Minutes of a Meeting of Prees Parish Council

held on Monday March 18th 2024 at 7.15pm in Prees Village Hall.

Present: Cllrs Mrs S Short; Mrs S Jones; Mrs R Clutton; R Hirons; M Lanham; J Redgate; D Ladd; J Allen and P Wynn. Mrs K Sieloff clerk to the PC was also present.

**031/24 Public Session**. There were no members of the public present.

**032/24 Apologies**

Apologies had been received from Cllrs Mrs B Finch; Mrs L Baer; Mrs J Catterall and J Whelan.

**033/24 Disclosures of Pecuniary or Non-Pecuniary Interest.**

There were none.

**034/24 Signing of Minutes of Previous Meeting.**

The Minutes of the previous meeting held on 19.2.24 which had been previously circulated, were agreed to be a true record. It was proposed by Cllr Mrs S Jones that they should be signed and this was seconded by Cllr J Allen. All were in favour.

**035/24 Actions Arising from the Minutes not included on the Agenda.**

There were none.

**036/24 Community Policing.** There was no police officer in attendance and no report had been received.

**037/24 Shropshire Council report.**

Cllr P Wynn’s report made the following points:

* Planning application 23/04624/FUL: Erection of building for horse-riding practice and associated works to include change of use of land at Land South of Nook Lane, Weston-Under-Redcastle, will be considered by the Planning Committee on 9 April 2024.

He reminded the PC that someone could go to represent the objections voiced by local residents, in person, or a letter could be sent. Cllr Mrs S Short said she would be happy to attend. Cllr Wynn reminded her that she would have 3 minutes to speak.

* Shropshire Council is to introduce a 50p weekly charge for its Green Bin service.
* It is proposed that 2 out of the 5 recycling centres in Shropshire should be closed, as a cost-cutting action. No decision has been made yet.
* Pot-holes in the Village Hall car park are done.
* Electric car charging points are installed. Clerk to track down operating instructions.
* There are no plans to impose charges for parking at Prees car park.

**038/24 Planning Matters**

**Current planning applications for consultation**

24/00778/FUL: 36 Woodlands Grove, Prees Higher Heath, Whitchurch, Shropshire, SY13 2JB  
Proposal:  Erection of side and rear extension, internal alterations and associated works  
Applicant: Mr Connor McDermott (36 Woodlands Grove, Prees Higher Heath, Shropshire, SY13 2JB)

The PC resolved to support this Application. This was proposed by Cllr M Lanham and seconded by Cllr D Ladd. All were in favour.  
**Planning Decisions received from Shropshire Counci**l.

**24/00051/VAR**: Miami Cottage, Weston Under Redcastle, Shrewsbury, Shropshire, SY4 5LR  
Proposal:  Variation of condition (approved drawings) attached to planning permission ref 11/03321/FUL to increase the approved garage size. Decision:  Refuse.

**23/05475/VAR** : Green Lane Caravan And Camping Park, Green Lane, Prees, Whitchurch, Shropshire, SY13 2AH. Proposal:  Variation of condition 4 attached to planning permission 21/00943/FUL to allow year round holiday occupation on the site  
Decision:  Grant Permission  
**039/24 Parish and Parish Council Matters**

* Continuing concerns re parking on double yellow lines at Crossroads in Prees centre. Cllr Mrs S Short reported that SC Traffic Regulation Officers have been visiting the site. Residents have been encouraged to report offending drivers on-line to SC. Notices are in February and March editions of the Venture.
* Streetlighting matters.

1. Additional streetlamps Station Road. Cllr Mrs Short confirmed that the two additional streetlamps have been ordered from Highline Electrical Ltd, who will liaise with Shropshire Council concerning the installation procedure.
2. Solar footway lamps. After discussion it was resolved that solar-powered lamps should be provided at the two bus-stops on Shrewsbury Street as these are the only two bus-stops in Prees currently without the benefit of lighting. This was proposed by Cllr R Hirons and seconded by Cllr D Ladd. All were in favour. A bus-stop in Higher Heath at Skylark Fields has no lighting, but it was agreed in discussion that as Higher Heath residents voted at some point not to have street-lighting, consultation would be necessary before any lighting provision was considered for that ward.

* Improvements to playground facilities. Update from Playgrounds Group.

The local company whose local installations had impressed cllrs was currently not taking any new work on, as its order book was full for the next twelve months!

Clerk asked to set up a meeting with Ray Parry of Ray Parry Playgrounds, at Brades Road playground, to get his advice and quote for equipment.

Cllr Mrs S Jones said she had a contact within Shropshire Council who could be helpful and she would pass details on.

* Parish Map and its housing outside Village Hall need replacing. Clerk reported that the map is being printed on ‘bus-timetable material’ which should be fairly durable and so could be housed fairly economically. The map should be ready for collection any day.
* Reducing our community’s carbon footprint. Cllr Mrs S Short asked Cllr Dr J Redgate whether he would be prepared to take the lead on this on-going commitment for the PC.

Cllr Redgate indicated that he would be happy to do so and would be willing to attend the Carbon Literacy course run by Save Our Shropshire. Clerk to arrange.

* Fauls post-box and notice-board is difficult to access. Cllrs Dr J Redgate and J Allen are both aware that some Fauls residents have difficulty accessing the post-box and the PC notice-board outside Fauls Church Hall due to the slippery bank, etc.

It was acknowledged that this is not a new problem and Royal Mail had been approached before about the relocation of the post-box but with no satisfactory conclusion.

Cllrs Redgate and Allen to have a look and suggest a solution that addresses access to both the post-box and the notice-boards. Clerk to research whether there is a collect-from-home service offered by Royal Mail to those who find it difficult to get out to post letters.

* Roll-out of Full-Fibre Broadband in North Shropshire: update received from Freedom Fibre advising that the building of the necessary infrastructure will start imminently. A webinar on Wednesday 27 March 4-5pm will reveal detailed plans and answer questions.

Freedom Fibre are also launching a Freedom Fund which offers awards of up to £500 for green Community projects.

* Community-led building project. Steve Swann from Wrekin Housing has advised that the necessary discussions between legal representatives of the bodies involved in agreeing access over a small area of the land leased to the Medical Centre are progressing well. When these are successfully concluded Scottish Power will be able to announce a schedule for connecting the development site to mains power and Shropshire Council will adopt the access road.
* Infrastructure improvements. In response to an email from a resident, Cllr Mrs Short listed the improvements currently being undertaken.

1. The PC is making every effort to address the parking difficulties around Prees Primary School.
2. The pavement along Church Street is being cleared of overgrowth.
3. Use of Lacon Street is to be made safer by the installation of a vehicle speed monitor and the edges of the road will be tidied back and defined by the Lengthsman.

* Re-routing of footpath.

The PC has received notice that there is to be a diversion of the footpath at Upper Lacon Farm. The footpaths affected are part of FP1 (Wem Rural); FP 11 (Wem Rural) and part of FP3A (Prees Parish.) The diversion takes the path away from the workings of the farm to follow the field edge and adds 440m to its length. Extinguishment of part of BW98 (Wem Rural) is also entailed. The diversion is made at the request of the landowner, who will bear the costs incurred.

* Grants and Donations. Cllr Mrs S Short delivered the following report:

1. Lower Heath School car parking provision: the Headteacher has submitted an application through the school system in the hope of securing Trust fund monies. A response is not anticipated before Summer 2024.
2. Prees Primary School Daily Mile track: the School has so far raised £5000 towards the £16,500 needed. The Headteacher has confirmed that grants have been applied for from various sources but without much success. A donation of £1500 from Tesco is dependent on work starting by the end of May 2024.

Clerk to find out who the owner of the old ‘tip’ site in Lacon Street is, as it is believed that there are community funds to be applied for from that source.

The PC discussed whether it should make a donation at this point.

Unanimous decision was made to postpone the decision until April meeting.

In the meantime Cllr Mrs Short will go back to the School and check the level of accessibility that will be offered to the public if the track is installed.

1. Defibrillator provision at local Village/Church Halls. Cllr D Ladd explained that the defibrillators at Prees Village Hall and Fauls Church Hall were paid for by Prees Club funds. Replacement pads are now needed for the one at Prees Village Hall (at a cost of about £200) but it was thought that replacing the whole unit might be more cost-effective. Cllr Ladd expressed the view that it is not reasonable to expect the Halls to bear the costs of the defibrillator provision.

Clerk was asked to ascertain who takes responsibility for managing the defibs at Fauls and Higher Heath and to find out cost of replacement units.

**040/24 House keeping**

1. Clerk was asked to report, again, the ‘ski-jump’ uneven surface on Station Road.
2. Water main burst at Darliston. Clerk to report.
3. Blocked culverts and potholes in Fauls. Clerk to liaise with Hodnet clerk about shared problems near boundaries.
4. Damaged road sign at Heathgates Crossroads needs replacing. Clerk to report.

**041/24 Facebook**

Nothing currently to report.

**042/24 SALC**

Nothing currently to report.

**043/24 Accounting Matters**

Accounts for Payment March 2024

£

K D Sieloff salary March 2024 552.54

HMRC 31.20

K D Sieloff (clerk’s expenditure 9.2.24-11.3.24) 31.36

Prees Village Hall Trust 16/10; 20/11; 18/12/23; 15/1;19/2; 18/3/24 150.00

Groundforce Landscape Ltd ( February 2024) 264.22

Scottish Power (streetlight energy1.2.24-1.3.24) 382.17

Technochip Computers Ltd 255.00

Highline Electrical Ltd 381.60

Prees Baptist Church 851.99

Total 2,900.08

**Additional invoices**

J S Ridgway & Sons 120.00

Pimlotts Grounds Maintenance Ltd 320.00

**Grand Total 3,340.08**

Clerk’s expenditure 9.2.24-11.3.24)

*BT line rental contribution March 2024: £ 12.50*

*Petrol:1 x trip to noticeboards (February Agenda etc) 8 miles @ 45p per mile =£3.60*

*Stamps:6 x second class stamps @ 75p = £4.50*

*Self-adhesive dog poo bins signs: £10.76.*

Total = £31.36

It was proposed by Cllr M Lanham that the accounts should be paid and this was seconded by Cllr Mrs S Jones. All were in favour.

**044/24 Correspondence**

A resident from Higher Heath had emailed the PC to say that he had noticed what a difference the work of the Lengthsman team was making in the Parish, and how he had noticed and approved the team’s impressive work ethic.

**045/24 Items for next Agenda**

As identified in Minutes.

**046/24 Move to Exclude Press and Public**.

Proposal:That under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the public and representatives of the press and broadcast media be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the following items of business as publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest because of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted. This was proposed by Cllr Mrs S Short and seconded by Cllr M Lanham. All were in favour and the meeting continued in private session.