

Minutes of the Meeting of Prees Parish Council held on Tuesday 21st July 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; D Ladd; M Lanham and P Wynn, together with Mrs K Sieloff clerk to the Parish Council.

064/20 Public session. Members of the public had been invited to attend via a link published on the Parish Council website and there was one member of the public present.

065/20 Apologies had been received from Cllrs Mrs S Jones; R List; J Allen and J Whelan.

066/20 Disclosure of pecuniary or non-pecuniary interest. There were none.

067/20 Minutes of the meeting held on June 16th 2020 had been previously circulated. These were agreed to be a true record of the meeting. It was proposed by Cllr Mrs B Rainford that they should be signed and this was seconded by Cllr Mrs S Short. All were in favour and the Chair duly signed.

068/20 Actions Arising from the Minutes of the last meeting. Nothing not included on the Agenda.

069/20 Shropshire Council report. Cllr P Wynn delivered a report which made the following points:

- The Phoenix café, Coton, popular with bikers, has been closed.
- All work has been stopped on Miami Cottage (formerly known as Pitt Cottage) in Lower Heath.
- The parachute club, situated within the bounds of Whitchurch Rural Parish Council, has started operating additionally on Sundays, which is against an agreement. Shropshire Council to be involved.

(At this point Mr Andy Mellor arrived at the meeting after having had difficulties joining it. The Chair proposed that as he knew Mr Mellor wanted to address the Parish Council about a possible use of the football pitch at Higher Heath he should be permitted to address the PC at this point. All were in agreement.)

070/20 Mr Mellor had approached the PC with an enquiry about the possibility of using the football pitch at Higher Heath playing-field for some Junior matches. This would be under the umbrella of the National Football Association, the local representation of which is based at Prees Cricket and Recreation Club. Mr Mellor had explained that the Rec Club could not always provide enough pitches for planned games. Mr Mellor had previously communicated to the PC that if the Junior club was allowed to use the pitch it would take on responsibility for maintaining the pitch etc at its own expense. At the meeting it was agreed that there was perhaps insufficient time to get the matter sorted in time for the coming season, starting in September 2020, but that it might be possible for September 2021. It was agreed that a meeting could be set up for Alan Groom, Andy Mellor and the Parish Council to discuss this in plenty of time for the following season. Clerk to contact Alan Groom to suggest this. At this point Mr Mellor left the meeting.

071/20 Shropshire Council report (continued.)

- Cllr Wynn reported that the decision of the Planning Committee concerning the relocation of the Auction Site from the A49 to the A41 had been very close. It had been strongly argued and well debated. In the end it had gone to a casting vote and this had decided that planning permission should be granted.
- Cllr Mrs B Rainford raised with Cllr Wynn the matter of the closure of Whitchurch High Street to vehicles. She expressed concern for the future of town centre businesses if customers could not park close by. Similarly, she said, many people would not be able to access the Civic Centre if they had to walk a considerable distance to it. Although closure to vehicles was supposed to enhance the High Street, Cllr Rainford wondered if it might not actually have the opposite effect: she knew that many shop-owners had mixed feelings about it. Cllr Wynn said that he too was worried about the effects of the closure, although at the moment it was only temporary. He would speak to Shropshire Council about it. Cllr Mrs Short pointed out that routine appointments, trips to the chemist etc, are made very difficult for some people if there is no vehicular access. Cllr Mrs Rainford reminded the meeting that some town centres have dual access: vehicles are permitted but pedestrians have the right of way.

072/20 Community Policing Report. There was no report available. The clerk told the meeting that she had to take responsibility for this as she had forgotten to email details of the meeting to local Police officers until the last minute and for this she apologized.

073/20 Planning matters.

Current planning applications:

- **FOR INFORMATION ONLY: 20/02580/AGR:** Proposed steel portal framed building to house new robotic milking system. Ashford Grange, Sandford, Whitchurch, Shropshire. Applicant: Mr R Ward. The Parish Council noted this Application.
- **20/02680/FUL:** Erection of single-storey side extension. Willowbrook, 3 Keepers Court, Fauls, Shropshire. Applicant: Mr Duncan Beverley.
Cllr Hirons proposed that the PC should support this Application and this was seconded by Cllr Mrs D Foster. All were in favour.
- **20/02191/HHE:** Erection of a single storey rear extension to a detached dwelling, dimensions 4.0 metres beyond the rear wall, 3.6 metres maximum height and 2.550 metres high to eaves
Roseane, 101 Twemlows Avenue, Higher Heath, Shropshire SY13 2 HD. Applicant: Mr R Small.
The Parish Council noted this Application.
- **20/02454/FUL:** Erection of garage and ancillary domestic storage. The Clock House, Sandford, Shropshire SY13 2AW. Applicants: Mr S and Mrs A Ramsay.
20/02455/LBC: Erection of garage and ancillary domestic storage. The Clock House, Sandford, Shropshire SY13 2AW. Applicants: Mr S and Mrs A Ramsay. Cllr Hirons proposed that the PC should support these two associated applications and this was seconded by Cllr Mrs B Finch. All were in favour.
- **Reconsultation due to Amendment on application 20/02152/FUL - Land Opposite Former Thames Valley Eggs Premises Proposal: Change of use of land from storage of agricultural machinery and equipment to the storage of portable site cabins/welfare units**
Cllrs Mrs B Finch; Mrs B Rainford and Mrs S Jones had made a site visit and had been assured that the welfare units would only be stacked two high on areas of the site where they would not be visible from the road or from neighbouring properties. The Parish Council resolved that it would support the Application but ask that conditions be imposed ensuring that no fabrication or repair was done on this site, and that hours of operation would be restricted to 8-5 Monday to Friday only. This was proposed by Cllr Hirons and seconded by Cllr Mrs L Baer. All were in favour.

Recent Planning decisions received from Shropshire Council

19/05054/FUL: Erection of Affordable dwelling and garage and formation of access. Land West Of Heathwood Road, Higher Heath, Whitchurch, Shropshire. Decision: Grant Permission

20/02053/TPO: Canopy reduction by 20% of 2no Oak & 1no Sycamore protected by The North Shropshire District Council (Drumcote, Heathwood Road, Prees) TPO 1981 (Ref: NS/00055/81)

The Willows, Heathwood Road, Higher Heath, Shropshire SY13 2HG. Decision: Grant Permission

Other planning matters

- **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 bunding and landscaping (relocation of Existing Auction Site from the A49 Grain Store site) (resubmission.) Parish Council's final objection sent for inclusion in meeting of Planning Committee 21.7.20.
- **20/01078/FUL:** Construction of menage measuring 25mx45m with four lighting columns 6m tall for private use and liveries; siting of static caravan for rest facilities and office; erection of wash box. Proposed menage and caravan Manor House Lane, Higher Heath, Shropshire. Consultation on amendment responded to between meetings. PC supports as long as the caravan is strictly for non-

residential use and the lighting of the menage is restricted in such a way that prevents it causing a nuisance to neighbouring properties.

074/20 Parish and Parish Council Matters

Playground matters.

- *Possible re-opening of local playgrounds.* The clerk had written Risk Assessments for the re-opening of both Parish Council owned sites and these had been circulated to all councillors. The Chair reminded the meeting that the responsibility for preventing the spread of the virus through use of playground equipment would have to lie with the users and their guardians, as the PC could not provide washing facilities on site, or provide personnel to check how equipment was being used or whether social distancing was being observed. The PC could, however, provide clear on-site signage advising of the accepted best practices for preventing the spread of the virus. The clerk could put up paper signs to start with, followed by commercially produced vinyl ones as soon as they could be obtained. Cllr Hirons proposed that the playgrounds should be opened as soon as the clerk could produce the signage. This was seconded by Cllr Mrs B Finch and all were in favour.
- *Possible use of HH playing-field by local junior football teams.* This item was covered earlier in the meeting.
- *RoSPA reports 2020* on the two playgrounds. Cllrs Hirons and Mrs B Finch will meet with the clerk to go through the reports and assess actions needed. The clerk reported that the rabbit damage to the grass surface at Higher Heath has again been highlighted as a problem.
- *Community-led building development:* the Project Board met via a video-conferencing facility on 12.5.20. Cllr Hirons reported that the project is moving forward: there will be a public consultation imminently and it is hoped that the Planning Application will be in by the end of July.
- *Supply of two ipads to Elmhurst Nursing Home.* Cllr Mrs Rainford reported that the residents were delighted and very grateful. The two ipads are in constant use, as they can be used for medical consultations as well as for staying in contact with loved ones. Cllr Hirons thanked Cllrs Mrs Rainford and Mrs Short for organising this matter.
- *Ensuring website access for all.* Cllr Mrs B Rainford advised that she had contacted SALC and Hugo Fox about this matter. Hugo Fox have said that it is necessary to do an online assessment provided by the Government. The owners of Rainford Computers have written an access statement which they believe is clear and concise and workable and with the Parish Council's blessing they will send it to Hugo Fox and ask them to implement it. All were in favour.
- *Housekeeping matters.* Clerk reported that potholes in Moreton Street have again been reported and the intrusive light streetlamps in Lighteach Road and Mill Street have had their operation modified by the lighting contractor. A letter has been received from a resident in Turnpike Rise asking that the overgrown vegetation at the entrance to the road, which obscures the road name sign and the footpath sign, should be attended to. Clerk to contact Shropshire Council about this matter.
- *Whitchurch town centre:* concerns about exclusion of vehicles. This item was dealt with earlier in the meeting.
- *Youth Shelter at Prees Cricket and Recreation Club.* The grounds maintenance contractor has quoted £25.00 per month for fortnightly litter-picks here. Discussion ensued about whether this was an appropriate way of dealing with the problem of mess caused by users of the shelter. It was resolved that the clerk should post a notice at the shelter encouraging its responsible use, including using the bin provided for litter. This was proposed by Cllr M Lanham and seconded by Cllr Mrs B Finch. A majority was in favour.
- *Long-promised kissing-gate* on A49 at Fields Farm. Cllr M Lanham has chased this up with SC twice. Clerk to enquire.
- *Jenkinsons site, Higher Heath.* A visit was made by an Environmental Health officer from SC to investigate complaints about noise. The Company was reminded about conditions attached to the use of noisy machinery, designed to minimise disturbance to surrounding residential properties.

- *Mill Street Old Telephone Exchange.* The clerk had received reports of anti-social behaviour by young people congregating here. She had reported these to local Police. Whilst doing so she had been reminded that any resident witnessing such incidents should in the first instance be reporting them personally by telephone to 101, or on-line, rather than reporting them to the clerk. Cllr Hirons pointed out that most residents only contact the Parish Council when their own attempts to report incidents to the Police seemed to go unnoticed, and he believed that this was understandable and effective practice. The clerk had also been told about broken glass under the bridge over the A49, on Church Street. She had cleaned up the glass on the footpath and told the Police about reports of under-age drinking under the bridge. Clerk to contact SC to ask for broken glass on the higher ledges either side of the road to be cleared.
- *PC Facebook page:* concerns raised about delayed opening of playgrounds were addressed earlier in the meeting.
- *A41 incident log:* nothing new to report.
- *Outdoor storage of textile waste* at Prees Industrial Estate. Environment Agency made contact at end of June and were told remaining textile would be taken inside within a few weeks.
- *Neighbourhood Fund spend.* Cllr Hirons reminded the meeting that these funds have to be spent on infrastructure needs. Clerk was asked to research accurate costing for updating remaining streetlighting stock to LED and also to do initial research on possible provision of allotments. Cllr Ladd suggested asking residents for their ideas on how the money should be spent. Clerk to draft a notice for publication.
- *New NALC Code of Conduct* for Councillors out for consultation. Cllrs to respond individually if wished.

075/20 SALC. Nothing to report.

076/20 Accounting Matters

- Accounts for Payment July 2020

	£
Mrs K Sieloff clerks salary July 2020	465.12
HMRC (PAYE)	3.00
Clerks expenses (detailed below)	44.22
Scottish Power streetlight energy 31.5.20-30.6.20	123.73
Groundforce Landscape Ltd: grass-cutting etc, invoice	313.20
ICO: Annual Data Protection fee	40.00
Technochip Computers Ltd	<u>900.00</u>
Total	1889.27

Clerk's expenditure 11.6.20- 14.7.20

July BT line rental contribution: £12.50
3 x 2nd class stamps @ 65p = £1.95
Delivery of June Agenda etc 13 miles @ 45p = £5.85
Postage; 1x large pkt @ £1.15
2 padlocks and chains: £22.77
Total: £44.22

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

- Payment of annual discretionary grants. It was resolved that payments for the upkeep of the churchyard/burial ground should be made to Prees Parochial Church Council (£300) and Fauls Parochial Church Council (£100) with cheques to be raised for the next meeting. This was proposed by Cllr R Hirons and seconded by Cllr Mrs S Short. All were in favour. Clerk was asked to check on the status of the North Shropshire Wheelers following the Covid-19 shut-down.
- Clerk reported that the internal audit for the year to March 31 2020 was underway, all documentation having been delivered to the Parish Council's usual auditor.

077/20 Correspondence.

- Enquiry received from Smartwater: do we have enough signage? All agreed that we do.

078/20 Items for next Agenda.

- Vehicle speed monitors
- Quarterly spend against budget

Meeting was closed at 8.30 pm.

Signed.....

Date.....