

Minutes of the Meeting of Prees Parish Council held on Tuesday 16th June 2020
at 7.00 pm via the video conferencing platform 'Zoom'.

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

051/20 Public session. Members of the public had been invited to attend via a link published on the Parish Council website, but on this occasion there were no members of the public present.

052/20 Apologies had been received from Cllrs Mrs S Jones and J Allen and local Police.

053/20 Disclosure of pecuniary or non-pecuniary interest. Cllr R Hirons declared an interest in a planning application and will fill a form to return to the clerk as soon as possible.

054/20 Minutes of the meeting held on May 19 2020 had been previously circulated. There was one amendment to be made: Cllr Mrs Foster pointed out that it was she, not Cllr Mrs Short, who had commented in the item about outdoor storage of textile waste at the industrial estate that a resident in Turnpike Rise, which is opposite the industrial estate, is having problems with rats (top of page 20/2020) and with this amendment made the Minutes 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 B Rainford. All were in favour and the Chair duly signed.

055/20 Actions Arising from the Minutes of the last meeting. Nothing not included on the Agenda.

056/20 Shropshire Council report. Cllr P Wynn delivered a report which made the following points:

- There have been lots of reports in Shropshire of breaches of lock-down rules but enforcement is difficult.
- Local disquiet about possible planning breaches at Brookside in Lower Heath/Jenkins Woodland Products at Higher Heath/ Miami Cottage (formerly called Pitt Cottage) in Lower Heath / Rose Cottage at Lower Heath and Laurel Bank at Fauls has been carried to the relevant departments at Shropshire Council for investigation.
- Cllr Wynn had himself visited Twemlows Wood to follow up reports of work being carried out there and he had seen the buildings being renovated and was happy that nothing unlawful was going on. Planning Officers and the Environment Agency had visited and also found nothing amiss. Cllr Wynn advised that the land-owner was fully aware that planning permission would be needed if he ever developed any plans for any commercial venture on the site.

057/20 Community Policing Report. PCSO Graeme Baines had sent his regrets that local Police personnel are not permitted to join the PC meetings via Zoom and supplied the following report of incidents in the last month.

- 1x RTC
- 1x sheep in the road on the A41 at Prees Heath
- 1x fraud/deception
- 1x theft of diesel fuel
- 1x anti-social drugs
- 1x suspicious circumstance around vehicles
- 1x seizure of uninsured vehicle
- 5x Covid 19 breaches, mainly in the Prees Heath area.

PCSO Baines also reiterated the need for us all to be aware of any suspicious activity, especially around cars and to take care when buying goods on-line: if it looks too good to be true it probably is!

058/20 Planning matters.

Current planning applications:

- Amendments to 19/02796/FUL: Change of use of land to commercial vehicle and plant auction site to include provision of customer parking, erection of an office and preparation building; creation of a 2m high perimeter bund and 10m landscaping strip to SE boundary (relocation of Existing Auction Site from the A49 Grain Store site) (resubmission). Land and buildings at The Firs, Higher Heath, Whitchurch, Shropshire. Applicant: Malcolm Harrison Auctions.

(Before this Application was discussed, Cllr Hirons temporarily left the meeting as he had declared an interest, the proposed site being very close to his own house.) It was noted that the Amendment enlarges the size of the bund and increases the number of trees. Cllr P Wynn advised that all the reports on this application are in and that the matter will come to Planning Committee, probably on July 21. He advised that it looks as though the Application will be granted permission. The Parish Council expressed its deep concern on hearing this. For the PC the highway issues on the notoriously dangerous A41 have always been the main reason for objecting to the Application. The PC expressed dismay that Highways at SC is happy with the situation. It was resolved that a final objection would be presented to the Planning Committee in July, expounding on all the dangers inherent in the placing of this site on this road, that perhaps had been missed or underestimated by those assessing it without the benefit of extensive local knowledge. Cllr J Whelan proposed that the current amended application should be objected to on the grounds that it did nothing to address the Parish Council's main concerns, and also that a document as discussed should be supplied to the Planning Committee. Cllr M Lanham seconded this proposal and all were in favour. Cllr Mrs Short will draft the document and it will be circulated to all for approval before sending it to be read out at the Planning Committee which will be a virtual, on-line meeting. (Cllr Hirons returned to the meeting on the conclusion of this discussion.)

- 20/01949/FUL: Erection of 2No dwellings with associated access, parking and garden areas (resubmission of previously approved 16/02528/FUL). Garage at rear of The Old Constable House, Shrewsbury Street, Prees, Shropshire. Applicant: Mr R T Williams.
The Parish Council had supported this application in 2016. It resolved to support the current application with the proviso that any windows facing neighbouring Well Cottage should not be capable of overlooking that property. This was proposed by Cllr R Hirons and seconded by Cllr Mrs L Baer. All were in favour.

- 20/02053/TPO: Proposed Tree Works: Canopy reduction by 20% of 2no Oak and 1no Sycamore protected by the The North Shropshire District Council (Drumcote, Heathwood Road, Prees.)
TPO 1981 (Ref: NS/00055/81) Location: The Willows, Heathwood Road, Higher Heath, Shropshire.

The Parish Council resolved to support this application. This was proposed by Cllr Mrs D Foster and seconded by Cllr Mrs B Finch. All were in favour.

- 20/02174/HHE: Erection of a single storey rear extension to a detached dwelling, dimensions 6.30 metres beyond the rear wall, 3.60 metres maximum height and 2.60 metres high to eaves. Arlington, 3 Sylvan Close, Higher Heath, Whitchurch, Shropshire SY13 2TB. Applicant: Mr and Mrs Marshall.

This is an application under Permitted Development Rights and no response from the Parish Council is required.

- 20/02101/FUL: Erection of rear extension to provide new kitchen/dining room and provision of additional bedroom with ensuite shower room within roof void. Quizas, Heathwood Road, Higher Heath, Whitchurch SY13 2HG. Applicant: Ms K Clarke.

The Parish Council resolved to support this application with the proviso that the window looking sideways across the neighbouring property needs to be obscured. Proposed by Cllr J Whelan and seconded by Cllr Mrs S Short. All were in favour.

- 20/02152/FUL: Change of use of land from storage of agricultural machinery and equipment to the storage of portable site cabins/welfare units. Land opposite former Thames Valley Eggs premises, Cruckmoor Lane, Prees Green SY13 2 BS. Applicant: Trustees of Grocott Developments SSAS.

The Parish Council resolved to object to this application as there is no suggestion or assurance that units would not be stacked more than one high. Proposed by Cllr M Lanham and seconded by Cllr R List. All were in favour.

Recent planning decisions received from Shropshire Council

- 20/01331/FUL: Erection of single storey and two storey rear and side extensions. Fern Bank, Fauls, Whitchurch, Shropshire SY13 2AS. Decision: Grant Permission.

059/20 Parish and Parish Council Matters.

Cllr Hirons proposed that any Parish Councillor experiencing difficulty in his or her attempts to attend a PC meeting held via Zoom, and finding himself or herself unable to do so, should not be penalised for their non-attendance. This was seconded by Cllr Mrs D Foster and all were in favour.

Setting of meeting dates for the coming 12 months. Clerk suggested the following dates, adhering to the usual pattern of meeting on the third Tuesday evening of each month at 7pm.

July 21 2020; August 18 2020; September 15 2020; October 20 2020; November 17 2020; December 15 2020; January 19 2021; February 16 2021; March 16 2021; April 20 2021; May 18 2021 (incorporating Annual Parish Council Meeting.) These dates were unanimously approved.

Coronavirus epidemic: local update. Clerk reported that the playground at Prees is still being accessed. Notices explaining why it is currently out of use are repeatedly removed. It was agreed unanimously that the playground should be locked. Clerk to purchase padlock and chain and install and ensure grounds maintenance team are provided with a key. Government guidance currently keeps playgrounds out of bounds, but in anticipation of them being re-opened the clerk was asked to draft a risk assessment. All official advice suggests that when playgrounds are allowed to open again, it will be down to individual bodies to decide if/when this happens, so the Parish Councillors were asked to mull this matter over before the next meeting.

(At this point Cllr P Wynn, who had other matters to attend to, left the meeting.)

Community-led building development: Cllr Hirons reported that a public consultation concerning the Community-led build is being planned. It will be primarily residents of the Prees Ward who will be consulted, and there will be opportunities to participate on-line or by completing a paper document. The homes built will approach Passivhaus standards as far as can be achieved within the given budget.

Provision of helpful communication technology to Elmhurst Nursing Home. Cllrs Mrs S Short and Mrs B Rainford are leading on the sourcing of two large refurbished tablets to be provided to Elmhurst Nursing Home to facilitate residents' communication with loved ones. Cllr Mrs Rainford had found suitable refurbished tablets available at £79.99 each. Cllr Mrs S Short proposed purchase of two of these, allowing a maximum spend of £100.00 each. That this expenditure should be approved was proposed by Cllr J Whelan and seconded by Cllr Mrs L Baer and all were in favour.

It was mentioned in addition that it had come to the Parish Council's attention that Rainford IT had already lent Elmhurst some technology to help with communication with families during lock-down. Cllr Mrs Rainford was thanked for her thoughtfulness and was asked to pass on the Parish Council's gratitude to those members of her family who are responsible for the running of the computer company.

Complaints about emissions of noise and dust generated by A W Jenkinson Woodland Products at Higher Heath. Cllr Hirons to lead. This matter had been dealt with in Cllr Wynn's report.

Concerns about possible unauthorised new accesses to the highway: Rose Cottage, Prees Green / Miami Cottage, Weston. This matter had been dealt with in Cllr Wynn's report.

Intrusive street-lamp in Lighteach Road. Clerk has chased this matter up with our lighting contractors but no solution yet suggested by them. To be carried forward.

Housekeeping matters: Clerk had two items of good news to report: a new tamper-proof post-box has been installed at Armoury Lane/Lacon Street and the fly-tipping just off Lacon Street has been cleared away by Shropshire Council. At this point Cllr M Lanham advised the meeting that Mr Tony Eccleston has been voluntarily clearing intrusive undergrowth from local footpaths and asked if a letter of appreciation and thanks could perhaps be sent to him. All were in unanimous agreement. Clerk to draft letter and Chair to sign.

PC Facebook page: nothing new to report.

A41 Incident Log: nothing new to report.

Outdoor storage of textile waste at Prees Industrial Estate. Clerk had had a conversation with Public Health and SC. She had been advised that there is nothing to prevent businesses storing what they like outside, if it is on their own premises and it is securely stored and not straying onto other premises. She was also told that rats in Turnpike Rise were unlikely to have any connection with the recycling company as although it would provide a source of bedding, there is no water or food for them there and rats need all three. It was suggested that rats in a domestic situation are usually attracted by wild bird food. The clerk had later had a conversation

with an officer from Environment Protection who had told her that sites such as the industrial estate are regulated at a national level by the Environment Agency under an environmental permit and these would control how the businesses can operate. He had even helpfully provided the relevant permit numbers. Clerk emailed Environment Agency. Email has been acknowledged and clerk awaits a full response.

Paths in Twemlows Wood: Cllr Hirons reported that although SC had shown little appetite for keeping these long-used paths available to local users, a group in Higher Heath, completely separate from the Parish Council, had taken on the challenge.

Neighbourhood fund: consideration of expenditure. Cllr Hirons reminded the meeting that it is the Whitchurch Place Plan that records the infrastructure priorities for each of the parishes locally. For us these are Prees railway (footway from village to station;) vehicle speed monitors and completion of conversion of streetlamps to LED. There is also some (outdated?) reference to the need for provision of allotments locally. Cllrs were asked to give some thought to the allocation of the funds now available to us. Cllr D Ladd was asked if he could investigate, through the PC Facebook facility, whether there appears to be any local demand for allotments.

Belated update from Severn Trent in response to clerk's telephone call of 11 February 2020 concerning the leaks in Faults/Darliston. An email received May 21 2020 advised that it had been discovered that there had been a fault on a previous repair and a new repair on the coupling had been carried out. There are no plans in the immediate future to replace the main. Investigations will continue, as soon as the current virus restrictions permit, to make sure the main is performing as well as possible by checking for any air valves on the rising main and their current condition.

Missing fire-hydrant cover outside HH playing-field. Clerk reported that the missing cover (presumably stolen) has now been replaced by a new one by Severn Trent, whose responsibility this matter is.

Rabbit cull at Higher Heath playing-field: Clerk reported that she has been in contact with the gentleman who is to undertake the cull and he is hoping to do the work within the coming month or so, weather permitting.

060/20 SALC.

Cllr Hirons requested authorisation to attend Public Engagement and Community Events Planning training via Zoom on Thursday July 23 2020 10.30am-1pm at a cost of £30.00, at the Parish Council's expense. Cllr Mrs D Foster proposed that he should be authorised and this was seconded by Cllr Mrs B Rainford. All were in favour.

061/20 Accounting Matters

Accounts for Payment June 2020

Mrs K Sieloff clerks salary June 2020	465.12
HMRC (PAYE)	3.00
Clerks expenses (detailed below)	14.45
Scottish Power streetlight energy 30.4.20-31.5.20	127.89
Groundforce Landscape Ltd: grass-cutting etc, invoice	313.20
Business Services at CAS Ltd (Parish Protect insurance premium)	<u>638.40</u>
Total	£1562.06

Clerk's expenditure 13.5.20-10.6.20

June BT line rental contribution: £12.50

3 x 2nd class stamps @ 65p = £1.95

Total = £14.45

It was proposed by Cllr M Lanham that the accounts should be paid and this was seconded by Cllr Mrs B Rainford. All were in favour.

062/20 Correspondence:

- Enquiry from organiser of local junior football team as to whether Higher Heath playing field could be utilised by them. Clerk to research procedure/any potential difficulties. For next month's agenda.

- Draft of revised Code of Conduct received from NALC. Responses invited.
- Email from NALC advising that all local councils will, by September 23 2020, have to ensure that they have made or are making reasonable adjustments to their websites to maximise accessibility by people with various disabilities. The relevant legislation is Public Sector Bodies (Websites and Mobile Applications) Accessibility Regulations 2018. Cllr Mrs Rainford believes that it is the responsibility of Hugo Fox, our website provider, to ensure accessibility for all potential users of their websites. She has been in contact with Hugo Fox and is expecting further assistance/advice from them.
- Clerk has been advised that young people are congregating on the site of the old telephone exchange in Mill Street. They are trespassing, not observing social-distancing guidelines and also causing offence with bad language. Local police have been advised.

063/20 Items for next Agenda:

AAT Recycling update. Consideration of playgrounds reopening. Website accessibility. Councillors Code of Conduct. Annual grants from Parish Council.

Meeting closed at 8.55 pm.

Signed.....

Date.....