

Minutes of the Meeting of Prees Parish Council held on Tuesday February 21 2023
at 7.00 pm in Prees Village Hall

Present were Cllrs R Hiron; J Whelan; Mrs B Finch; Mrs B Rainford; Mrs J Catterall; Mrs S Jones; J Allen; R List; M Lanham and D Ladd. Mrs K Sieloff clerk to the Parish Council was also present along with one member of the public.

014/23 Public Session. There were no contributions from the public.

015/23 Apologies received from Cllrs Mrs L Baer; Mrs S Short and P Wynn.

016/23 Declaration of Interests. There were none.

017/23 Minutes. The Minutes of the meeting held on January 17 2023 which had been previously circulated were agreed to be a true record. Cllr J Whelan proposed that they should be signed and this was seconded by Cllr M Lanham. All were in favour.

018/23 Matters Arising from the Minutes (which are not included on the Agenda.)

- It was reported that the installation of heavy-duty fencing that appears to encroach on the highway verge bordering the A41 at Twemlows Wood, has paused. (See Cllr Wynn's report below.)

019/23 Shropshire Council report. Cllr Wynn delivered his report which made the following points:

- He has asked SC Conservation officers for more information/advice about Article 4 in the Conservation Area in Prees and awaits response.
- He has registered his concern about the security fencing on the A41 at Higher Heath.
- He is glad to hear that the resurfacing of Church Street has been scheduled.

020/23 Community Policing Report. Cllr Hiron read out a report from PCSO Graeme Baines, who had sent it with his apology that there was no officer available to attend.

Parking problems at Prees School.

We are attending as and when we are able. It seems the main problem is parking on the Junction with Moreton Street where the coach needs to turn into. We have been present a few times when we have noticed that parents actively seek other places to park. A few have actually gone down to the car park. When we have attended it has been noted that there seems to be a lack of school staff monitoring the situation. As it has been for a number of years, Shropshire Council are the only agency that can make this area safer with road markings, maybe double yellow lines on the Moreton Street Junction and also applying for a Traffic Regulations Order for signs alongside the Zig Zags, making it a parking offence that the Council can then enforce. We are open to any invitation to a meeting with yourselves and Shropshire Council.

Anti-Social Behaviour.

We have had reports whereby a shack has been mentioned where youths are gathering. We have identified the place and can confirm that someone has been using it as a den for drinking and maybe other activities. The area it is situated is not visible from the road. I have left my card in there so the youths know that we have found it. We have been in touch with the person that owns this land. They have been very supportive and the 'shack' will be dismantled in the very near future, if not already.

There has also been youths in the old single storey building at the entrance to Tudor Griffiths on the industrial estate. Again we have been in touch with the company administrating this. They have said that they will get it boarded. Especially as it was pointed out that they may be liable for any injury or such.

Other incidents

1. Some bones were found in a garden in Prees. Don't worry, they were confirmed as not being human.

2. There was a Road Traffic Collision in Whitchurch Road. This was 'damage only'. Details were left with the car.

3. A burglary has occurred in Higher Heath. You may have seen the CCTV footage. Any information will be greatly appreciated. The occupants have been issued with Smartwater, as it was previous occupants when the scheme to issue Smartwater to all households was undertaken.

4. We have been called to a neighbour dispute in Prees. This appears to be over parking and civil matters of boundaries and pavements. We are awaiting a reply from Shropshire Council so we can advise the informant on the next step.

021/23 Planning Matters

22/05617/FUL: Erection of a single storey rear extension. Holly Bank, Lower Heath, Prees, Whitchurch, Shropshire, SY13 2BX . Applicant: Mr And Mrs Arnold.

The Parish Council resolved to support this Application. This was proposed by Cllr J Whelan and seconded by Cllr R Hirons. All were in favour.

23/00086/FUL: Erection of 2 x 2 storey extensions, repairs and alterations to 2 outbuildings. 9 Sandford, Whitchurch, Shropshire, SY13 2AW. Applicant: Mr and Mrs Anthony and Sarah Clarke.

The Parish Council resolved to support this Application with the proviso that obscured glass should be specified for upstairs bathroom window. Proposed by Cllr Hirons and seconded by Cllr D Ladd. All were in favour.

23/00346/FUL: Demolition of outbuildings attached to the east elevation of the main farm house, associated works to approved development ref: 20/00686/FUL for the conversion of traditional agricultural barns into 3No dwellings, along with the installation of a package treatment plant.

The Lighteach, Lighteach Road, Prees, Whitchurch, Shropshire.

Applicant: Warm Beautiful Homes Limited

The Parish Council recognizes that an underground fuel storage tank must be removed in order to comply with a planning condition, but it hopes that this can be achieved without the extensive demolition suggested. The buildings affected are old dairy buildings that were part of the original Appleby's Cheese operation for 100 years and so have historical local significance. The Parish Council resolved to object to the current application in the hope that a more sensitive solution can be found. Proposed by Cllr J Allen and seconded by Cllr J Whelan. All were in favour.

23/00259/FUL: Proposed addition of external flue for wood burning stove and addition of PV solar panels on existing roof. Knights Grange, Prees Green, Whitchurch, Shropshire, SY13 2BN.

Applicant: Mr and Mrs G B Harrison

The Parish Council resolved to support this Application. Proposed by Cllr Hirons and seconded by Cllr J Whelan. All were in favour.

Planning decisions received from Shropshire Council.

23/00213/DEM: Application for prior notification under Schedule 2 Part 11 Class B of the Town & Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 2015 for the demolition of the outbuilding attached to the farm house to the east of the main dwelling. The Lighteach, Lighteach Road, Prees, Whitchurch, Shropshire, SY13 2DR

Applicant: Warm Beautiful Homes Limited (Mr D Hill, 34 Green Lane, Walsall, WS2 8JH)

Decision: Withdrawn.

22/04887/FUL: Application under Section 73A of the Town And Country Planning Act 1990 for the change of use of land from agricultural to domestic garden land. Acorn Barn, Nook Lane, Weston Under Redcastle, Shrewsbury, Shropshire, SY4 5LP.

Decision: Grant Permission

22/04997/FUL: Demolition of existing redundant buildings and replace with 1No joinery workshop. Silver Birch, Lower Heath, Prees, Whitchurch, Shropshire, SY13 2BT

Decision: Withdrawn

22/04887/FUL: Acorn Barn, Nook Lane, Weston Under Redcastle, Shrewsbury, Shropshire, SY4 5LP

Proposal: Application under Section 73A of the Town And Country Planning Act 1990 for the change of use of land from agricultural to domestic garden land

Decision: Grant Permission

22/05076/FUL : Wood Bank, 3 Lacon Street, Prees, Whitchurch, Shropshire, SY13 2EP

Proposal: Erection of two storey rear extension

Decision: Grant Permission

22/05077/LBC: Wood Bank, 3 Lacon Street, Prees, Whitchurch, Shropshire, SY13 2EP

Proposal: Erection of two storey rear extension affecting a grade II listed building

Decision: Grant Permission

Other planning matters

It was noted that a couple of significant planning applications that had arrived too late for the current Agenda would be decided before the next Parish Council meeting. Therefore the clerk was asked to organize an Extraordinary meeting at which they could be considered within the appropriate time-frame.

022/23 Parish and Parish Council Matters

- Proposed changes to Prees Heath parking restrictions: consultation received. It was noted that this must have been received in error as outside our parish boundary. Clerk was asked to redirect it to Whitchurch Rural.
- The Square, Prees. Report of visit by Helen Morgan MP.
Cllrs who attended the meeting with Mrs Morgan made a brief report. Mrs Morgan had understood the Parish Council's frustration about the unresolved issue of The Square and had undertaken to pursue the matter through the solicitors/trustees handling the estate and also through Shropshire Council to ascertain what action can be taken. Clerk was asked to follow up with Mrs Morgan to re-iterate the PC's appreciation and to ensure she knew that the site was currently for sale through Berrys.
- Hazards caused by parked vehicles in village centre.
The senior officer at Prees Fire Station had again brought his concerns about obstruction caused at the Crossroads by thoughtlessly parked vehicles. He reported that a fire wagon had been significantly delayed in getting out of the centre of the village by just such a situation and the station had been reprimanded by his line-manager. He was understandably upset and frustrated by the situation. Clerk asked to write to SC to ask for renewal of double yellow lines and also additional signage asserting there is to be No Parking. Clerk to ask Leading Officer at the Fire Station to write to SC themselves too. A response had been received from the clerk's letter asking the two residents who live in Shrewsbury Street near Turnpike Rise to park their vehicles on the same side as everyone else. This had been received only shortly before the meeting, and was a lengthy response, so the clerk said she would circulate it to everyone after the meeting so that all had a chance to digest it properly.
- Bike stands for Prees centre. Clerk was authorised to buy two galvanised ones at a cost of £45.59 ex VAT each. Proposed by Cllr Hirons and seconded by Cllr D Ladd. All were in favour.
Cllr J Allen to find out if Fauls Church Hall has a need for bike racks and Cllr Hirons to ask the same question of Higher Heath Village Hall.
- Lack of burial space at St Chad's. Cllr M Lanham reported that a meeting with local land-owners is hoped for. Cllr Hirons reminded the meeting that it may be necessary to look further afield and that if anyone had ideas of suitable sites to please bring them forward.
- Hazardous parking outside Prees School. Cllr D Ladd to lead.
The huge concern and frustration apparent locally about the situation outside Prees School at the beginning and end of the day were again reiterated. Cllr Ladd expressed his deep concern about the traffic chaos that happens daily and said that he actually feels safer crossing the A49 on foot with his two young daughters than he does walking them to school. The clerk was asked to write to the Chief Executive at Shropshire Council to ask what the Council is going to do about this very hazardous situation. The Police are limited to an advisory role only, unless SC will make the zigzag lines enforceable by the imposition of a Traffic Regulation Order and the erection of signage.
- Station Road hazards for pedestrians. Cllr M Lanham advised that the cutting back of the foliage and the installation of an LED bulb in the street-lamp had helped but the other trees near it need ruthlessly chopping back to allow the street-lamp to do its job even better, and there is a need for an additional street-lamp where the off-set railings mark where the footpath joins Station Road. Clerk to pursue costing for this, and to check ownership of the said trees and acquire permission for the PC to chop them back or remove them. Clerk also to research 'Pedestrians in Road' signage.
- Should the PC employ a Lengthsman? Cllrs Mrs B Finch and Mrs B Rainford to lead.

Cllr Mrs Finch reported that Wem use monies acquired through the Environmental Maintenance Grant to pay a Lengthsman and Audlem pay an hourly rate.

Discussion ensued about the tasks that a lengthsman could usefully tackle in the Parish, such as clearing pavements of leaves and cleaning road signs etc. Cllr Hiron suggested that a clear and definitive list of tasks was the first requirement in moving the project forward.

Some cllrs felt strongly that the lengthsman would need to be seen to be active in all three wards, whereas others felt that most of his time should be devoted to the centre of Prees as the focal point of the Parish and the most closely-populated area.

Cllr J Whelan pointed out that much the easiest way to get tasks done would be to use contractors, maybe even our existing ones, so that the PC did not have to get involved in insurance, health and safety, provision of equipment etc. Cllr Hiron suggested that a budget could be set aside to fund the work. Clerk to find out if our current maintenance contractors are in a position to take on extra tasks.

- Heathgates Crossroads: possible closure of the road leading out to Sandford as a safety measure. The clerk reported that she had not been able to obtain an update on this matter. The last that she had heard was that it was still under consideration and had not been definitely approved. Cllr Lanham suggested that proper assessment would be needed to check the impact on other local roads as traffic was forced to find alternative routes. Clerk said she would continue to pursue an update.
- Community-led housing project. Cllr Hiron reported that there was to be a meeting of the Project Board the following evening, February 22nd, hopefully with news of when work would resume on site.
- PC's printer to be replaced by eco-ink-tank version? For some time the clerk has had some difficulty in sourcing ink cartridges for the PCs now quite old Epson printer and she is aware that at some point manufacture will stop. She has also learned that the printer is very much less economic to run than new printers that store a tank of ink, rather than using cartridges. She asked John Chipperfield of TechnoChip to quote for a replacement printer and these came in (ex VAT) at £370.83; £358.33 and £266.66. The PC is happy for the clerk to choose whichever printer she thinks is most appropriate, but was concerned that the £125.00 ex VAT quoted for installation of the printer seemed rather high. Clerk to ask John Chipperfield about this.
- Requests for funding from local village halls.
 1. Cllr D Ladd, in his capacity as Chair of Prees Village Hall Committee, asked the PC whether it would match grant funding of £500 already received, to pay for materials for the Scouts to use to re-decorate the Hall. He explained that the main outlay would be on re-flooring the stage, and that he was sure that this improvement would facilitate the increased use of the Hall. After discussion Cllr J Whelan proposed that the PC should give £500.00 and this was seconded by Cllr M Lanham. All were in favour.
 2. The PC had also received a request from Higher Heath Village Hall Committee for an unspecified contribution towards the cost of improvements to their Hall. The clerk was asked to write and ask for details of the work to be carried out and the proposed costs and anticipated total expenditure.
- Housekeeping.

Cllr J Whelan reported that the Prees Cricket and Recreation Club would be making a formal decision at their March meeting about whether to renew the lease on the Youth Shelter when it comes up for renewal in a few years' time. Based on this, the PC will have to decide whether or not to go ahead with repairs to the roof.

Cllr Hiron asked everyone to keep their eyes and ears open for information about how much the Youth Shelter is currently used. Clerk said she would make a visit to try to ascertain this.

It was noted that the fencing behind the bus-stop on Whitchurch Road, bordering The Hendersons' field, has still not been repaired by SC, whose responsibility it is, and the temporary orange hazard barricades are still there. Clerk to ask for update.

Potholes in Prees VH car park. Clerk to report to SC.
- Facebook.

The opening of a farm-shop in Twemlow's Wood bordering A41 at Higher Heath is being advertised on Facebook. Clerk to check whether there has been a planning application and make enquiries with Planning at SC if not.

Prees Auto Services. The PC has not received any notification of a planning application being submitted for the erection of the new building at the side of the original office. Clerk to follow up with SC Planning.

023/23 SALC Cllr Mrs B Rainford attended the meeting on 23 January 2023 and provided the following report.

Two interesting presentations: Hayley Deighton, Shropshire Council on the River Severn Alleviation Project which affects the whole of the River Severn including Ironbridge. A collaborative approach working with existing organisations and looking at ways of preventing both flooding – and drought. They will be using www.gocollaborate.co.uk to get ideas from everyone involved.

David Spicer - An Overview of Safeguarding

Ruyton XI Towns has developed a safeguarding policy covering vulnerable adults and children which has been presented to SALC for approval – to be sent out to councils soon. The presentation described several cases where reporting a concern – and following it up - can save a child's life.

Under 'Parish and Town Council Matters' I asked if other councils had churchyards with limited burial space – Ellesmere Town Council is in a similar situation to us. Ray Wickson, Chairman of SALC, asked for other councils with a problem to let him know.

024/23 Accounting Matters

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

Prees Parish Council Accounts for Payment : February 2023

	£
Mrs K Sieloff clerks salary February 2023	481.62
HMRC (PAYE)	8.12
Clerk's expenditure (10.1.23-14.2.23)	25.24
SALC: (Fundamentals for Cllrs training Nov 2022)	30.00
Scottish Power (streetlight energy 1.1.23-1.2.23)	222.57
Groundforce Landscape Ltd (Jan 2023))	26.64
Highline Electrical Ltd (Jan repairs)	1406.40
Garoll Construction Services Ltd	245.99
Technochip Services Ltd	255.00
Total	£ 2701.58

Clerk's expenditure 10.1.23-14.2.23

BT line rental contribution February 2023: £ 12.50

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

Stamps: 4 x 2nd class stamps @ 66p= £2.64

Printer paper x 1= £6.50

Total = £25.24

025/23 Correspondence.

An email had been received from Mr Jon Eastwood, who has recently joined WSP's Local Government Scheme, working on highway schemes funded either by Section 106 or Community Infrastructure Levies (CIL.) WSP currently have the contract for consultancy to Shropshire Council Highways. He has been asked to consider possible highway improvements in the vicinity of the development of Skylark Fields off Heathwood

Road in Higher Heath, and would like to invite the Parish Council's views on the proposed options. Clerk to invite Mr Eastwood to attend the March meeting.

026/23 Items for next Agenda.

Youth Shelter update. Lengthsman. Pedestrian crossing of A49 at top of Turnpike Rise.

Further bike racks? Coronation May 6th.

The matter of the possible need for lighting on the path to HH playing-field is noted for the April Agenda.

Cllr Hirons declared the meeting closed at 9.05 pm.

Signed.....

Date.....