

Minutes of the Meeting of Prees Parish Council held on Tuesday 18th August 2020
at 7.00 pm via the video conferencing platform 'Zoom'.

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

079/20 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.

080/20 Apologies had been received from Cllrs Mrs S Jones; Mrs B Finch and J Whelan.

081/20 Disclosure of pecuniary or non-pecuniary interest. There were none.

082/20 Minutes of the meeting held on July 21st 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 M Lanham. All were in favour and the Chair duly signed.

083/20 Actions Arising from the Minutes of the last meeting. Nothing not included on the Agenda.

084/20 Shropshire Council report. Cllr Wynn's report made the following points:

- He reported that he is of the opinion that the application for a Lawful Development Certificate at Brookside in Lower Heath will not be successful as so many people state that the business has not been in existence for as long as ten years.
- The clerk at Whitchurch Rural Parish Council is dealing with the matter of the Parachute School advertising Sunday flying, which is in contravention of an agreement.

Cllr Hirons raised concern about the bends at Sandford following the recent nasty accident there involving a milk lorry on the bridge. He asked Cllr Wynn what could be done to get an enforceable 30 mph limit there. Cllr Mrs Foster advised that she knows that a road has only to be 'built up', not necessarily with at least 20 houses, to be considered for the imposition of a 30 mph limit. Cllr Wynn said he would talk to Highways. The idea of one of the vehicle speed monitors being used in this location was also mooted, to be further discussed.

085/20 Community Policing Report. The report received made the following points:

- As per local news, £1.3m worth of cannabis was confiscated in the area.
- Local Police officers have been educating drivers about not parking on the crossroads in Prees, to support the Fire Service
- Anti-social behaviour reported in the car park behind the Methodist Church has stopped since regular patrols have been stepped up.
- Two reports received of suspicious vehicles: one turned out to be a misunderstanding and the other had gone on the arrival of Police.

086/20 Planning matters.

Current planning applications:

- (For information only. Planning Application Amendment consultation period fell between meetings. Response registered on-line.) 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 2BS. Applicant: Trustees of Grocott Developments SSAS.

Clerk confirmed that she had responded in line with the Parish Council's resolution made at the previous meeting that it would support the amended application as long as units were not stacked more than two high and that double-stacking would be limited to areas not visible from the road or surrounding houses. It also asked for conditions to be imposed to ensure that there is no manufacture or repair on this site and that hours of operation are restricted to 8am-5pm Monday-Friday.

- 20/03064/CPE: Application for a Lawful Development Certificate for an existing use of repair, maintenance and storage of Heavy Goods Vehicles. Brookside, Lower Heath, Prees, Whitchurch, Shropshire SY13 2BT. Applicant: F W Johnson.

For some unknown reason the PC had not been formally consulted on this current application, but it is keen to support local residents' understandable concerns about and opposition to it. Cllr Hirons proposed that a letter should be sent to the Planning Officer advising her that many local residents can attest that the business has not been operating for a period of ten years and objecting to the Application, and also making the point that all the objections made a year ago were not available to view on the Planning Portal. This was seconded by Cllr Mrs B Rainford and all were in favour. Clerk to draft letter for Chair's approval.

Planning Decisions received from Shropshire Council.

- 20/01078/FUL : Proposed Manege And Caravan, Manor House Lane, Higher Heath, Whitchurch, Shropshire. Proposal: Construction of a manege measuring 25m x 45m with four lighting columns 6m tall for private use and liveries only; siting of static caravan for rest facilities and office; and erection of wash box. Decision: Grant Permission
- 19/05285/FUL: 5 and 6 Sandford, Whitchurch, Shropshire SY13 2AW. Erection of replacement dwelling and installation of package treatment plant. Decision: Withdrawn.
- 20/02471/TPO: 29 Birchwood Grove, Higher Heath, Whitchurch SY13 2EX: Fell 1No Scots Pine and crown reduce by up to 2 m 1No Oak protected by The North Shropshire District Council (Prees Higher Heath No 6) TPO 1975 (Ref: NS/00051/75) Decision: Grant Permission.
- 19/02796/FUL: Land and Buildings at The Firs, Higher Heath, Whitchurch, Shropshire. 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 bunding and landscaping (relocation of existing Auction site from the A49 Grain Store site) (re-submission.) Decision: Grant Permission.
- 20/01207/FUL: Sandy Lane Farm, Hillside, Prees SY13 2EA. Erection of steel portal frame agricultural building following demolition of existing building. Decision: Grant Permission.
- 20/02841/TPO: 7 Birchwood Grove, Higher Heath, Whitchurch SY13 2EX. Fell 1No Scots Pine, 1No Oak protected by The North Shropshire District Council (Prees Higher Heath No 6) TPO 1975 (Ref: NS/00051/75) Decision: Grant Permission.
- 20/02101/FUL: Quizas, Heathwood Road, Higher Heath, Whitchurch SY13 2HG. Erection of rear extension to provide new kitchen/dining-room and provision of additional bedroom with shower room within roof void. Decision: Grant Permission.

Other planning matters

- Consultation on Changes to the Planning system proposed by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government. Noted.

087/20 Parish and Parish Council Matters

Playground Matters. Cllrs R Hirons/Mrs B Finch or clerk to report.

- There are reports that residents are pleased to have the playgrounds open again, although with the re-opening comes the perennial problem of litter. Grounds maintenance team have been asked to ensure they litter-pick *before* cutting the grass. Cllr Hirons thanked Cllrs D Ladd and M Lanham for mending the gate at Prees playground which had been damaged by vandalism prior to the re-opening.
- Update on rabbit cull at Higher Heath. This is being undertaken as and when possible: culling with ferrets is not effective when there are lots of young rabbits.
- Repairs/checking of playground equipment as recommended by the latest RoSPA report are now complete. Thanks to Cllr Mrs Finch for personally arranging the removal of the decaying seating logs at

Prees playground. It was agreed that a bench will be purchased to replace the logs in due course, when social distancing is not such an issue.

- Junior football at Higher Heath next year? Clerk has agreed with the organisers of the football that a meeting on-site can be set up when the rabbit problem has been satisfactorily addressed.

Community-led building development: meeting via video-conferencing facility 12.8.20. Members of the Project Board reported that the public consultation will happen early in September if not before, and soon after that the planning application will be made. The consultative brochures are being sent to all households in Prees ward. Clerk to email a copy to all Parish Councillors for their information.

Vehicle speed monitor up and running! Cllr D Ladd has installed one of the monitors temporarily on the A49, on a post identified by SC as suitable. We currently await the installation of posts to bear the monitors either end of Whitchurch Road/Shrewsbury Road and outside Lower Heath School. Cllr Ladd reported that the monitors capture a huge amount of data. 12.5% of the vehicles passing the monitor currently are exceeding the 50 mph limit, some of them by a huge margin. It was noticeable that the fastest speeds recorded were during the evening and night. In response to a resident's reporting that the monitor seemed to assess a speed as several miles below what his car's speedometer showed, Cllr Ladd advised that there was no apparent mechanism for calibrating the monitor and he himself had found it to agree with his speedometer. Clerk was asked to find out which data is most useful to the agencies enforcing speed limits and also to find the cost of extra brackets for the monitors so that they do not need to be moved each time the monitors are. She was also asked to contact SC to enquire about the possibility of using one of the monitors on the A41 at Sandford, while we wait for the posts in the village. Clerk reminded the meeting that the PC has to have permission from SC before it erects a speed monitor in a particular place, as SC is responsible for ensuring the safety and suitability of the site.

Ensuring website access for all: Cllr Mrs B Rainford advised that the contrast is not high enough on the website's screen and that her family's IT business should be able to remedy this.

Provision of ID for Parish Councillors? The clerk reported that photographic identity cards mounted on a lanyard were available at approximately £10.00 each. The provision of these was agreed to be a good idea, along with the possibility of high-visibility jackets for site visits, but it was decided that it was sensible to delay the expense until after next years elections.

Youth Shelter at Cricket Club. Clerk reported that she had visited the Youth Shelter one afternoon and found it in a clean and tidy state, with the litter-bin nearly full and obviously in use. Some young men were using the Shelter and were happy to chat. Clerk asked them to spread the word that the Shelter must be kept clean and tidy to avoid causing offence and putting its future in jeopardy. Clerk to find out who is responsible for emptying the bin and to cost an additional bin, possibly for recyclable items.

Housekeeping matters. Nothing new to report.

PC Facebook page. There has been some interest in the possible provision of allotments in the Parish, recently. Clerk to do initial research.

A41 Incident Log. The recent road accident involving a milk-lorry at Sandford has been widely reported.

Neighbourhood Fund spending priorities. Clerk to devise poster asking for ideas for the spend and put up locally and supply copy to Parish Councillors for display by them where possible. Clerk reported that she still has not received quote from Streetlighting contractors concerning the cost of updating to LED of the remaining street-lamps.

Fire Service vehicles experiencing obstructive parking in village centre. Clerk wrote to local Police and to Shropshire Council to ask for help with enforcing double yellow lines which are on all four corners at the crossroads by the post office. SC promised a response from Parking Enforcement, which has not yet arrived. Police advised that enforcement is down to SC but that they themselves can help with a police presence educating drivers not to park inappropriately. Clerk will chase SC.

Draft Local Plan briefing received. Consultation to follow. Noted.

088/20 SALC. No meeting to report from.

Accounting Matters

089/20 Discretionary grant for North Salop Wheelers. Cllr Hirons reminded the meeting that £400.00 had been set aside in the budget, but suggested that in these very uncertain times caution should be exercised. He proposed that an initial cheque for £100.00 should be raised and sent in September, with more to follow if the charity survived and could show that it was continuing to benefit residents of the Parish. Cllr Hirons' proposal was seconded by Cllr J Allen and all were in favour.

090/20 Payment of accounts August 2020. Cllr Mrs B Rainford proposed that the following accounts should be paid and this was seconded by Cllr Mrs S Short. All were in favour.

Mrs K Sieloff clerks salary August 2020	465.12
HMRC (PAYE)	3.00
Clerks expenditure (detailed below)	241.47
Scottish Power streetlight energy 30.6.20-31.7.20	127.89
Prees Village Hall hire contribution (21/4; 19/5; 16/6) 3 @ £20	60.00
Playsafety Ltd (RoSPA reports)	271.80
Bernard Townson internal auditor	110.00
Groundforce Landscape Ltd	313.20
Prees Parochial Church Council (discretionary grant)	300.00
Fauls Parochial Church Council (discretionary grant)	100.00
Total	1992.48

Clerk's expenditure 15.7.20-11.8.20

August BT line rental contribution: £12.50

4 x 2nd class stamps @ 65p = £2.60

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

Petrol mileage for delivery and collection of Accounts to internal auditor: 14 miles x 4 = 56 miles. 56 miles @ 45 ppm = £25.20

2 packs printer paper @ £2.60 = £5.20.

1 x refurbished Samsung tablet and 1x refurbished Acer tablet = £119.92

3x printed vinyl banners for playgrounds = £70.20

Total: £241.47

091/20 Annual Internal Auditors Report received and previously circulated. All categories on the Annual Internal Audit Report 2019/20, part of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2019/20, had been marked by the internal auditor as conforming to the required standard. He also reported that there were no financial transactions that required explanation and no evidence of any irregularities. The documents were perused by the Parish Councillors present and it was proposed by Cllr Mrs D Foster that the Report should be formally accepted. This was seconded by Cllr J Allen and all were in favour.

092/20 The Annual Governance Statement 2019/20, part of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2019/20 was considered by the Parish Council. Cllr Hirons read out the items one by one for consideration. The Parish Councillors agreed unanimously with each statement. It was proposed by Cllr Mrs B Rainford that the Annual Governance Statement should be approved by the Parish Council and Cllr R List seconded this. All were in favour and the Annual Governance Statement was duly signed.

093/20 The Accounting Statements for the period 2019/20, also part of the AGAR 2019/20 were considered By the Parish Council. Cllr Mrs L Baer proposed that they should be approved and this was seconded by Cllr M Lanham. All were in favour and the Chairman signed the Accounting Statements.

094/20 The clerk advised that these documents would now be copied and put on public display for a period of 30 working days and the originals would be sent to the External Auditor.

095/20 Consideration of Actual Spend against Budget for first quarter of 2020/21. After looking at the figures, it was agreed that there were no matters for concern.

096/20 Correspondence

- Emails received from a resident in Whitchurch Road who is concerned that the 30 mph speed limit does not extend to the whole road, even though there are residential properties as well as the Medical Centre. This matter was due to be considered by Shropshire Council under the Minor Works Programme for 2020/2021. I have told her that I have asked Highways for an update and will pass on any information.
- Email from resident asking if PC records could help her with research into the history of her house, which was at one time a school. Clerk to circulate her email for councillors' ideas. Clerk will put her in touch with Roger West our local historian.
- Letter received from Wem resident concerned at planned demolition of the old Canteen building on Shrewsbury Street. Clerk to respond advising that a planning application for a housing development on this site, necessitating the demolition of the Canteen, has already been approved.

097/20 Items for Next Agenda.

- 30 mph speed limit on Whitchurch Road.

Signed..... Date.....