

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Prees Parish Council held on Tuesday May 16 2023  
at 7.00 pm in Prees Village Hall

Present were Cllrs R Hirons; J Whelan; Mrs B Finch; Mrs S Short; Mrs S Jones; Mrs B Rainford; Mrs J Catterall; J Allen and D Ladd. Mrs K Sieloff clerk to the Parish Council was also present. There was one member of the public attending.

**057/23** Election of Chair. Cllr R Hirons the existing Chair asked if there were any nominations for the role. Cllr Mrs B Rainford nominated Cllr Mrs Short. This nomination was seconded by Cllr Mrs B Finch. Cllr Mrs Short indicated her willingness to take the role of Chair and the Parish Council was asked to indicate who was in support. A majority of cllrs voted that they were and Cllr Mrs Short was declared Chair for the year 2023-24. Cllr Mrs Rainford thanked Cllr Hirons for all his hard work and commitment over the seven years of his Chairmanship, and this was warmly supported by all members of the Parish Council.

Cllr Mrs Short signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office in the presence of the clerk. She immediately took on the role of Chair of the meeting.

**058/23** Cllr J Whelan indicated that he would be prepared to carry on as Vice-Chair only if no one else was prepared to take it on. There were no indications of interest from anyone else, and unanimous support for Cllr Whelan carrying on, and so he was declared Vice-Chair for the year 2023-24. He signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office before the clerk.

**059/23** Apologies: Received from Cllrs Mrs L Baer; R List; M Lanham; P Wynn

**060/23** Public Session. There were no contributions from members of the public.

**061/23** Declarations of interest in items on the Agenda. There were none.

**062/23** Minutes of the previous meeting held on 18 April 2023 (previously circulated.) The clerk had realised that she had made an omission in the draft minutes. Under Accounting Matters she had omitted to record that the Parish Council had made the unanimous decision not to open additional bank accounts with other banks. With this amendment, the Minutes were agreed to be a true record of the meeting. That they should be signed as such was proposed by Cllr Mrs B Finch and seconded by Cllr Mrs J Catterall. All were in favour.

**063/23** Matters Arising from the Minutes. The clerk reported

1. Clerk awaits delivery of replacement vehicle speed monitor to replace damaged one hit by lorry outside industrial estate Shrewsbury Street.
2. Shropshire Council have installed new pole for vehicle speed monitor near Lower Heath School. They have Cllr Mrs Short's contact details and will liaise with her direct re collection of vehicle speed monitor for re-installation.
3. Bike stands to be installed outside Jackie's shop in Prees, the Church Hall in Fauls and the Village Hall in Higher Heath have arrived. The clerk awaits confirmation of required locations and will then get them installed.

**064/23** Appointment of representatives to outside bodies.

The following appointments were unanimously agreed:

Cllr Mrs B Finch to remain on Prees Village Hall Management Committee.

Cllr Mrs B Finch to initially shadow Cllr R Hirons on Higher Heath Village Hall Committee, and then take over the role when ready.

Cllr J Whelan to remain on Prees Cricket and Recreation Club Committee.

Cllr Mrs J Catterall will take over from Cllr Mrs B Rainford as the Prees representative on the North Shropshire Area Committee of SALC when Cllr Mrs B Rainford resigns.

Cllr M Lanham to remain as Parish Paths representative.

The Parish Council is no longer invited to appoint a Lay Governor to Prees Primary School.

**065/23** Review of policies etc.

1. Councillors report back on perusal of Parish Council documents. This item was carried forward to the June meeting.

2. Bank signatories. Current bank signatories (Cllrs R Hirons; Mrs S Short; J Allen and J Whelan) confirmed that they were happy to continue.
3. Playground representatives agreed as Cllrs R Hirons; Mrs B Finch and Mrs J Catterall.)
4. Cllrs J Allen and M Lanham to continue as clerk's Appraisal and Review panel.

**066/23** The schedule of meeting dates for the coming year 2023-4 was shared with the parish councillors present. All PC meetings scheduled for the third Tuesday in the month and to start at 7pm in Prees Village Hall.

**067/23** Shropshire Council report. Cllr Paul Wynn had sent his Apologies but had provided a report which Cllr Mrs Short read out:

It's been a very challenging year for Shropshire Council, with more than three quarters of the budget going on Social Care. This cost increases by about 10% each year.

Some Councils have gone into Special Measures. Fortunately, as a Council, we have been able to avoid that with some good forward thinking, but it has just come to light that we must save another 52 million next year. Challenging indeed.

Any way, let's get a bit closer home. Church Street has been resurfaced, thank goodness!

I have asked some planning officers to give you a written report on some of the planning applications, which they have kindly done. I hope they are helpful.

**068/23** Community Policing report. None available.

**069/23 Planning Matters.**

Current planning application for consultation.

Amendments to 23/00833/FUL: Conversion of existing outbuilding to form a single dwelling, conversion of former pigsty building to form an ancillary domestic storage building and associated demolition and landscaping works. Outbuilding North of The Lighteach, Lighteach Road, Prees, Shropshire.

After discussion, the Parish Council resolved to object to the application again, on the grounds that it cannot support it. Despite the lack of concern registered by the Highways dept, local knowledge suggests that additional vehicles and additional pedestrians on Lighteach Road will increase the danger to both. Proposed by Cllr B Finch and seconded by Cllr J Allen. All were in favour.

Planning decisions received from Shropshire Council.

- 23/00346/FUL: Demolition of outbuildings attached to the East elevation of main farmhouse. The Lighteach, Lighteach Road, Prees, Shropshire SY13 2DR. Decision: Grant Permission.
- 23/00789/VAR: Variation of conditions 1 (approved plans) and 2 (approved materials) attached to planning permission 21/05340/REM dated 17.12.21. Silver Birch, Mill Lane, Higher Heath, Whitchurch, Shropshire SY13 2HR. Decision: Grant Permission.
- 23/00791/VAR: Variation of conditions 4 (approved plans); 5 (access location); 6 (engineering drawings); 8 (tree protection); 9 (landscaping); and 13 (ecological enhancements) attached to planning permission 21/04559/VAR dated 10.11.21. Silver Birch, Mill Lane, Higher Heath, Whitchurch, Shropshire SY13 2HR. Decision: Grant Permission.
- 23/00862/FUL : Erection of a single storey side extension (description amended.) Church Farm Bungalow, Fauls, Whitchurch, Shropshire, SY13 2AU. Decision: Grant Permission.
- 23/00910/FUL: Erection of a building for private horse riding practice and associated works, to include change of use of land. Land South Of, Nook Lane, Weston Under Redcastle, Shropshire. Decision: Refuse

Other planning matters

- 'Back land development' no longer a negative consideration for planning. Planning department advice duly noted.

**070/23 Parish and Parish Council Matters**

**Insurance matters**

1. Policy due for renewal at the beginning of June. Our insurers Parish Protect have warned that costs have risen. They are amending their offered provision to ensure small councils do not pay for unnecessary cover. Clerk is currently tackling the paperwork.
2. Our insurers have been advised of damage to Streetlamp near Wrafton Terrace 19.4.23, caused by a coach attempting to turn round in the road. The incident was witnessed by residents nearby. Resulting state of dislodged Streetlamp not dangerous but being replaced on advice of lighting contractor. Insurance claim made. Costs to be recouped from coach company.

### **Dog waste problem.**

The clerk was asked to research and circulate examples of signage encouraging dog owners to clean up after their pets. It was proposed that a budget of £250 should be dedicated to purchase of same. This was proposed by Cllr Mrs B Finch and seconded by Cllr Mrs B Rainford. All were in favour.

Areas of particular concern were identified as both Play Areas; Church Street; Whitchurch Road and the path along Manor House Lane in Higher Heath leading to the playing field.

### **Lengthsman.**

After some discussion, with various opinions aired, Cllr Mrs Short said she would be happy to research all aspects of the matter that had been raised and would produce a report for the next Meeting. Cllrs D Ladd and J Allen offered to help her in this endeavour.

### **Streetlamps**

1. Update on progress of conversion of streetlamps to LED. The clerk confirmed that half of our 50 streetlamps are now LED.
2. Solar powered streetlamps. Clerk had previously had offers of help from Shrewsbury Town Council and Pontesbury Parish Council concerning the consideration of these. The Parish Council accepted her suggestion that she get in touch with both parties.

### **Local road concerns**

1. Parking at Crossroads in Prees centre on double yellows. It was noted that the double yellow lines had been renewed during recent resurfacing works to adjacent roads. Clerk to research the possibility of the Parish Council erecting its own courteous notice reminding drivers that parking was not permitted there and of the need to keep a clear way for emergency vehicles.
2. Hazardous situation outside Prees School at each end of the school day. No further update yet available on the imposition of a 20 mph limit (being trialled elsewhere in the County.) Clerk to check SC's reasons for being reluctant to make the zigzags enforceable.

**Prees Industrial Estate is an eye-sore**, everyone agrees. What can be done? As an initial step, the clerk was asked to find out who the owners are.

**071/23 SALC** Nothing current to report.

### **072/23 Accounting matters**

Accounts for Payment May 2023

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

### Prees Parish Council Accounts for Payment May 2023

	£
Mrs K Sieloff clerks salary May 2023	473.54
HMRC (PAYE)	16.20
Clerk's expenditure (13.4.23-10.5.23) see below	163.28
Scottish Power (streetlight energy 1.4.23-1.5.23)	453.11
Groundforce Landscape Ltd (works April 2023)	264.22
Highline Electrical Ltd	525.60
Highline Electrical Ltd	367.20

SALC	1310.63
Prees Village Hall Trust	60.00
No Butts Bin Co Ltd	52.80
No Butts Bin Co Ltd	<u>302.80</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>3989.38</b>

Clerk's expenditure 13.4.23-10.5.23

*BT line rental contribution May 2023: £ 12.50*

*Petrol: 1 x trip to noticeboards (April Meeting documents ) 8 miles @ 45p per mile =£3.60*

*Stamps:5 x 2<sup>nd</sup> class stamps @ 66p= £3.30.*

*Zoom Annual renewal paid April 20 2023: £143.88*

*Total= £163.28*

**073/23 Housekeeping.**

1. Bent Prees village sign on A49. Clerk to report again.
2. 50 mph sign missing (one of a pair) on A49 near Higher Heath turn. Clerk to report again.
3. Paint thrown at Manor Place bus shelter. Clerk to report to Environmental Maintenance.

**074/23 Facebook.** Nothing current to report.

**075/23 Correspondence**

Letter received from Shropshire Council's Street Naming/Numbering team proposing Silver Birch Close as the name for the residential development of six plots standing on the ground formerly occupied by the house called Silver Birch. The Parish Council had no objection to make.

**076/23 Items for next Agenda**

Review of Policies.

Clerk's annual pay increment.

Concerns about criminal activity locally/ Need for monthly information from Police.

Lengthsman.

The Square.

Need for 7.5 ton vehicle restriction Manor House Lane.

Dog excrement.

Industrial Estate.

PC signage at Crossroads.

Parking by Prees School.

Meeting was closed at 8.15 pm.

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