

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Prees Parish Council held on Tuesday May 17th 2022
at 7.00 pm in the Village Hall.

Present were Cllrs Mrs B Finch; Mrs L Baer; Mrs B Rainford; J Whelan; M Lanham and D Ladd together with Mrs K Sieloff, clerk to the Parish Council. PCSO Graeme Baines attended, and Reverend Deborah Walton and Mrs Bridget Hodges attended to represent Prees Parochial Church Council. There were also four members of the public.

053/22 Chairman Cllr R Hirons was unable to attend because of ill-health, and Vice-Chair Cllr Mrs S Short was also unable to attend. Cllr M Lanham proposed that Cllr J Whelan should Chair the meeting and this was seconded by Cllr Mrs B Rainford. All were in favour.

054/ 22: Election of Chairman of the Parish Council and signing of Declaration of Acceptance of Office. Cllr R Hirons had indicated his willingness to continue as Chair and there were no other nominations. It was proposed by Cllr Mrs B Rainford that he should continue in the office, and this was seconded by Cllr J Whelan. All were in favour. Cllr Hirons to sign a Declaration of Acceptance of Office at or before the next meeting.

055/22 Election of Vice-chairman of the Parish Council. Cllr Mrs S Short and Cllr J Whelan had both expressed an interest in being Vice-Chair. There were no other nominations. There was some discussion around Cllr Mrs Short's current inability to attend PC meetings and so to stand in for the Chair if necessary. Cllr J Whelan said he would happily fulfil the role of Vice-Chair in the interim until Cllr Mrs Short could return to full duties. Cllr M Lanham proposed that Cllr Whelan should be Vice-Chair and this was seconded by Cllr D Ladd. All were in favour. The clerk apologises that she omitted to ask Cllr Whelan to sign a Declaration of Acceptance of Office, and he will be asked to do so at or before the next Parish Council Meeting.

056/22. Apologies received from Cllrs R Hirons; Mrs S Short; Mrs S Jones; Mrs D Foster; R List; J Allen and P Wynn.

057/22 Open session for Members of the Public to speak to the Parish Council. A resident, and potential occupant, attended to ask for an update on what was happening at the development of affordable homes on Whitchurch Road. The PC was able to confirm that Hawk was indeed now in receivership, but that the build would definitely be completed, albeit on a delayed timescale. The clerk assured the parishioner that his interest in one of the properties was on record, and he would be advised as soon as he needed to take any further action. Another resident asked if there was any progress on getting the 30mph limit extended along the length of Whitchurch Road out to the A49. Clerk was asked to see if Cllr P Wynn could find anything out. The matter of subsidence on Station Road was also raised. Clerk to ask SC for progress report.

058/22 For Members to disclose any personal and prejudicial interest in any items on the agenda for this meeting. Cllr J Whelan disclosed an interest in the item discussing the proposed contribution to the catering expenses for the Platinum Jubilee at the Rec Club.

059/22 Minutes of the previous meeting held on Tuesday April 19th 2022, circulated previously, were agreed to be a true record and it was proposed by Cllr M Lanham that they should be signed. This was seconded by Cllr Mrs L Baer and all were in favour. Cllr Whelan signed the Minutes.

060/22 Matters arising from the Minutes (which are not included on the Agenda.)

- Pallets outside Convenience Store in Prees village centre: SC have confirmed that Streetscene officers spoke to the manager of the store, advising him to only put the pallets out for collection either the night before, or on the day they are to be removed, which he has agreed to do.
- Shropshire Council have confirmed that the double yellow lines at Berwick Close are not official, have no authority, and have presumably been painted on by the development contractors. Berwick Close is unadopted and there is no Traffic Regulation Order. The Traffic Engineers have forwarded the information to Highway Development Control. We await their response.
- HH bus shelter bench. Installation delayed by opposition from resident. Another attempt will be made as soon as possible.

- Shropshire Council confirms that permanent closure of road at Heathgates Crossroads is going forward. Engineering design consultants WSP are progressing the scheme and there is a meeting due shortly. The Parish Council will be consulted about the details in due course.
- Items regarding dog excrement and electrical car charging points have been carried forward to the next Agenda in an effort to keep the current Agenda brief.
- Two solar powered vehicle speed monitors have been ordered and delivery expected imminently.

061/22 Lack of burial space at St Chad's. This item was brought forward at the request of the acting Chair. Mrs Bridget Hodges reminded the Meeting that despite all the efforts to investigate the possibility of re-using parts of the Churchyard for new burials, in 2020 it was definitively decided that this would not be possible. This means that Prees Churchyard will have to be closed although there will still be room for burial of ashes. She advised that local residents can be buried in Wem or in Whitchurch, although burial in either place is more expensive than Prees burials have been.

Cllr Lanham made mention of land adjoining the Churchyard, formerly in the possession of Mrs Mary Hopwood, but now believed to belong to the Edwards family: had the Parochial Church Council made any approach?

Rev Deb Walton advised that the PCC is not permitted to purchase land for burial whereas the PC could purchase land anywhere and designate it a parish burial ground. She suggested a joint application to the landowner might be possible. Land would have to be donated to the Church, but the PC could offer to buy. It was commented that it is up to the people of the Parish to say what they want Parish Council funds spent on. It was generally agreed that it would be worth establishing whether the Edwards family would be prepared to consider donating or selling a parcel of land for burial use.

062/22 Appointment of Representatives to outside bodies.

Prees Village Hall (mgt committee)	currently Cllr Mrs B Finch
Higher Heath Village Hall	currently Cllr R Hirons
Prees Cricket & Rec. Club	currently Cllr J Whelan
Prees Parochial/ Elizabeth Barbour Charities	currently Cllr J Allen
North Shropshire Area Committee/SALC	currently Cllr Mrs B Rainford
RAF Shawbury Liaison Group	currently Cllr Mrs S Short
Prees Primary School Lay Governor	currently Cllr Mrs B Finch
Parish Paths representative	currently Cllr M Lanham

None of the representatives expressed a wish to relinquish an appointment apart from Cllr Mrs B Finch who stood down from her appointment as Prees Primary School Lay Governor and was replaced in that role by Cllr D Ladd.

063/22 Review of Policies etc.

- Councillors report back on their perusal of the following Parish Council documents; Standing Orders; Financial Regulations; Social Media Policy; Code of Conduct; Risk Assessment; Freedom of Information; Complaints Policy;

With only very minor edits necessary, the documents were unanimously approved for another year.

- Bank Signatories. (Currently Cllrs R Hirons; Mrs S Short; J Allen and J Whelan.) No change.
- Agree representatives for
 - Play Area Committee (currently Cllrs R Hirons and Mrs B Finch.) No change.
 - Clerk's Appraisal and Review panel (currently Cllrs M Lanham and J Allen.) No change.

064/22 Schedule of meeting dates for rest of the year. (Previously circulated.) The proffered schedule was approved: all meetings for the coming year to be on the third Tuesday of the month at 7 pm.

065/22 Shropshire Council (SC) report. Cllr P Wynn had sent his Apologies, and asked to have the following report read out:

“Good Evening. First of all I would like to update you as to the news regarding Highways.

-The council are going to provide a further 20 million pounds on top of the 40 million over the next 3 years.

-Over 25,000 potholes have been repaired in the last financial year, over 90% of those are permanent, first time repairs. Shropshire Council are working with Whitchurch Driving Centre, local members and driving instructors to find a new home for a test centre which will be fantastic for North Shropshire.

-Shropshire Council's children's services department have recently been rated 'Good' by Ofsted.

-In addition, Shropshire Council have been awarded 'Good' by a recent Ofsted report.

- Shropshire Council have decided to ban all releases of sky lanterns and balloons on its' property and have asked the government to consider a nationwide ban on all releases. This is to prevent harm to wildlife and livestock and reduce the risk of accidental fires and littering.

-People who have registered for a third wheelie bin will begin receiving them as we speak. The whole county should be covered within a couple of months. People can still order a third bin but new orders won't be delivered until the current 70,000 plus have been distributed.

-Shropshire Council have invested 59 million into road maintenance over the last four years.

-The first properties built by Cornovii have been completed and all sales have gone exclusively to Shropshire residents or people with Connections to Shropshire.

Best regards Paul Wynn."

066/22 Community Policing report.

Unfortunately PCSO Graeme Baines had had to leave the meeting by this time. (The Chair asked to record his apology to PCSO Baines for not bringing this item forward.) The Chair read out the policing report provided, as follows.

Incidents to be aware of in the month of April 2022.

- 6 x concern for safety incidents at Higher Heath; Prees Heath and Prees.
- 5 x Highway incidents at A41 Prees Heath; A41 Sandford.
- 4 x Road Traffic Collisions Manor House Lane; Heath Road; A41 Prees Heath; B5065 Prees Green.
- 2 x ASB/Neighbour Disputes Prees; Higher Heath.
- 2 x Public Order offences Prees Primary School and Higher Heath.
- 2 x Suspicious Circumstances Higher Heath.
- 1 x Vehicle Nuisance Prees Heath.
- 1 x Missing Person, Prees.
- 1 x Criminal Damage Manor Place, Higher Heath.
- 1 x Assault Prees.

Cllr Whelan also read out information from local Police regarding the limitations of data collected from Community vehicle speed monitors. The Road Safety Team advises that data collected can be unreliable and so cannot be used as supporting evidence. This is partly because skewed readings are possible: for example the monitor may record the speed of a flap on a lorry flying about in the wind, rather than the speed of the vehicle itself. However it is still useful for the Safer Neighbourhood Team to be aware of where the perceived issues are and there are more visits from the speed gun planned to our area.

067/22 Planning Matters.

Current Applications for consultation:

- 22/01862/FUL: Erection of single storey extension to rear. Leyan, 6 Sylvan Close, Higher Heath, Whitchurch, Shropshire. (This application was discovered to be already determined, and so was not discussed.)

Planning decisions received from Shropshire Council.

- 22/01070/FUL: The Granary, Heathgates, Lower Heath, Prees, Shropshire SY13 2AJ. Erection of single storey rear extension and conversion of existing outbuildings to provide annex ancillary to main dwelling and workshop. Decision: Withdrawn.
- 22/00413/FUL: Laurel Bank, Painters Lane, Fauls, Whitchurch, Shropshire SY13 2AT. Erection of two-storey extension. Decision: Refuse.

- 22/00491/FUL : Site Of Former Filling Station, Sandford, Whitchurch, Shropshire
Change of use of former filling station to timber storage yard (B8 - Storage and Distribution)
Decision: Refuse

068/22 Parish and Parish Council Matters.

- Prees Walking Group : Report to Parish Council. Cllr Lanham reported on the activities of the Prees Walking Group, formed in 2018 and incorporating the Parish Paths Partnership group. At that time over 10 miles of the 36 miles of Public Rights of Way in Prees Parish were unwalkable. Monthly walks organised by the group have proved extremely popular and volunteer groups have cleared blocked rights of way, liaising with land-owners and installing infrastructure provided by Shropshire Council. Seven clearly waymarked walks have been established. A map and walking notes for each one is available on the Parish Council website. Currently, it is estimated that 34 of the 36 miles of local Rights of Way are fully walkable.
Cllr Whelan thanked Cllr Lanham for the marvellous job that he and his team have done and are doing to ensure that everyone can easily enjoy our miles of local paths.
- Platinum Jubilee Celebrations June 2-5 2022
 1. Parish Council resolved to contribute £200.00 towards the cost of refreshments at Beacon lighting ceremony at Prees Cricket and Recreation Club for Platinum Jubilee. Proposed by Cllr Mrs B Rainford and seconded by Cllr Mrs L Baer. All were in favour.
 2. Clerk was asked to keep the presentation of the PC Stall on the Sunday light and not too wordy. Suggestions of balloons/sweets/quiz were made. Clerk to spend not more than £100.00: proposed by Cllr Mrs L Baer and seconded by Cllr M Lanham. All were in favour.
 3. Final arrangements for Beacon lighting were made.
- Parish Council supper at Bull and Dog confirmed for 7 June 2022. Those who want to do walk led by Cllr Lanham before supper, congregate in pub car park at 6. Sit down for meal at 7.30pm.
- Update on plans to make the War Memorial gardens in Prees less labour intensive. Cllr J Whelan explained that the current design of the gardens around the War Memorial needed rationalisation as the upkeep was onerous and volunteers were ageing. All the bulbs were to be lifted and given away. There were other plans under discussion also, to be revealed in due course.
- Insurance policy due for renewal. Clerk advised that the forthcoming renewal at £638.40 was the last year of the current three year fixed term agreement.

069/22 SALC. Nothing to report.

070/22 Accounting Matters

- Accounts for Payment May 2022

	£
Mrs K Sieloff clerks salary May 2022	481.62
HMRC (PAYE)	8.12
Clerks expenditure (12.4.22-10.5.22)	20.72
Business Services @ CAS Ltd	638.40
Scottish Power (streetlight energy 1.4.22-30.4.22)	475.07
Groundforce Landscape Ltd (works April 2022)	467.64
Highline Electrical Ltd (April 2022)	<u>367.20</u>
Total	2458.77

Clerk's expenditure 12.4.22-10.5.22

BT line rental contribution May 2022: £ 12.50

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

Stamps: 7 x 2nd class stamps @ 66p=£4.62 Total=£20.72

- Precept of £26,284.88 received late April
- Neighbourhood Fund of £31,587.00 also received.

071/22 Housekeeping: Nothing new to report.

072/22 Facebook: Nothing current to report.

073/22 Correspondence.

- Resident in Lighteach Road complaining about noise from cockerel in Station Road. Clerk advised resident to direct his complaint to SC Environmental Protection.
- Letter from resident in Moreton Street asking who is responsible for the verges in MS and Primrose Lane, and the maintenance of the roads. Clerk responded with information.
- Letter from resident concerned that the No Road Markings warning on Green Lane is obscuring visibility at the crossroads. Clerk will check if the sign is still there and report to SC if it is.

074/22 Items for next Agenda.

Burial ground

Dog waste

Horticultural matters: wildflower verge; Jubilee tree.

Electrical car charging point.

Meeting was closed at 8.40 pm.

Signed.....

Date.....