

Minutes of the Meeting of Prees Parish Council held on Tuesday August 16 2022  
at 7.00 pm in the Village Hall.

Present were Cllr J Whelan; Mrs B Finch; Mrs S Jones; Mrs L Baer; Mrs B Rainford; J Allen and M Lanham together with Mrs K Sieloff, clerk to the Parish Council. PCSOs Graeme Baines and Dave Andrew were also present, and one member of the public.

**104/22** Public Session. A member of the Public expressed his concerns about the on-going problem of the lack of burial space at St Chad's. Cllr Hiron responded that the Church is not permitted to buy land to be used for burial but other options are being pursued. The same member of the Public also expressed concern about the lack of apparent progress at The Square since its sale. The clerk was asked to contact the new owners and enquire about the plans for the site.

**105/22** Apologies received from Cllrs Mrs S Short; R List; J Whelan and D Ladd.

**106/22.** Declaration of Interests. Cllr J Allen declared a non-pecuniary interest in two planning applications on the Agenda, 22/03336/FUL and 22/03324/FUL, as the agent acting in both cases is also currently acting for Cllr Allen.

**107/22** Minutes. The Minutes of the meeting held on July 19 2022 which had been previously circulated were agreed to be a true record. Cllr Mrs B Finch proposed that they should be signed and this was seconded by Cllr Mrs S Jones. All were in favour.

**108/22** Matters Arising from the Minutes (which are not included on the Agenda.)

The clerk confirmed that the bench for the Whitchurch Road bus-stop has been ordered: the same model as installed at Heathwood Road in Higher Heath, but black, to better match the particular structure.

**109/22** Shropshire Council Report. There was no report available.

**110/22** Community Policing Report. PCSOs Graeme Baines and Dave Andrew delivered the following report for the month of July.

*Incidents to be aware of:*

- *1 x person seen with infrared light at night near to Lighteach Road. Officers attended and unable to locate persons. No thefts occurred that night.*
- *Numerous complaints of male with air rifle shooting pigeons near to houses. Male has had firearms seized and been charged for the offence (Higher Heath.)*
- *1 x shed break-in Prees Green. Enquiries ongoing with CCTV stills.*
- *Report of male following woman on Prees Heath: no further reports and patrols have increased in the area.*
- *Traffic operation conducted in the area: 1 x car seized for no tax; 5 traffic offence reports issued; 24 speeding tickets given with a highest reading of 113 mph.*
- *8 x domestic incidents.*
- *6 x mental health incidents.*

*Team contact details: email [whitchurch.snt@westmercia.pnn.police.uk](mailto:whitchurch.snt@westmercia.pnn.police.uk)*

*Sign up to Neighbourhood Matters, a brand new community messaging service. It enables residents, businesses and community groups to keep in touch with local policing teams. You can choose exactly what type of alert you wish to receive and how you receive them; whether that be by email, text or telephone. Sign up at*

*[www.neighbourhoodmatters.co.uk](http://www.neighbourhoodmatters.co.uk)*

**111/22** Planning

**For information only:**

22/03464/CPL: Application for a Lawful Development Certificate for the proposed erection of a single storey side/rear extension. Grassleigh, Whitchurch Road, Prees, Whitchurch, Shropshire. Applicant: Mr Beddows

### **Current planning applications for consultation:**

**22/03547/FUL:** Erection of a replacement dwelling. Cartref, Brades Road, Prees, Whitchurch, Shropshire.

Applicant: Mr & Mrs Allmark.

The Parish Council noted the pre-application planning advice but wished to have its support for the application registered. Proposed by Cllr M Lanham and seconded by Cllr J Allen. All were in favour.

**22/03336/FUL:** Application under Section 73A of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 for the formation of new access (part retrospective.) Heathfield Stables, Manor House Lane, Higher Heath, Whitchurch,

Shropshire. Applicant: A Stuchfield

The Parish Council wished to have its support for this application registered. Proposed by Cllr R Hirons and seconded by Cllr Mrs S Jones. All were in favour.

**22/03508/FUL:** Erection of single storey rear extension following demolition of existing conservatory, replacement of existing two storey flat roof with new pitched roof – including new section of first floor and internal alterations. Windridge, Primrose Lane, Prees, Shropshire. Applicant: Mr and Mrs D & M Perry.

The Parish Council wished to have its support for this application registered. Proposed by Cllr Mrs B Finch and seconded by Cllr Mrs L Baer. All were in favour.

**22/03324/FUL:** Residential development of 14no. dwellings including 2no. affordable dwelling and provision of public open space. Residential Development Land At Site Of Unit 18A Prees Industrial Estate, Shrewsbury Street, Prees. Applicant Mr S Birch.

The Parish Council wished to have its support for this application registered. It also noted that this development would provide an ideal site for 2 or 3 on-road electric-car-charging points, open to the public. Proposed by Cllr M Lanham and seconded by Cllr Mrs B Finch. All were in favour except Cllr J Allen who abstained from voting.

**22/03298/FUL:** Erection of five bungalows replacing previous scheme 21/00120/REM and outline permission 17/03775/OUT. Land West Shrewsbury Street, Prees, Shropshire. Applicant: Mandie Brown

The Parish Council wished its support for this application to be registered. Proposed by Cllr R Hirons and seconded by Cllr Mrs L Baer. All were in favour.

### **Planning decisions received from Shropshire Council**

22/02660/TPO: Address: 10 Sylvan Close, Higher Heath, Whitchurch, Shropshire, SY13 2TB

Proposal: Fell 3no Scots Pine protected by The North Shropshire District Council (Prees Higher Heath No 6)

TPO 1975 (Ref: NS/00051/75) Decision: Grant Permission

22/02062/FUL : Address: Unit 2 Former Grain Store, Higher Heath, Whitchurch, Shropshire, SY13 2HA

Proposal: Re-configuration of internal road arrangement. Decision: Grant Permission

### **112/22 Parish and Parish Council Matters**

#### **Co-option of Parish Councillor to fill vacancy.**

The clerk confirmed that two applications have been received and that both applicants are able to attend the September meeting where it is hoped one will be co-opted to the Parish Council. Clerk to circulate applications to all cllrs.

#### **Lack of burial space at St Chad's.**

There was no update from the Edwards family.

The Parochial Church Council had advised that the Glebe land near the Church has nothing to do with St Chads as a local Anglican Church.

#### **Can the Parish Council legitimately make financial contributions to the upkeep of Church property?**

The clerk explained that in the Local Government Act of 1894 the newly-formed parish councils were expressly forbidden to contribute any funds to the purchase or maintenance of church-owned property. In NALC's view this position has not been superseded by more recent legislation and so is still the one that holds. After discussion it was agreed that the Parish Council was united in its opinion that it would be unreasonable for the Parish Council not to support our halls (two of which are owned by the Church) when they contribute so much to the well-being of our local communities. It was proposed by Cllr M Lanham that the Parish Council

continues to consider applications for financial help from the halls in the Parish and this was seconded by Cllr R Hirons. All were in favour.

### **Shropshire Council's Draft Empty Homes Strategy 2022-25.**

This strategy has the aim of increasing the number of homes available in Shropshire by supporting owners of uninhabited dwellings in returning them to a usable condition in order to be occupied or sold. The document met with the approval of the Parish Council and it agreed to support the initiative in any way it could. An accessible on-line register of empty houses, to which parish councils and individuals can both contribute, is expected to be up and running in Spring of 2023.

### **Community Led Building Development Whitchurch Road.**

Cllr Hirons reported that at a recent meeting it was confirmed that Wrekin Housing Trust are currently looking for new contractors to complete the development. It is hoped that building will re-start by November of this year.

### **Local road speed matters**

**Vehicle speed monitors.** PC to consider the conversion of the two battery-powered units to solar powered for £499.00 (per unit) plus carriage costs. As Cllr J Allen and the clerk both expressed themselves currently happy to maintain the two battery-powered monitors, it was agreed that the possible conversion of these two units to solar power could be postponed at least for the moment.

**Should we join the West Mercia Police Community Speed Partnership Programme?** The clerk had asked for other councils' views of the scheme, but none were forthcoming. No further action to be taken currently.

**Are we any closer to the much-requested extension of 30 mph along Whitchurch Road?** There was no update available from Shropshire Council.

### **Local provision of electric car charging points.**

In response to the Parish Councils enquiry, an email had been received from Bernard Quinn, Strategic Assets Manager at Connexus, explaining that the organisation is currently considering a three strand approach to electric car charging points. In the case of individual properties with off-road parking, tenants would be provided with permission and a minimum specification for a charging point, and the tenant will be responsible for the installation and cost. (It may be possible for the tenant to hire out the facility when they do not need it.) For sheltered schemes with no allocated parking, and for other sites (mainly flats) with no allocated parking it may be possible to install a limited number of public charging points.

Mr Quinn pointed out that proposed schemes are not without difficulty, one being that existing infrastructure is not always able to cope with additional demand. A consultant's report is expected in the Autumn.

### **Idea received for spend of Neighbourhood Fund monies.**

The PC was asked by a resident to consider broadening the appeal of the playground in Prees by providing the following enhancements; swings for older children; a large bucket-type swing for those with disabilities; alteration to the entrance to enable wheelchair access and a skate park such as the one in Jubilee Park in Whitchurch.

It was agreed that the Playgrounds Group would have an initial look at this suggestion when they met to discuss the current RoSPA report.

### **Works to the Millenium Limes on Whitchurch Road.**

The clerk confirmed that she has received two quotes and awaits a third. She said that she had been advised that if the limes are comprehensively cut back at this stage they will put on a huge spurt of growth and then require frequent and regular attention. It had been suggested to her that it was better just to raise the crowns at the present time. Cllr Allen agreed with this.

### **Dog poo nuisance locally. What can be done?**

Cllr M Lanham suggested that as some parish councils seem to have had some success by providing poo bags and poo bins in problem areas, this was something to explore. Clerk to obtain prices on both.

### **Church Street: obstruction to footway by overgrowth.**

The clerk had received the following information from Shropshire Council:

- Hedges along domestic frontages are the responsibility of the land-owner

- If land-owners are not keeping them cut back, if SC is told it will send letters requesting action. (It is not the Parish Councils job to do this.)
- Only a very small bit of the hedging along Church Street belongs to Shropshire Council (from underpass to first lamp post going up the hill.)
- The PC can expect SC to cut the hedges it owns at least once a year. Extra cuts will be provided if the budget allows.

Clerk to ask SC support in getting property owners along Church Street to remove debris (bricks, etc) and encroaching nettles, so that the footway is as wide and safe as possible.

Housekeeping: nothing to report.

Facebook: nothing to report.

### 113/22 SALC.

Cllr Mrs B Rainford advised that she had been unable to attend the latest SALC meeting as she had been moving house but she understood that Police and Crime Commissioner John Campion had been the speaker and there will of course be a report of this in the Minutes. Helen Morgan MP was also supposed to be there but had cancelled.

Cllr Rainford mentioned that Helen Morgan did attend the Whitchurch Business Group meeting in Whitchurch and that she (Cllr Rainford) was impressed with what the new MP has achieved in a very short space of time, having liaised with Whitchurch Town Council to find a building to house the Driving Test Centre, and also with Access for All with the result that they have agreed to do a feasibility study to solve the problem of lack of disabled access at Whitchurch train station.

Cllr Rainford also reported that Whitchurch Town Council is hoping to liaise with local Parish Councils to help solve issues in the area surrounding Whitchurch.

### 114/22 Accounting Matters

#### Payment of Accounts for August 2022.

	£
Mrs K Sieloff clerks salary August 2022	481.62
HMRC (PAYE)	8.12
Clerk's expenditure (13.7.22- 10.8.22)	20.06
Scottish Power (streetlight energy 30.6.22-31.7.22)	490.99
Highline Electrical Ltd	91.20
Groundforce Landscape Ltd (July 2022)	347.64
Morelock Signs Ltd	<u>7188.00</u>

Total £8627.63

Late-arriving invoice

Nathan Roberts Tree Surgery & Landscaping 150.00

GRAND TOTAL 8777.63

#### Clerk's expenditure 13.7.22-9.8.22

*BT line rental contribution August 2022: £ 12.50*

*Trip to noticeboards for July Agenda etc: mileage allowance of 8 miles @ 45 ppm: £3.60*

*Stamps: 6 x 2<sup>nd</sup> class stamps @ 66p= £3.96*

*Total: 20.06*

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

- Audit of financial year 2021-2. Clerk reported that completed AGAR documents are now with external auditors.

**115/22Correspondence.** None outstanding

**116/22 Items for next Agenda.**

Councillor co-option. Burial space. Church Street path. Heathgates road closure. Mickley Lane ‘closed’. Dog excrement. Whitchurch Road 30 mph request. Bike racks.

Meeting was closed at 8.45 pm. Next meeting September 20 2022.

Signed.....

Date.....

DRAFT