

Minutes of the Meeting of Prees Parish Council held on Tuesday 17 November 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; Mrs D Foster; R List; M Lanham and P Wynn, together with Mrs K Sieloff clerk to the Parish Council. Cllr D Ladd was able to attend briefly before being called away for work.

123/20 Public session. Members of the public had been invited to attend via a link published on the Parish Council website and there were two members of the public present.

124/20 Apologies had been received from Cllrs Mrs S Jones; J Whelan and J Allen.

125/20 Disclosure of pecuniary or non-pecuniary interest. There were none.

126/20 Minutes of the meeting held on October 20<sup>th</sup> 2020 had been previously circulated. These were agreed to be a true record of the meeting. It was proposed by Cllr Mrs B Finch that they should be signed and this was seconded by Cllr Mrs D Foster. All were in favour and the Chair duly signed.

127/20 Actions Arising from the Minutes of the last meeting. Nothing not included on the Agenda.

128/20 Shropshire Council report. Cllr Wynn's report made the following points:

- He confirmed that a 40 mph limit was being imposed at Sandford, accompanied by signage.
- He will meet with Cllr Mrs B Finch and the Headteacher at Prees School concerning the problems on the road at beginning and end of the school day.
- He confirmed that 20mph limits are to be imposed outside all schools. As far as he knows, Shropshire Council is not looking for funding from Parish Councils, but he will check. Cllr Wynn is of the opinion that Lower Heath school should be prioritized, as it would make sense for more dangerous situations to have the speed limit imposed first. All agreed that the heavy lorries and farm traffic that frequent the B5065 make the area of LH school hazardous. Cllr List commented that the Shropshire Star had reported that it will take 3-4 years to implement the 20 mph limits.
- Planning application for 40+ houses at Prees Heath refused on the basis that not enough recreational open space had been allowed for.
- Cllr Wynn had followed up a resident's complaint about the disturbance caused by local farming vehicles using reversing 'bleepers' with the farmer concerned. He was told that the indicators are compulsory in law and cannot be switched off. Cllr D Ladd advised that the law requires the beepers to be used after 7 am, but not before.

129/20 Community Policing Report. No report available.

130/20 Planning matters.

Current planning applications:

- 20/04120/PMBPA : Application for prior approval under Part 3, Class Q of the Town & Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015 for the change of use from agricultural to residential use. Agricultural Building A at Rose Cottage, Prees Green, Whitchurch, Shropshire. Applicant : Don Carrisimo

The Parish Council cannot support plans that include the making of a new access onto the highway at this point where there are double bends with double white lines. This is a renowned black spot which has already been the site of a fatality. It was resolved to object to the Application. This was proposed by Cllr R Hiron and seconded by Cllr M Lanham. All were in favour.

- 21/04245/VAR : variation of Condition Nos 7 and 8 attached to planning permission 14/01571/OUT dated 04/09/2014 for access, road layout, construction and sight lines, including surface water drainage disposal. Residential Development Land Adjacent Berwick, Heathwood Road, Higher Heath, Whitchurch, Shropshire. Applicant: Belford Homes.

It was resolved to object to this Application for variation of conditions, on the basis that the making of a crossroads at the proposed juncture would be dangerous due to its proximity to the A41, with school children coming off buses nearby and the road narrowing at this point. The Parish Council also objects

to the proposed removal of the trees and hedges which were planted with the very aim of shielding pedestrians. Proposed by Cllr R Hirons and seconded by Cllr Mrs S Short. All were in favour.

- 20/04434/FUL: Proposed residential development of 27 new houses and bungalows served off new access road with private amenity space and curtilage parking. Proposed Residential Development Land and Care Home West of Whitchurch Road, Prees, Shropshire. Applicant: Nicol Thomas. The Parish Council has not received any objections to these plans for a development of Affordable Homes and it resolved to support the Application. This was proposed by Cllr M Lanham and seconded by Cllr Mrs L Baer. All were in favour.

#### Planning Decisions received from Shropshire Council

- 20/03450/FUL: Insertion of underground gas tank following removal of oil tank. The Cottage, Church Street, Prees SY13 2EE. Decision: Grant Permission.
- 20/03841/FUL: Proposed single and two storey rear extension. 17 Whitchurch Road, Prees, Whitchurch, Shropshire SY13 2DG. Decision: Grant Permission.
- 20/03451/LBC: Removal of oil tank at front of house, replace with calor gas tank which will be fitted underground in the front garden. The Cottage, Church Street, Prees SY13 2EE. Decision: Grant Permission.
- 20/03273/FUL: Erection of two storey side extension and attached single storey porch extension. Well Cottage, Prees Green, Whitchurch, Shropshire SY13 2BL. Decision: Grant Permission.

#### Additional planning matters:

- Received For Information Only: 20/04604/AGR: Proposed erection of a general purpose agricultural building. Land to the West of The Anvil, Higher Heath, Whitchurch, Shropshire.

(At this point in the meeting Cllr P Wynn apologized and left the meeting as he had other matters needing his attention.)

#### 131/20 Parish and Parish Council Matters

##### **Playground Matters.**

- Playgrounds/outdoor gyms/playing-fields to stay open during current Lockdown. Cllr Hirons advised that one of the posters at Higher Heath playing-field outlining precautionary measures had come unfastened. Either he or the clerk to remedy this.
- Several of the wooden posts in car-park at Higher Heath playing-field have gone. Clerk was asked to research price of posts made of more durable materials.

**Community-led building development:** a report of the meeting held on 27<sup>th</sup> October 2020 confirmed that the Planning Application had been submitted. An unforeseen cost has arisen in that a pumping-station has been found to be necessary because the gradients do not allow for a gravity-fed system. The system will make little impact visually, as most of it is underground. It was confirmed that the homes will be available first to those with a connection to the Ward of Prees in the Parish of Prees, after that to residents of the whole of the Parish and subsequently to those within 10km of the Parish. The homes will be cheap to run, having photovoltaic cells on the roof and air-source heat pumps on external walls. A system for recycling grey water is still under consideration but is dependent on cost. Currently it is planned that one bungalow will be fully-adapted for wheelchair use, but this number could be increased if there was demand. Anyone interested in occupying one of the new homes is encouraged to register with Shropshire Councils HomePoint service on-line (website: [www.shropshirehomepoint.co.uk](http://www.shropshirehomepoint.co.uk) email: [enquiries@shropshirehomepoint.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@shropshirehomepoint.co.uk) ) or by phoning 0300 303 8595.

**Road safety issues** at Prees Primary School and in Lower Heath. Cllrs Mrs B Finch and P Wynn to carry this forward.

##### **Street-lighting**

- Further email received from Lighteach Road resident. Clerk to respond advising that the PC feels it has done what it can reasonably do to resolve the resident's reservations about the street-lamp provision in her road.
- Consideration of alternative street-lighting contractors. Clerk is researching recommendations from other local parish councils and is in communication with other contractors to see what is on offer.

**War memorial** maintenance. Cllr Mrs B Finch reported that the War Memorial needs professional cleaning and the steps are in need of repair. Clerk to collect three quotes.

**Hazardous situation** in Prees village centre. Cllr Mrs B Finch reported that pallets awaiting collection are stored on the pavement outside the Convenience Store in Shrewsbury Street and this is a potentially hazardous situation. Cllr Finch has tried to remedy the situation informally by speaking to the shop staff, but the situation continues. Clerk to write requesting that the pallets be stored to the rear of the property.

**Peartree Farm, Broadhay Lane.** Concerns about development impacting on footpath. After reviewing the planning history of the site, Cllr Lanham reported that he was content that the footpath was not currently under threat of encroachment, but he would continue to monitor the situation.

**St Chad's, Prees, unable to re-use old burial plots:** Cllr Hirons reported that the Parish Council had been notified that the hope of re-using old burial plots at St Chads had had to be finally abandoned, after rigorous research and examination. This means that the village church will very soon run out of burial plots. The Parish Council understands that Shropshire Council has been informed. The money set aside in the Parish Council Budget to help with this matter will remain ring-fenced for the time being. Clerk to send thanks for letter, with the request that the PC is kept informed of developments.

**Buildings at The Square, Prees.** The clerk reported that she had been in touch with the solicitors who are handling the probate matters. She was advised that although the intention is to market the properties, the ownership is not straightforward and all the interested parties' agreement is needed before the matter can be moved forward. The clerk was asked to report two hazardous situations currently obtaining on the properties at The Square, to the executors, asking for remedial action to be taken.

**Ensuring website access for all:** Cllr Mrs Rainford said that she was not finding Hugo Fox, the company that currently provides the PC website, very helpful. She advised that we need to purchase our own domain name, and she has been following this up. She reported that the domain name will cost £10.00 and for £300.00 (ex VAT) the content of our website would be transferred. A monthly charge of £10.00 would then provide the clerk with training and support and we could be sure that our website is fit for purpose and compliant with all regulations. The PC was open to considering this idea. The clerk said that she would find a few alternative providers, to check value for money, and pass them on to Cllr Rainford for her consideration.

**Housekeeping matters.** The Welcome to Prees Parish sign on the A49 at the Southern entrance to the Parish has been damaged. The 50 mph sign on the A49 on entering Higher Heath needs replacing. Clerk to report these matters to Shropshire Council.

**PC Facebook page.** Some posts concern the geological drilling taking place at Platt Farm. Cllr Rainford said she had made contact with personnel working on the site and found them keen to share information about what they were doing. She offered to write a report. Agenda item for December.

**Remembrance Service held 8.11.20.** Cllr J Whelan was unable to attend the meeting due to work commitments but as Chair of the local Royal British Legion branch he had asked that his appreciation be passed on to all those who had helped to make the restricted commemorative services at the War Memorials in Prees and Fauls such poignant and worthwhile acts.

**Hope House Children's Hospice.** An appeal for a donation had been received from the Hospice as the current financial burden imposed by Covid-19 on the operation of this local organisation benefiting local families is considerable. The clerk confirmed that a donation could be made under Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972. After discussion Cllr R Hirons proposed that a one-off donation of £250 should be made. This was seconded by Cllr Mrs L Baer and all were in favour. Clerk to raise cheque for next meeting.

**A41 Incident Log.** Nothing new was reported.

**Neighbourhood Fund spending priorities.** There is much local support for funds to be committed to improving the facilities at Prees Rail Station. Clerk to contact Wem Rural Parish Council (in which the railway

station lies) in order to revive initial discussion concerning a joint venture with Transport for Wales to potentially achieve this aim. An additional suggestion received, for the use of the funds, was the creation of a cycle path from Prees to Whitchurch. This will be considered in due course.

**Meeting of Helicopter Noise Liaison Group** held 13.10.20. Cllr Mrs S Short attended, and delivered the following report:

*The Station Commander, Group Captain Mullen gave the meeting an update of the usage of Low Flying Area 9 which, includes Tern Hill, Chetwynd, Nesscliffe and Sleep, also there are 82 fields and clearings where they have permission to use from the Landowners concerned.*

*2. He explained that he was reporting to the meeting on two periods Oct2019 - March 2020 and April 2020 - Sept 2020. It was clear that Oct to March was relatively normal in terms of complaints, only a general spread, no concentrations and no complaints had been reported to Shropshire Council. April to Sept, however the complaints had increased, he stated that the reason for this increase was likely to be the impact of Covid 19 with more people working at home during this period. The Group Captain pointed out that there has now been a reduction of flying hours due to a significant amount of training which is now taking place in flight simulators. There had been no complaints to Shropshire Council for the latter period.*

*3. The types of complaint were varied, the breakdown of the complaints received over the latter period, is as follows:*

- a) 12 in relation to general low flying noise*
- b) 3 in relation to overuse of an area*
- c) 10 in relation to livestock in fields*
- d) 1 in relation to a horse and rider*
- e) 7 in relation to Visiting aircraft*

*4. The meeting was also informed that the RAF Shawbury Gliding Club was to be relocated to RAF Shawbury at the end of the month.*

*5. Usage of drones was also discussed. The advice to the meeting was that any drone operator intending to fly within Low Flying Area 9 should inform RAF Shawbury.*

**Local concerns about reduced facilities at Prees Medical Centre.** The clerk and several of the Parish Councillors advised that they had been contacted by residents complaining that facilities and services at Prees Medical Centre seemed much reduced: residents had been directed to Wem for flu vaccinations and to Whitchurch for blood tests, and in addition face-to-face appointments were very hard to come by. It was proposed that the Clerk should be asked to draft a letter to the senior partner, with the help of Cllr D Ladd. This was seconded by Cllr Mrs S Short and all were in favour.

132/20 SALC.

- The North Shropshire Area Committee meeting was held 16.11.20. Cllr Mrs Rainford attended and reported as follows:

*John Bellis, Drainage and Flood Risk Manager for Shropshire Council said that this year Shropshire had suffered the worst flooding for 20 years. As well as rivers, his department is responsible for ensuring landowners look after watercourses and ditches properly. He is liaising with the Lead Local Flood Authority, Highways Capital Drainage Project, flood Action Groups, the National Flood Form and Property Fund Resilience to get help for Shropshire.*

*Councillor Steve Davenport, Cabinet member for Highways and Transport said his department is also responsible for lighting and car parking. He will have a full team of people in place by the end of the year which already includes 3 'Go Out and Fix' teams doing potholes and minor road repairs.*

*There were still concerns over Woore and the additional traffic caused by the HS2 project – Owen Paterson has taken up the case with relevant people, supported by Shropshire council.*

*The Chairman of SALC, Ray Wickson, joined the North Shropshire Area Committee meeting for the first time. He said it was one of the best attended meetings he has been to.*

*(Also, in correspondence with the Secretary for the Committee, Prees Parish Council was complimented on getting meetings running online so quickly and competently – we set a very good example, apparently!)*

- AGM to be held on-line 20.11.20. Cllr Mrs Rainford to attend.

133/20 Accounting matters

- The payment of the following accounts was proposed by Cllr Mrs B Finch and seconded by Cllr Mrs D Foster. All were in favour.

Payment of accounts November 2020

	£
Mrs K Sieloff clerks salary November 2020	465.12
HMRC (PAYE)	3.00
Clerks expenditure (detailed below)	66.71
Scottish Power (streetlight energy 30.9.20-31.10.20)	127.89
Groundforce Landscape Ltd (grass-cutting October 2020))	313.20
SLCC (Virtual National Conference)	<u>30.00</u>
Total	1005.92

Additional cheque to be raised:

Morelock Signs Ltd (payment in advance required for 2 extra mounting brackets for vehicle speed monitors)	<u>147.60</u>
<b>Grand total</b>	<b>1153.52</b>

Clerk's expenditure 15.10.20-11.11.20

*November BT line rental contribution: £12.50*

*2<sup>nd</sup> class stamps: 5 @ 65p = £3.25*

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

*500x ordinary envelopes: £13.43*

*50x high quality envelopes: £9.30*

*1 x pack high quality paper: £5.39*

*1x Epson black printer cartridge: 16.99*

*Total = £66.71*

- Bank rec for the first quarter of 2020-21 has been checked, approved and returned.

134/20: Correspondence

- Letter received from Andy Mellor enquiring about progress in making HH playing-field safe for Junior football. Clerk responded advising cull of rabbits is currently on-going.
- Email received inviting nominations for Lord Lieutenant's Garden Party for Covid Heroes, before the end of March. Clerk to advertise.
- Email received from Police requesting details of defibrillators held locally. Clerk to respond.

135/20: Items for next Agenda

- Geological exploration at Platt Farm
- Environmental Maintenance Grant

The next meeting will be held on December 15<sup>th</sup> at 7pm via Zoom.

The meeting was closed at 8.45 pm.

Signed.....

Date .....

