lane, Fauls, Whitchurch SY13 2AT. Decision: Refuse permission.
- 17/05336/FUL: Engineering Operations/Works to create concrete storage area and associated wall for timber product, weighbridge and alterations to existing building. Hangar 1, Higher Heath, Whitchurch, Shropshire SY13 2HA. Decision: grant permission.
- 17/05068/FUL: Erection of a detached dwelling with garage; associated landscaping and revised access following demolition of existing dwelling. Rose Villa, 91 Twemlows Avenue, Higher Heath, Whitchurch, Shropshire SY13 2HD. Decision: grant permission.

Additional planning matter

- Appeal under Section 78. Appeal ref: 18/02630/REF
Application ref: 17/01649/OUT. Outline planning application for the erection of one dwelling (all matters reserved.) Land adjacent to Rose Cottage, Primrose Lane, Prees, Shropshire. Appellants: Mr and Mrs A White.

The Parish Council had no further comment to make on this matter.

023/18 Parish Matters

Continuing concerns about the use of local roads for cycle-races.

Cllr R Hirons advised that he had written to Police HQ and Ms Victoria Doran at Highways to press the Parish Council's concerns. In the meantime, any cyclist perceived to be acting dangerously should be reported to the Police.

Concerns about safety at Heathgates Crossroads.

Cllr J Allen reported there had been another recent accident at this spot: luckily no-one was injured. He voiced the fear that no remedial action will be taken until there is a fatality. Clerk to contact Highways relaying the on-going issues and to ask why is the junction kept open if it cannot be made safe? Is there a mechanism that would help? Clerk to ask for a meeting with Highways and then to liaise with Cllrs Mrs S Short; Mrs L Baer and J Allen.

Local footpaths update.

Cllr M Lanham advised that a Prees Walking Group (incorporating the old Parish Paths Partnership) has been set up with the aim of walking the parish footpaths on a monthly basis and dates for the year have been set. Around twenty volunteers have joined so far and they walk the footpaths, noting the condition and also where improvements to stiles/gates/way-markers would be helpful. The next walk was to be on Sunday March 18th starting out from the Village Hall car park at 1.30 for a walk of 6-7 miles. All very welcome.

024/18 Parish Council Matters

Local Road Safety. Cllr R Hirons reported on the meeting held on January 30th 2018 to discuss local road safety and consider a children's poster competition to widen awareness of traffic safety issues. Governors from Lower Heath School had attended but unfortunately, despite their best intentions, neither the headteacher from Lower Heath or Prees schools was in the end able to attend. However it was decided that the Road Safety Poster competition will run and this will be further discussed at the March meeting of the Parish Council. Cllr Mrs S Short commented that though the signage around Lower Heath School is sufficient, in her opinion, it is the lack of enforcement that renders the area of road so unsafe. Clerk to write to Safer Roads Partnership and ask for enforcement provision.

Cllr Mrs B Rainford raised the concerns she has about the consistent flouting of the 40 mph speed limit on the A49 through Prees Green and she asked if the Safer Roads partnership would be able to help. Clerk to write.

Boundary at the back of Press playground.

Cllr M Lanham suggested that a letter should be sent to the resident at No 3 Harvern Gardens, who is apparently working hard to erect a boundary fence between his property and the playground, to applaud his endeavours and wish him well in completion of the project. Cllr Lanham suggested a letter should also be sent to the resident at No 4, enquiring whether he or she has any plans to fence the bottom of the garden as the boundary between it and the playground is at present non-existent and the resulting route through looks as though it sees plenty of use by pedestrians. Cllr Lanham also suggested that John Walker be asked to tidy up the area, cutting back the undergrowth etc ready for the next stage of reinstating a proper boundary. Cllr Lanham proposed these actions which were then seconded by Cllr J Whelan and all were in favour.

Pavilion demolition: update.

The clerk reported that the Pavilion is now almost empty, but homes are needed for the football nets and the fire extinguishers. Cllr J Allen offered to store the nets at Holly Farm and Cllr J Whelan said he could arrange the decommissioning of the fire-extinguishers.

Request for funding of planting at the War Memorial

Cllr Mrs S Short reported that two benefactors had kindly donated monies to meet the costs of the two hydrangeas requested by Mrs Sally Pearson on behalf of the group of volunteers who maintain the War Memorial.

General Data Protection Regulations May 2018

Cllr M Lanham reassured the Parish Council (and particularly the clerk!) that although there has been a lot of scare-mongering about the new regulations there is really no need for us as a small Parish Council to worry. Much of the legislation has no application to us and in our organisation we already maintain a culture of courtesy, which precludes the careless use of any personal data. Cllr Lanham suggested that he and the clerk do an audit of data held and that he will then produce an audit summary detailing any required actions. Cllr Lanham also said he would be happy to take on the role of Data Protection Officer. Cllr R Hirons expressed the thanks of all the councillors for his willingness to take this on.

Community-led planning in Prees. Following on from a meeting with Nicola Fisher and Belinda Doolan from the Community Enablement team on February 6th 2018, where the benefits of engaging the community in discussions about future housing development was made clear, Cllr R Hirons suggested that a meeting be set in which an initial course of action could be decided upon. Clerk to book the Village Hall and circulate date to all.

Website domain due for renewal March 2018

Clerk to investigate procedure and report back.

Hot beverages at Parish Council meetings.

Clerk has consulted SALC and the practice of supplying a hot beverage at meetings is encouraged. Clerk will ensure a supply of ingredients at the cost of 20p per drink, to be paid at point of delivery. It will, of course, be necessary to ensure that the making of the drinks does not delay the prompt and timely start of the meeting.

Policy documents review ahead of Annual Parish Council Meeting May 2018

It was agreed that the clerk would randomly assign policy documents to councillors with the request that they read them carefully and report back (perhaps at the April meeting?) on any concerns they have or amendments they would suggest.

025/18 Accounting matters.

Payment of accounts.

Cllr Mrs D Foster proposed and Cllr R List seconded that the following accounts should be paid. All were in favour.

Accounts for Payment: February 20 2018

Mrs K Sieloff: clerk's salary February 2018	£340.39
HMRC PAYE payment February 2018	£85.10
Scottish Power : Electricity charges- street lighting (31/12/17– 31/01/2018)	£159.20
Garden Services: shrubs pruned at Wrafton Terrace	£275.00
Removal of table tennis table at HH Pavilion	+ £25.00
Removal of glass at Higher Heath playground	+ £25.00
	=
	£325.00
Clerk's expenses (details below)	£34.71

Total	£944.40

Late-arriving invoices

Technochip Computers Ltd: F-Secure installation + printer cartridges	£369.00
SALC clerk training Audit-End of Year: 8.2.18	£25.00

Grand total **£1338.40**

Clerk's expenses 11.1.18-14.2.18

Delivery of Jan mins/agenda= 13 miles @ 45p per mile=£5.85

Carried forward from last month= £6.97

7x 2nd class stamps @ 56p = £3.92

Printer cartridge = 17.97

Total = £34.71

- Clerk reported that new arrangements this year permit smaller parish councils to omit the submission of their end of year accounts to an **external** auditor if income or expenditure (whichever is the greater) for the year does not exceed £25,000. The requirements to have the accounts scrutinised by the internal auditor, and for all the records to be available for public scrutiny, will remain the same. The Parish Council will wait until the end of the financial year to see if this course is open to them.
- It was resolved that the clerk should receive a monthly payment of £12.50 as a contribution to her domestic BT line rental, and that this should be back-dated to the start of her employment. Proposed by Cllr Mrs B Rainford and seconded by Cllr J Whelan. All were in favour.

026/18 Correspondence

- A letter was received from a resident complaining of the potholes in Mill Street and also remembering that there were formerly two more streetlamps in the street. Clerk to investigate and action if possible.
- An email was received from Graham Bould, clerk at Stoke Parish Council, asking if we had had any complaints about the Cheshire Games game-bird-rearing operation in Fauls, as in Stoke there was much disquiet among locals concerning the practices used in the operation there. Fortunately the Preses parish council is able to report no current problems. Clerk to respond to Mr Bould.

027/18 Future Agenda items

- War Memorial Expenditure
- Battles Over Centenary Commemoration
- Mill Street street-lamps

Meeting closed at 9.20 pm.

Next meeting March 20th 2018