

Minutes of the Prees Annual Parish Meeting  
held on Tuesday May 18<sup>th</sup> 2021 in Prees Village Hall at 8.00 pm.

Present were: Cllrs R Hirons; Mrs S Short; Mrs B Finch; Mrs B Rainford; Mrs D Foster; J Whelan; D Ladd; M Lanham; R List; J Allen and P Wynn. Mrs K Sieloff clerk to the Parish Council was also present.

1. Cllr R Hirons welcomed everyone to the Meeting.
2. Apologies had been received from Cllrs Mrs S Jones and Mrs S Short.
- 3 The Minutes of the previous Annual Parish Meeting held two years before on May 21<sup>st</sup> 2019, which had been circulated previously, were agreed to be a true record. It was proposed by Cllr Mrs D Foster that they should be signed and this was seconded by Cllr M Lanham. All were in favour and the Minutes were signed by the Chairman.
- 4 Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Previous Annual Parish Meeting.  
There were none.
- 5 Chairman's Report. Cllr Hirons delivered the following:

*I have great pleasure in presenting the Chair's Report for 2019/2021.*

*Many of you will notice the date and remember the period of lockdown due to the Covid 19 Pandemic. Covid 19 has played a great part in our Council life with meetings being undertaken through a new phenomenon called Zoom. It is with great credit to everyone that we were able to adopt this technology quickly and without the dire circumstances some areas faced when meetings may not have gone as was wished or planned for.*

*There have been many day-to-day issues dealt with by the Council and we have striven to take account of all views when making any recommendations or decisions. Facebook has, to a certain extent, added to our communications system together with an ever-improving web page. We do read and take action on any ideas conveyed to us via the internet and we do welcome any constructive comment about what our residents would like to see within the Parish.*

*During 2019/2021 reporting period our major achievement has been the planning for our Community Housing Project. At this stage the Project Board is expecting planning permission to be granted any day for the development of 27 Affordable Homes for local people to be built towards the Northern end of Whitchurch Road.*

*This project has been a collaboration between land-owner, Parish Council, residents, Shropshire Council, Wrekin Housing Trust and their partners. Working together we have been able to plan the provision of environmentally-friendly, efficient, high-spec homes for local people. They incorporate new energy-efficient technologies such as air-source heat pumps and solar panels which keep both their running costs and their impact on the environment low.*

*During this year we have been involved in consultations concerning many planning applications, some of which have presented challenges as well as the satisfaction for us of guiding and helping residents to build their dreams.*

*I would like to thank all those organisations who have helped us with our efforts to make the Parish a great place to live and work in. Amongst these are residents who have attended meetings, the Police, Litter Picking Group, Gardening Club, RBL, our Shropshire Council representative; apologies to anyone who has been missed out. Your help has always given us food for thought before we take any action.*

*It is pleasing to record that the budget we have set has been able to ensure that our precept has risen only by a very modest amount. We will continue to keep watch on our spend again this new Council year.*

*It would be remiss not to thank all the members of the Council. Everyone gives up valuable time to undertake their role and without any recompense, despite what rumour would have you believe. Everyone deserves a big pat on the back and on your behalf I thank them. Without them my role as Chair would be impossible to do. As an addition it is pleasing to note that the team remains intact after the recent elections but we do welcome anyone who wants to join us and would encourage them to make an application if a vacancy occurs.*

*Ofcourse we would struggle without a fantastic clerk. Our clerk keeps us on the straight and narrow: cajoling us when we falter and guiding us when we stray.*

*Thank you, Karen.*

*We look forward to another year and all the changes and challenges that the year may bring. We will do our best for the Parish as we continue to support it within the constraints we have in Local Government.*

## 6 Reports from local organisations

- Higher Heath Village Hall Committee

Cllr Ray Hirons delivered the following report:

*Due to the Covid Pandemic and lockdown rules the Committee decided to close the hall to all events during 2020 and 2021. Contact between Committee members was maintained through one Zoom meeting and email. The only time the hall was open was for the 2021 elections in May 2021.*

*During the period of closure security visits were made to the Hall building and grounds in accordance to Insurance purposes. In addition regular checks included water running to clear pipes.*

*Regular groups that use the HHVH continue to be:*

*St. Chad's Ladies*

*Tuesday Group*

*Whist Club*

*Friends of Higher Heath*

*The HHVH continues to remain viable.*

*It is hoped that the next AGM will be held in June 2021.*

- Elizabeth Barbour Charity and Prees Parochial Charities.

The clerk, who does the administration for the two charities, provided the following report:

*The Board of Trustees is due to meet as soon as restrictions allow. No donations have been made in the year ending March 31 2021.*

*Bank balances as at 31.3.21 are as follows:*

*Elizabeth Barbour Foundation: £2,225.51*

*Prees Parochial Charities: £1,840.37*

7 Questions or items raised by members of the Public.

There were none.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 8.10 pm.

Signed.....

Date.....