

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

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

098/20 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.

099/20 Apologies had been received from Cllrs Mrs S Jones; Mrs D Foster; J Whelan; J Allen and D Ladd.

100/20 Disclosure of pecuniary or non-pecuniary interest. There were none.

101/20 Minutes of the meeting held on August 18th 2020 had been previously circulated. These were agreed to be a true record of the meeting. It was proposed by Cllr M Lanham that they should be signed and this was seconded by Cllr Mrs L Baer. All were in favour and the Chair duly signed.

102/20 Actions Arising from the Minutes of the last meeting. Nothing not included on the Agenda.

103/20 Shropshire Council report. Cllr Wynn's report made the following points:

- A 40 mph speed limit will be imposed during the current year on the bends at Sandford and this will be supported by flashing signage. Suggestions of a 30 mph limit were not acceptable to Police.
- Flying Club: there has apparently been no contravention of conditions limiting days of operation.
- Pitt Cottage: no major work currently underway on this site.
- Rose Cottage, Lower Heath: work is being carried out. Cllr Wynn will chase this matter up.
- Brookside, Lower Heath: application for Lawful Development Certificate will hopefully not be granted, but no decision yet.

104/20 Community Policing Report. No report available.

105/20 Planning matters.

Current planning applications:

- 20/03273/FUL: Erection of two storey side extension and attached single storey porch extension. Well Cottage, Prees Green, Whitchurch, Shropshire SY13 2BL. Applicant: Watson.
The Parish Council resolved to object to this Application because it believes the proposed plans comprise over-development of the site. It would also appear that the boundaries shown on the plan are incorrect. Proposed by Cllr R Hirons and seconded by Cllr M Lanham. All were in favour.
- 20/03161/FUL: Works to install surface water drainage system to facilitate approved residential scheme; amendment to approved access and road design. Land to the North of Station Road, Prees, Shropshire. Applicant: Bluetouch Ventures Ltd.
The Parish Council resolved to support this Application as long as Severn Trent Water and the Highways Department at SC approve the scheme. Proposed by Cllr M Lanham and seconded by Cllr Mrs S Short. All were in favour.
- 20/03473/VAR: Variation of Condition 4 of Application no 20/01472/FUL to allow for a gabled roof. Redthorn, 63 Twemlows Avenue, Higher Heath SY13 2HD.
The Parish Council resolved to support this Application. Proposed by Cllr Hirons and seconded by Cllr Mrs L Baer. All were in favour.

There were no planning decisions to report currently.

106/20 Parish and Parish Council Matters

Playground Matters.

- One of the posters advising about Covid had been removed from Higher Heath playing-field. With the Chair's approval the clerk had ordered another, to be stapled to the main gate/fence.

- Unauthorised use of pitch at HH by junior football team. Clerk reported that she had been in contact with the team's organiser and had his confirmation that he would not use the pitch again unless formal approval had been received from the PC.
- The clerk has not received a response to her enquiry about progress on the rabbit cull. She has asked the grounds maintenance contractor to quote for filling in the holes that could cause a hazard.

Community-led building development: Cllr Hirons reported that the local public consultation, under-taken before a planning application is put in, ends today. The results will be revealed at next week's Project Board meeting.

Street-lighting issues

- Last lamp in Lighteach Road. Clerk reported she is having difficulty negotiating her way through the technical, complicated and varying advice offered her by the lighting contractors. She will continue to grapple with the problem.
- Lamp in Mill Street. A resident had written to express her disappointment that no adjustment was made to the lamp outside her house when she complained of light intrusion. Clerk to write and explain that as Mill Street is in the centre of the village, and well-used, it is vital for the safety and security of local residents that it is well-lit. It is also the case that when this lamp, along with one other, was inadvertently removed and not replaced during electrical repair works a few years ago, lots of residents expressed a strong desire to have them reinstated, which was eventually achieved.
- Should the Parish Council consider alternative lighting contractors? It was acknowledged that it is some years since the lighting maintenance contract has been reviewed and it is necessary to ensure that we are obtaining best value for the public money we spend. It was unanimously agreed that award of the contract will be reviewed for the new financial year.

Vehicle speed monitors. At a previous meeting Cllr Ladd had suggested that purchase of extra fixing brackets would eventually enable the monitors to be moved from one site to another with maximum ease. Clerk reported that spare fixing brackets are available at £55.00 ex VAT and delivery. Cllr M Lanham suggested that the Parish Council should consider the purchase of three at the next meeting. (Agenda item for October meeting.)

Ensuring website access for all. Cllr Mrs B Rainford reported that her family's IT company was likely to be able to instigate the changes necessary to the Parish Council website and that she would report back at the next meeting.

Youth Shelter at Prees Cricket and Recreation Club. Clerk had spoken to the manager of the Club who advised that his staff were currently emptying the waste bin in the Shelter on Friday and checking it again after the weekend, as he feels he cannot risk there being broken glass or anything else hazardous being left there. He said that Police presence has been helpful while happening, but the dark evenings are coming when youngsters will be looking for places to use. It is the older ones, unknown to the Club, who use the Shelter later in the evening for drinking and recreational drugs. Gary also advised that he realises that an argument against closing or removing the Shelter is that the youngsters would move to the bowling sheds instead, but this would not worry him as the bowling sheds are his property, within sight and light of the main Club building, and he would have control over who uses them.

The Parish Council had received a letter from a local resident saying that her daughters and their friends use the Youth Shelter responsibly and would be impacted if it were removed and not replaced. She questioned whether, in an age of technology when parents are trying their hardest to get children out into the open air and away from their screens, removing the one place locally they can go to meet up outside their homes would be the right thing to do.

Housekeeping matters. Nothing new to report.

PC Facebook page. Nothing new to report.

A41 Incident Log. Nothing new to report.

Neighbourhood Fund spending priorities. The Parish Council noted that there had been very few suggestions about how to spend the Neighbourhood Fund from the Higher Heath and Fauls wards of the Parish.

Suggestions received so far included: sensory area or adult gym equipment for Prees playground; improvements to the railway station facilities, particularly parking and a footpath to the station from the village; skate park with seating area; Multi Use Games Area; traffic-calming by playground on Brades Road. Cllrs to review suggestions and rate them and also bring any new ideas to next meeting. Clerk asked to contact clerk at Wem Rural to ask about progress of discussions concerning possible improvements to the Station.

The Parish Council acknowledged that several suggestions concerning maintenance of road surfaces, signage and similar matters, fall under the auspices of Shropshire Council and are financed by them. Concerns about defects of this kind, if reported to the clerk, are forwarded to the relevant department at Shropshire Council for actioning.

Local Fire Service matters.

- Fire Vehicles delayed by vehicles parked at crossroad in Prees. The clerk reported that Parking Enforcement officers from SC have been attending at the crossroads in Prees to enforce the double yellow lines. They have so far issued five parking tickets. Police have also been patrolling to endeavour to educate drivers about the consequences of parking inappropriately and causing obstruction to emergency vehicles.
- An email from Jeremy Chambers at Prees Fire Station advises that there are severe recruiting problems there. There are currently 5 members of staff, while 10 to 14 is the ideal number. Cllr Mrs L Baer will ask for information for the PC website to be re-sent to the clerk. Cllr Wynn will ask for advice at a meeting with the Fire Chief.

Harvern Gardens public path. A resident has expressed an interest in purchasing a path that serves her property and those of others. Cllr Wynn advised that the path is the property of Shropshire Council and that it would not be for sale. Clerk to draft a letter to the resident and pass to the Chair for signing.

107/20 SALC. Nothing to report.

108/20 Accounting Matters

- Accounts for Payment September 2020

	£
Mrs K Sieloff clerks salary September 2020	465.12
HMRC (PAYE)	3.00
Clerks expenditure (detailed below)	285.87
Scottish Power (streetlight energy 31.7.20 – 31.8.20)	127.89
Groundforce Landscape Ltd	313.20
North Salop Wheelers	100.00
Ray Parry Playgrounds	<u>4566.00</u>
	5861.08

Clerk’s expenditure 12.8.20-9.9.20

September BT line rental contribution: £12.50

7 x 2nd class stamps @ 65p = £4.55

Petrol mileage for delivery of August Agenda etc 13 miles @ 45p = £5.85

1 x black Epson printer cartridge: £15.97

Annual Home As Office allowance: 52 weeks @ £4.00 per weeks = £208.00

Covid 19 vinyl poster for HH playground including delivery: £39.00

Total = £285.87

Cllr M Lanham proposed that the accounts listed should be paid and this was seconded by Cllr Mrs S Short. All were in favour.

- Progress of AGAR 2019-20. Clerk reported that she awaits the external auditor's report. All documentation subject to audit is currently available for perusal by the public, until and including the 12th October 2020.

109/20 Correspondence.

- Email received from resident concerned about appearance of graffiti, as well as glass and rubbish, under the bridge in Church Street. He notified the PC also of a car parked on Whitchurch Road having eggs thrown at it and of cars racing noisily through the village at night. Clerk was asked to refer these matters to Environmental Maintenance at SC and to local Police, as appropriate.

Signed.....

Date.....

DRAFT