

Minutes of the Meeting of Prees Parish Council held on Tuesday 15 December 2020
at 7.00 pm via the video conferencing platform 'Zoom'.

Present were Cllrs R Hiron; Mrs S Short; Mrs B Finch; Mrs B Rainford; Mrs L Baer; R List; M Lanham; J Allen; D Ladd and P Wynn, together with Mrs K Sieloff clerk to the Parish Council.

136/20 Public session. Members of the public had been invited to attend via a link published on the Parish Council website but there were no members of the public present.

137/20 Apologies had been received from J Whelan and R List.

138/20 Disclosure of pecuniary or non-pecuniary interest. There were none.

139/20 Minutes of the meeting held on November 17th 2020 had been previously circulated. These were agreed to be a true record of the meeting. It was proposed by Cllr Mrs S Short that they should be signed and this was seconded by Cllr Mrs B Rainford. All were in favour and the Chair duly signed.

140/20 Actions Arising from the Minutes of the last meeting. Nothing not included on the Agenda.

141/20 Shropshire Council report. Cllr Wynn's report made the following points:

- He and Cllr Mrs B Finch are hoping to meet with the Headteacher of Prees Primary School early in the New Year to discuss the problems encountered outside the school at dropping off and pick-up times.
- The 20 mph speed limit is to be imposed outside all schools in Shropshire, and there will be no charge to Parish Councils. Headteachers will be notified and will have a chance to argue their school's need for priority. The imposition of the new speed limits is expected to take 3-4 years.
- Cllr Wynn had consulted the NFU concerning the restrictions governing the use of reversing 'bleepers' on farm vehicles and had found that operators engaged in food production are exempt from restrictions on hours of operation.
- Covid-19: it was expected that Shropshire would remain in Tier 2.

142/20 Community Policing Report. The clerk reported that she had not received a report. She subsequently found that she was mistaken and that a report had lain overlooked in her email in-box. The clerk apologises for her oversight.

143/20 Planning matters.

Current planning applications:

- 20/04621/FUL: Erection of extension and conversion of existing garage to form self-contained granny annexe. Roma, 32 Twemlows Avenue, Higher Heath, Whitchurch SY13 2HE. Applicant: Mr Jonathan Redden.

The Parish Council resolved to support the application as long as the trees with TPOs were unaffected. This was proposed by Cllr Hiron and seconded by Cllr Mrs S Short. All were in favour.

- 20/04927/FUL: Erection of a conservatory. 12 Moreton Street, Prees, Whitchurch, Shropshire SY13 2EG. Applicant: Lucy Evans.

It was resolved to support this application. This was proposed by Cllr Mrs L Baer and seconded by Cllr D Ladd. All were in favour.

- 20/04886/FUL: Erection of 1 No affordable dwelling, installation of septic tank and relocation of existing stables. Proposed Affordable Dwelling Adjacent The Stables, Sandford Hall, Sandford, Whitchurch, Shropshire. Applicant: Sally Hudson-Lund.

After discussion Cllr Hiron proposed that the PC should object to this application on the basis that there was no assurance from SC Conservation officers that the proposed build would not impact adversely on the historic context of Sandford Hall and in addition some cllrs were unconvinced that the application represented a true need for Affordable Housing. This was seconded by Cllr Mrs S Short. Eight voted in favour of the proposal, with one against.

The Parish Council also noted the following planning application which had been passed to it for information only, not for consultation:

- 20/04593/CPL: Lawful development certificate for the proposed erection of an outbuilding. Manorlands, Mill Lane, Higher Heath, Whitchurch, Shropshire SY12 2HR. Applicant: Mr P Misfud.

Planning Decisions received from Shropshire Council :

20/04193/TPO: Various works to trees protected by The North Shropshire District Council (Prees Higher Heath No 6) TPO 1975. 10 Sylvan Close, Higher Heath, Shropshire SY13 2TB. Decision: Grant Permission.

20/04162/FUL: Erection of stables. Hawkstone View, Lower Heath, Prees, Whitchurch, Shropshire SY13 2BT. Decision: Grant Permission.

20/04077/FUL: Erection of two storey side extension and part two storey/single storey rear extension, together with erection of double replacement garage with store above and installation of septic tank. Hawkstone View, Lower Heath, Prees, Whitchurch, Shropshire, SY13 2BT. Decision: Grant Permission

144/20 Parish and Parish Council Matters

Playground Matters.

- Replacement of posts surrounding car park at Higher Heath playing-field. The clerk reported that she had been researching more durable alternatives to wooden posts. She was asked to research prices of concrete globes.
- Broken chains on play equipment at Prees playground. Clerk reported that the evidence seemed to suggest that the chains had been deliberately severed. She was asked to obtain a quote for the repair, but the PC will further consider whether repair is the appropriate way forward.

Community-led building development: The meeting of the Project Board on 24th November 2020 learned that additional site costs have been identified as a pumping station will be necessary as gradients do not allow a gravity-led system. The additional costs may be able to be met by the use of porches of a modified specification. The next meeting of the Project Board is 16th December 2020.

Road safety issues at Prees Primary School and in Lower Heath. Cllr Mrs B Finch reported that the parking situation at Prees School is currently worse than that at Lower Heath. She advised that the Headteacher will meet with her and Cllr Wynn in the new year.

Environmental Maintenance Grant. It was noted that the closing date for current applications is end of March 2021. The shrub border at Wrafton Terrace was mentioned as a possible candidate but the clerk reminded the meeting that the Grounds Maintenance team are contracted to prune the shrubs there once a year. Cllr J Allen commented that some work appeared to have been done and he offered to meet with the contractor to explain what was needed, as many unwanted saplings needed rooting out. Clerk to check what has been done and the wording in the contract.

Street-lighting. Clerk reported that a meeting has been arranged with Highline Electrical Ltd for 29 January 2021. She hopes that at the end of this meeting the PC will have a clear understanding of what needs to happen next to the PC's streetlamps, and how much this is likely to cost.

Report from visit to Jurassic Core JET study site at Platt Farm. Cllr Mrs B Rainford, who had organised the visit for the Parish Cllrs, reported that she had provided a press release for the Whitchurch Herald and the Shropshire Star and that the video made on the day was currently being edited. All the cllrs who had been able to attend had found the experience fascinating and informative. Professor Stephen Hesselbro had said he would be willing to attend a future PC meeting (post-Covid) to give a full report, as there was a lot of local interest.

War memorial maintenance. The clerk reported that she is waiting for quotes for the cleaning of the Memorial.

Buildings at The Square, Prees. Clerk reported that she had sent two emails to the solicitors handling the estate asking that the two potentially hazardous situations be remedied, but she had had no response. Clerk was

asked to enquire from SALC about the appropriate way forward. The PC believed that SC could be asked to step in and take action and then seek recompense from the buildings' owners.

Ensuring website access for all: Cllr Mrs Rainford had not had the opportunity to look at all the information the clerk had sent her regarding alternative website-provision. To be carried forward to next Agenda. Clerk to research which website-providers other councils recommend.

Housekeeping matters. Nothing new to report. It was suggested that, post-Covid, a walk of the Parish could be organised to identify matters that need attention.

PC Facebook page. Cllr D Ladd reported that there had been an item from a bee-keeper keen to find new areas for the placement of his hives.

A41 Incident Log. An accident at the traffic lights two or three weeks previously was mentioned. Cllr Hirons reported that there are no current plans for a meeting of the A41 Monitoring Group.

Neighbourhood Fund spending priorities. Cllrs Mrs S Short, M Lanham and D Ladd agreed to form a group to consider the various suggestions for the spending of the funds. Carry forward to next Agenda.

Prees Fire Station Recruitment: Cllr Mrs L Baer reported that two new recruits are about to start their official training and should be ready to join the team at Prees in May or thereabouts. Prees currently has only five fire-fighters.

Local concerns about reduced facilities at Prees Medical Centre. Letter received from Dr Berresford, in response to ours, explaining strategies employed for the appropriate use of the medical centres at Prees and Wem during the current Covid-19 crisis.

The Parish Council is grateful for the service provided throughout, and understands that it is sometimes difficult to provide all facilities very locally, but it remains concerned about the future of the Medical Centre here in Prees. Cllr Mrs Short offered to ring Dr Berresford to ask for further clarification.

2021 Census: this will take place on 21 March 2021. Further information to follow.

Shropshire Cultural Strategy Consultation. The consultation ends 5.1.2021. Cllrs were asked to respond individually (<https://shropshire.gov.uk/get-involved/vibrant-shropshire-cultural-strategy-2021-2031/>)

Road Safety Trust grants available (£10,000-£20,000) for schemes using technology to improve road safety. Noted, but perhaps beyond the scope of our council.

Reminder: 2021 is Election Year for local councils. Cllr Hirons reminded the meeting that a Parish Council election will take place on May 6th. Clerk was asked to check the arrangements.

Approach received from a Community Football organisation wishing to purchase playing-fields/football pitches. Noted, but not currently under consideration.

145/20 SALC: Cllr Mrs B Rainford provided the following report from the AGM held on 20th November 2020.

The SALC AGM was very well attended by over 60 people from across Shropshire. Jonathan Owen, Chief Executive of the National Association of Local Councils attended the AGM for the first time (I think) – much easier not having to travel from the South East. NALC had collected over 400 case studies of how local councils have been supporting residents during the Coronavirus crisis, particularly vulnerable and isolated people. This resulted in people feeling a stronger sense of community, he said that councils should be at the heart of the recovery in 2021

146/20 Accounting matters

- Accounts for Payment December 2020

	£
Mrs K Sieloff clerks salary December 2020	465.12
HMRC (PAYE)	3.00
Clerks expenditure (detailed below)	16.40
Jones Lighting Ltd (invoice no 3502)	324.96
Scottish Power (streetlight energy 31.10.20-30.11.20)	123.73

Groundforce Landscape Ltd (works November 2020)	24.00
PKF Littlejohn (external audit)	240.00
SLCC (annual subscription)	112.00
RBL Poppy Appeal: Poppy wreaths x 2	100.00
Hope House Children's Hospice	250.00
North Salop Wheelers	<u>300.00</u>
Total	1959.21

Clerk's expenditure 15.10.20-11.11.20

December BT line rental contribution: £12.50

2nd class stamps: 6 @ 65p= £3.90

Total = £16.40

- Conclusion of Audit. The clerk reported that the Annual Governance and Accountability Return for the year 2019-20 is back from the External Auditors who have certified that all the information provided to them was in accordance with Proper Practices. The audited AGAR has been published on the website and on the notice-boards, and copies advertised as available for purchase, since the end of November as required.
- Cllr Hirons reminded the meeting that the PC has to form its new budget for the year 2021-22 in order to put in the Precept request by the end of January 2021. He proposed that the usual group of cllrs should meet with him and the clerk to consider the budget and put a draft together for the full council's consideration. This was seconded by Cllr Mrs B Rainford. All were in favour. Cllr Mrs S Short agreed to be in the working group and the clerk confirmed that Cllr J Whelan, absent tonight, had indicated his willingness to be part of it too. Clerk to arrange a mutually convenient time for a meeting via Zoom.

147/20: Correspondence

The clerk read out a card received from Mrs Frieda Ridgway thanking the PC for their condolences on the loss of her husband John, who was formerly a Parish Councillor.

148/20: Items for next Agenda (19th January 2021.)

- Budget
- Neighbourhood Fund spend

The meeting was closed at 8.25 pm.

Signed.....

Date