

Minutes of the Meeting of Prees Parish Council held on Tuesday 21st April 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 S Jones; R List; J Whelan; M Lanham; P Wynn. Also in attendance was Mrs K Sieloff clerk to the Parish Council.

022/20 Cllr Hirons proposed that, following the issue of legislation permitting Parish Councils to hold remote meetings during the current Coronavirus epidemic, Prees Parish Council should meet remotely until it is instructed that it must revert to conducting its meetings face to face. This was seconded by Cllr Mrs Short and all were in favour.

023/20 Cllr Hirons proposed that the Standing Orders of Prees Parish Council should have an Addendum attached to be worded as follows:

Following the introduction of The Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020, which came into force on April 4 2020 and allow Parish Councils to meet remotely, Prees Parish Council will be meeting remotely through a video-link for the foreseeable future. The legislation covers the period until 7 May 2021 and it also removes the requirement for an Annual Parish Council Meeting in the current year.

The draft Minutes of the previous meeting and the Agenda will be published in advance, as usual, on the Parish Council website. The Agenda and Minutes will not be displayed on the notice-boards or any other place during this time of social distancing. Members of the public will be invited to attend the meeting on-line and a link to enable them to do this will be published on the website. The format of the meeting and the rules governing how it is conducted will be the same as they usually are, with the customary opportunity for members of the public to speak to the Parish council at the beginning of the meeting. For virtual meetings the period allocated for public participation will be extended to 15 minutes. Draft Minutes will be approved and either signed at the meeting if possible or otherwise signed at the next face-to-face meeting. Any confidential matter will be dealt with at the end of the Agenda on which it features in a separately convened meeting available only to the Parish Council and clerk. Voting during the meetings will be by show of hands. The result of each vote will be checked for verification before being minuted. If any Parish Cllr needs to absent him or herself due to an interest in an item, they will absent themselves and rejoin the meeting when invited (if necessary by telephone.)

This was seconded by Cllr Mrs B Rainford and all were in favour.

024/20 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.

025/20 Apologies had been received from Cllrs Mrs L Baer and D Ladd.

026/20 Disclosure of pecuniary or non-pecuniary interest. There were none.

027/20 Minutes of the meeting held on March 17 th had been previously circulated. The minutes were agreed to be a true record and it was proposed by Cllr Mrs Rainford that they should be signed and this was seconded by Cllr Mrs Short. All were in favour and the Chair duly signed.

028/20 Actions Arising from the Minutes of the last meeting

- The two vehicle speed monitors purchased are in safe storage and will be installed as soon as the virus lock-down allows.
- No news has been received as to whether the cull of the rabbit population at Higher Heath playing-field was accomplished before lock-down.
- New grounds maintenance contractors Groundforce Landscaping Ltd have started cutting the grass and seem to be doing a good job.
- No reply from the textiles recycling company on the industrial estate concerning on-going stacking of textiles outside rather than inside.

029/20 Shropshire Council report. Cllr Paul Wynn delivered a report making the following points

- Planning Application **20/02796/FUL** concerning the proposed location of the plant auction site from the A49 to The Firs on the A41 has not yet come to Committee as the Planning Officer needs more time to

collate the information and reports. The Committee hopes to be able to meet virtually using an online video conferencing platform.

- Pitt Cottage: a report is awaited from Planning.
- A car-window-tinting business in Lighteach Road had been reported to the Police for investigation, but it is apparently not unlawful and social distancing is being observed.
- Twemlow's Wood: reports that someone is living on-site are being investigated as far as they can be under the current restrictions made necessary by the virus.

030/20 Community Policing Report. There was no report available.

031/20 Planning matters.

Current planning applications:

- 20/01207/FUL: Erection of steel portal frame agricultural building following demolition of existing building. Sandy Lane Farm, Hillside, Prees, Whitchurch, Shropshire. Applicant: Mr Anthony Ford. It was resolved to support this Application. This was proposed by Cllr Whelan and seconded by Cllr Mrs Finch. All were in favour.
- 20/01297/TPO: Fell 2no Norway Spruce, 1no Western Red Cedar and 1no Oak protected by the North Shropshire District Council (Prees Higher Heath No 6) TPO 1975 (Ref: NS//00051/75) Woodlands, 11 Sylvan Close, Higher Heath, Whitchurch, Shropshire. Applicant: Mr D Hammond.
It was noted that this Application had already been approved and so was not under discussion.
- 20/01331/FUL: Erection of single storey and two storey rear and side extensions. Fern Bank, Fauls, Whitchurch, Shropshire SY13 2AS. Applicant: Mr and Mrs John and Emma Noden
It was resolved to support this Application. This was proposed by Cllr R List and seconded by Cllr Mrs Rainford and all were in favour.
- 20/01078/FUL: Construction of a menage 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; erection of wash box and installation of emergency vehicular access. Heath Farm, Manor House Lane, Higher Heath, Whitchurch, Shropshire. Applicant: Miss Allison Stuchfield.
The Parish Council had received an email documenting the concerns of a local resident about this Application. The Parish Council resolved to object to the Application on the grounds that the proposed new access drive would be likely to cause a hazard on the highway due to its design and the nature of the lane. This was proposed by Cllr Hirons and seconded by Cllr Mrs Foster. All were in favour.
- 20/01472/FUL: Erection of a single storey rear extension following demolition of existing conservatory and detached double garage/store. Redthorn, 63 Twemlows Avenue, Higher Heath, Whitchurch SY13 2HD. Applicant: Mr and Mrs S Petheridge.
It was resolved to object to this Application on the basis that there was no assurance that the proposed garage/store would be used only for domestic purposes and not for commercial ones. This was proposed by Cllr Whelan and seconded by Cllr Mrs Short. All were in favour.

Recent Planning decisions received from Shropshire Council

- 20/00412/FUL: Conversion of barns to form four dwellings plus garaging and formation of new access drive. Decision: Withdrawn.
- 20/00413/LBC: Conversion of barns to form four dwellings including garaging and formation of new access drive affecting a Grade 11 Listed Building. Decision: Withdrawn

032/20 Parish and Parish Council Matters.

Proposal that the Annual Parish Council Meeting should be postponed. Cllr R Hirons proposed that as legislation had been passed removing the requirement to hold the Annual Parish Council Meeting this year, Prees Parish Council should postpone this year's meeting. This was seconded by Cllr Mrs Rainford and all were in favour.

Coronavirus epidemic: local update. Cllr R Hirons reminded the Meeting that a wealth of helpful information and contact details of helpful organisations both formal and informal was available on the Parish Council website.

Possible donation to Village Hall during the current crisis. It was proposed by Cllr Lanham that the Parish Council should continue to pay its monthly rental charge to Prees Village Hall during the current period of lockdown. This was seconded by Cllr Mrs B Rainford and all were in favour.

Problematic streetlamp in Lighteach Road. Cllr M Lanham reported that he had spoken with the residents who were being affected by the too-bright streetlamp and had asked them to consult with their neighbours concerning whether they would prefer to have the lamp removed, and to report back to the Parish Council if this was the case.

Community-led building development. The clerk reported that Steve Swann from Wrekin Housing Trust had advised that it was hoped that a virtual meeting of the Project Board could be arranged soon. He also responded to queries raised following the last meeting of the Project Board, as follows. He acknowledged that it was unfortunate that the consultant who had attended did not realise that there is no gas provision in Prees, but suggested that this would not seriously impact on design or delivery. He suggested that the possibility of using hydro-power from the mill-stream could be revisited at the next meeting. He also undertook to provide further information about funding in order to review the costs involved in achieving Passivhaus standards in the proposed build.

Polluted pond at Prees Heath. Cllr R Hirons reported that an oily substance had been seen on the surface of a pond on Prees Heath, close to the site of the proposed re-location for the Auction site. This matter had been reported to the Department of the Environment.

Housekeeping matters: anything to report? Nothing new to report currently.

PC Facebook page: anything to report? Nothing new to consider.

A41 Incident Log. No new incidents were reported but it was noted that temporary repairs on the bridge at Sandford had been completed allowing the removal of the troublesome traffic lights. It was also noted that indicated diversion routes from the A41, although regrettably sometimes necessary, are not always the most sensible. Cllr Wynn confirmed that he has been in contact with David Gradwell at Shropshire Council concerning this matter. The Parish Council has long wanted a restriction on Manor House Lane of a maximum vehicle weight of 7.5 tonnes. Clerk asked to put this matter on the next Agenda.

Playground equipment repair: quote for £3,805.00 received from Ray Parry Playground Services Ltd. It was resolved to accept this quote, details of which had been circulated previously, as it was agreed to be much better value than the only alternative quote obtainable. Proposed by Cllr R Hirons and seconded by Cllr M Lanham. All were in favour.

Parish Council insurance due for renewal June 2020. Clerk obtaining alternative quotes to check best value for money and will report back at the May meeting.

033/20 SALC. The clerk reported that SALC is a source of extensive support and information during the on-going virus crisis.

034/20 Accounting Matters

Accounts for Payment April 2020

	£
Mrs K Sieloff clerks salary April 2020	465.12
HMRC (PAYE)	3.00
Clerks expenses (detailed below)	22.01
Jones Lighting Ltd (streetlamp repairs March 2020)	81.24
Scottish Power (streetlight energy 29.2.20-31.3.20)	127.89
Prees Village Hall hire : 6 hirings @ £20	<u>120.00</u>
Total	819.26

Clerk's expenses 13.3.20 – 16.4.20

Delivery of March mins/agenda: 13 miles @45ppm= £5.85

April BT line rental contribution: £12.50

6 x second class stamp @ 61p = £3.66

Total = £22.01

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

035/20 Correspondence: None outstanding.

036/20 Items for next Agenda:

037/20 New items for next Agenda. Problematic HGVs on Manor House Lane and Heathwood Road.
Continuing storage of recycled textiles outside, at Prees Industrial Estate.

Meeting closed at 8.10 pm.

Signed.....

Date.....