

## Minutes of the Prees Parish Council Meeting held on

Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> February 2020

At 7pm in Prees Village Hall

Present were:

Cllrs R Hirons, Mrs S Short, Mrs L Baer, Mrs B Rainford, M Lanham, J Allen, D Ladd, Mrs S Jones, Mrs B Finch, Mrs D Foster.

Also in attendance were one member of the public; Shropshire Cllr Paul Wynn and acting Parish Clerk, Nicola Young

014/20 **Public Session.** A resident raised a matter regarding the street lights in Prees village, stating that when one light was fixed another went out. Clerk to write to electric company and ask if there is a problem with the electrical ring-main.

015/20 **Apologies** had been received from Cllrs R Lister and J Whelan and also from the clerk Mrs K Sieloff and from Community Policing representatives.

016/20 **Disclosure of Pecuniary/Non-Pecuniary Interests.** No interests were registered.

017/20 **Minutes from the Previous meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> January 2020.** After a proposal from Cllr Finch, seconded by Cllr Rainford, it was **RESOLVED** that the minutes be accepted as an accurate record and the Chairman duly signed.

018/20 **Action Arising from the Minutes which are not on the Agenda:** The Chairman read out a report from the Parish Council Clerk which stated:

- a. *30mph sign on Station Road.*  
The Environmental Maintenance (EM) team has sent a photo showing the removed sign to Highways Development Control and has asked them to contact the developer to reinstate. Environmental Maintenance Team believes there may be an issue with where the sign will be located but has asked for an urgent update.
- b. *The same developer has still to finish surfacing Station Road adjoining new pavement in front of the new houses.* Clerk reported this to EM and was told that they are chasing this up and asked the Clerk to chase as well, by contacting Highways Development and Planning direct. Clerk has chased.
- c. *Substantial pothole at the bottom of Whitebrook Meadow – junction with Station Road.* Environmental Maintenance has reported this for repair.
- d. *Dislodged Give Way sign and bin on Brades Road by the playground.* EM had already raised a job for the contractor to renew the pole. Promised to chase.
- e. *Station Road is showing substantial signs of subsidence.* EM has taken photographs and will discuss with the land drainage team.
- f. *Blocked grids at the Heathgates Crossroads* which is causing floods. EM has added to jetting programme.
- g. *Mill Street is still awaiting repairs to several potholes.* EM has raised a job for sweeping of debris and pothole repairs and is also in the process of raising a proforma to the Capital team for including in the surfacing programme due to the ongoing surface issues.

- h. *Church Street: dangerous pothole* opposite Village Hall still awaits repair. EM assures Clerk that job has been raised for repair and this will be chased with contractor.
- i. *The roadside path bordering Shrewsbury Road* (on the opposite side of the road to the industrial estate) which goes out almost to the A49 is reduced by half of its width by encroachment of the grassy bank and debris from hedge-cutting and mud. EM reports that Street Scene have raised works to clear the footway. This will be reviewed once the debris has been cleared and it will be assessed for footway siding out.

#### 019/20 Shropshire Council Report

- a. Harrison's Auction Site – Planning Dept are awaiting an Environmental Report and information from the Agent.
- b. Twemlows Avenue – house with shed in back garden which has been advertised as an Air BnB property has been withdrawn and Planning Enforcement are now involved.
- c. Nook Lane – Two Planning Enforcement officers visited the site and will be taking action, entrance onto the lane is not lawful and the house is not satisfactory.
- d. Potholes have been unable to be filled due to the wet weather.
- e. Shropshire Council have employed a Highways expert, he has a budget of £32m and has been brought in to change the way things are done. Shropshire Council want to get it right.

Prees Parish Councillors reported the following to Shropshire Cllr Paul Wynn:

- Dual carriageway to Whitchurch, just after the Prees Heath roundabout, near the junction with the pub, there is a very large pothole.
- Traffic lights at Sandford are slowing traffic, with a 45 minute wait sometimes. Cllr Wynn will look into this.
- Heathgates is shown as closed, but no drivers are taking any notice of the signs.

020/20 **Community Policing.** Cllr Hirons read out a statement from the Safer Neighbourhood Team as follows:

'Due to the way our teams rest days and holidays have worked out there is no one to attend the meeting so please accept our apologies.

Here is the monthly report:

-There's been lots of talk about hunting on the butterfly reserve- we've been notified each time and have given words of advice each time and hopefully the word will get around and we will have no more issues.

- 1 missing person found within the hour
- 1 suspicious circumstances and no trace on arrival.
- 1 scam letter asking for money to be sent and advice was given
- 3 road traffic collisions
- 2 diesel thefts from business offenders caught
- 2 reports of sheep on the road but the fence has been fixed
- 2 theft from gardens but advice and support has been given

PCSO Lister :Hannah Lister 40441 Police Community Support Officer.'

#### 021/20 Planning Applications

**20/00208/FUL** Waverley, Nook Lane, Weston under Redcastle. After a proposal from Cllr Hirons, seconded by Cllr Short, it was **RESOLVED** to support this planning application.

**20/00272/AGR** Council received for information only.

**20/00276/VRW106** Council received for information only.

**20/00412/FUL** Conversion of barns to 4 dwellings, with garaging and formation of new access drive affecting a Grade II listed building. Cllr Hirons referred to an email received from Mr Kukla objecting to the conversion as the conversion does not fit in with the locality. Shropshire Council have advised that 4 dwellings is too many and that it is close to a listed building. Awaiting listed buildings comments.

After a proposal from Cllr Lanham, seconded by Cllr Ladd it was **RESOLVED** to support the conversion subject to comments from the Conservation Officer and Highways Department. 8 for, 2 against.

**20/00413/LBC** refers to Listed Building Consent for application 20/00412/FUL

**20/0516/FUL** Elmhurst Nursing Home extension to create 20 additional bedrooms.

After a proposal from Cllr Hirons, seconded by Cllr Allen, it was **RESOLVED** that the Council support the creation of 20 additional bedrooms at Elmhurst Nursing home, but:

- a. Consideration should be given to extending the 30mph speed limit past Elmhurst Nursing Home, due to the increase of the number of residents and visitors. Clerk to find out if extending 30mph limit makes this an urban area.
- b. Increase the number of parking spaces for visitors, as believe that 15 new car parking spaces is not adequate.

**20/00498/CPL** Council received for information only.

**19/04226/FUL** Withdrawn

**19/00502/FUL** Council noted permission granted

**19/05534/FUL** Council noted permission granted

#### 022/20 **Parish and Parish Council Matters**

- a. **History Society Meeting – 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2020** Cllr Lanham gave an update on the History Society Meeting and thanked everyone for attending. Approx. 80 people attended and many elders of the village brought along their own photographs and archives of the village, which reflected the glacial pace of change. Ian Henderson has parish maps in his care currently. *Councillors are requested to think about what to do with the parish archives.*
- b. **Community Led Building** Cllr Hirons gave a report on behalf of the Project Board: two outline plans of buildings have been produced; the group has made recommendations to the planners to update the plans; the Board have received a talk on passive housing; and plans are going ahead and going well.
- c. **Vehicle Speed Monitors** have been delivered to the Clerk. Shropshire Council has confirmed that three posts to hold them will be erected at Shropshire Council's expense. One by Wrafton Terrace, one in the verge by the southern-most boundary of the industrial estate and one by Lower Heath School, all will reinforce the 30mph limit. The Clerk has sent a copy of Prees PC's Public Liability Insurance Certificate to Shropshire Council as requested and it is expected that the posts will be installed by the end of March.
- d. **Housekeeping matters** Nothing to report
- e. **PC Facebook Page** – subsidence enquiry has been dealt with
- f. **A41 Incident Log** Unfortunately the Chairman could not attend the recent meeting.
- g. **Prees Railway Station** Cllr Lanham reported that he had met with the Chairman and Clerk of Wem Rural Parish Council, who have Prees Railway Station in their area. The outcome is that Wem Rural Parish Clerk is contacting Transport for Wales to request that the old signal box is pulled down and the space laid with tarmac and marked with parking spaces.

- h. **Concerns about parking at Lower Heath School.** Shropshire Cllr Paul Wynn is a Governor at the school and reported that a Sub-Committee of Governors is working to obtain the adjacent field and gain planning permission for extra parking spaces for the school. The land is being gifted at a peppercorn rent by the landowner. The plan is to gain planning permission and undertake the work in the summer holidays. The Governors are requesting funding from The Marches Academy Trust.

Prees Parish Councillors recommend to Lower Heath School governors that the school looks into having school buses.

Clerk is requested to find out if the Police have attended the site during drop off and pick up school times.

Clerk is requested to write to three Highways officers mentioned by Cllr Davenport to follow up matters regarding zigzag lines and 20mph limits outside Shropshire schools.

- i. **Consideration of quote for playground repairs/inspections.** RoSPA wish all covers and sheaths on playground equipment to be removed for an inspection of the parts that cannot otherwise be seen. An estimate had been received from the manufacturers of the equipment. Clerk has been in contact with Town Clerk in Wem who has kindly referred her Groundsman, who is RoSPA trained, to have a look at the work required. Subsequently she recommended a local contractor who can undertake the inspection/repair/replacement or maintenance of playground equipment. The local contractor works for several local councils and comes highly recommended.

- j. **VE Day – 8<sup>th</sup> May 2020** Cllr Whelan was not present, therefore Cllr Short reported on behalf of the Prees & Hodnet Royal British Legion (RBL). The RBL will be submitting a request for a donation from parish councils toward running the event. The Chairman asked the RBL to write to the Parish Council to make the request.

- k. **The Square** The Fire Service had made the site safe out of hours due to recent storm damage, as no response had been received from the property management company. There is concern from the public about the site. The Clerk report stated that she now has contact details for the Executor of the Will.

Clerk is requested to write to Shropshire Council Building Control/Enforcement and Health & Safety and Cllr Wynn will also chase.

- l. **Rabbits at Higher Heath** After a proposal from Cllr Hirons, seconded by Cllr Rainford, it was **RESOLVED** that the Council would sign the authorization document to cull the rabbit population at Higher Heath.

- m. **Textile Recycling company, Prees Industrial Estate** Cllr Foster reported that 14 months after the original request, this company were still storing textile waste outside the building. After a proposal from Cllr Foster, seconded by Cllr Hirons it was **RESOLVED** that the Council will write to the company owners and Shropshire Council Environmental Health about the matter. Cllr Wynn will also make contact with Environmental Health officers.

023/20 **SALC** – Cllr Rainford reported that there had been no meeting since her last report.

024/20 **Accounts** – After a proposal from Cllr Foster, seconded by Cllr Short, it was **RESOLVED** that the accounts be signed as a true record, the Chairman initialed an amendment.

025/20 **Correspondence** No correspondence had been received.

026/20 **Items for the next Agenda**

- VE Day
- Parish Council historic documents and records – where, how and should they be kept?

- Youth Council – Clerk to make contact with other Parish Councils to see if they organize youth councils. Whitchurch Town Council will share Terms of Reference for Youth Council.

027/20 **Confidential** After a proposal from Cllr Hirons, seconded by Cllr Lanham, it was resolved that under the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960, the public and press be excluded for the remainder of the meeting because of the likely disclosure of private and confidential information or staff matters.

028/20 **Grounds Maintenance Contract** The Council received a verbal report from Cllr Hirons on behalf of the Grounds Maintenance Working Group. The contract will start on 1<sup>st</sup> March 2020. After a proposal from Cllr Foster, seconded by Cllr Ladd it was **RESOLVED** that Company C will be offered the Prees Parish Council Grounds Maintenance contract.

The Clerk will send the new contractor a formal letter of appointment. A formal letter of thanks will be sent to the former grounds maintenance contractor.

Meeting closed at 8.20pm

Chairman: .....

Date: .....

DRAFT