

**Minutes of Prees Parish Council Meeting held at Prees Village Hall**  
**on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> September 2016.**

**Present were:**

**Cllrs R Hiron (Chairman), J Whelan (Vice Chairman), Mrs B Finch, Mrs S Jones, Mrs S Short, J Allen, P Gill and M Lanham; Mrs K Sieloff Clerk to the Council; Inspector Richard Bailey; CSO Chris Hiron and 11 members of the public.**

**Apologies for absence had been received from:** Cllrs B Collins (away) P Wynn (unavailable) J Smith (work) R List (unwell) and Mrs B Rainford (work.)

**Disclosure of Interests:** Cllr Mrs S Short declared a non-pecuniary interest in 16/03973/OUT as she lives on School Lane. Cllr Mrs S Jones declared a non-pecuniary interest in 16/03973/OUT as the Applicant is a work colleague. Cllr J Whelan declared a non-pecuniary interest in 16/03973/OUT as the Applicant is a work colleague and a pecuniary interest in 16/03422/FUL as he is himself one of the Applicants.

**095/16 Public Session.**

Mrs Bate (in support of Planning Application 16/03973/OUT) spoke of her concerns for safety on the road at Lower Heath School. The current speed limit is 30 mph, which is not adhered to. She expressed the opinion that getting even some of the cars off the road would improve safety for children and parents.

Mrs Simmonds (in support of Planning Application 16/03973/OUT) spoke of her hope to build a home that would enable her to be close to her mother, who is in need of support, and also to be in a position to offer some land to the school which could help to prevent another traffic accident like the horrible one involving her niece.

Mr R Haines (in support of Planning Application 16/03556/FUL) said that he had no plans to increase the number of birds he kept; that waste disposal was efficiently arranged with a farmer; that his business was monitored and audited; that his birds were healthy and that all complaints against him had been over-ruled.

Neighbours of Mr Haines (objecting to Planning Application 16/03556/FUL) expressed the opinions that there are more birds kept than stated; that the fences are poor; that the entrance to the field is unsuitable for lorries; that the poly tunnels are large and close to dwellings and that the approach road is not suitable for extra traffic.

**096/16 Minutes of the previous meeting.**

Proposed by Cllr P Gill, seconded by Cllr J Whelan that the Minutes of the previous meeting held on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> August 2016 be signed as a true record of that meeting. **All agreed.** No matters arising.

**097/16 Shropshire Council Report**

No SC report. Cllr R Hiron relayed from Cllr P Wynn that he was unfortunately still unable to contact Mr Hollis concerning the houses at The Square in Prees. To be carried forward to next Agenda. Cllrs expressed disappointment that they had not recently seen Cllr P Wynn or received a full Report from him.

**098/16 Community Policing.**

Inspector Richard Bailey reported on Operation Triumph, an initiative to encourage motor-cyclists to enjoy their bikes safely and responsibly. Operation Triumph ran from 30 March to 25 September in South Shropshire, with North Shropshire being included halfway through the year. An Operational

Policing Unit used high-capability vehicles with cameras to target unlawful and dangerous riders, with the aim of re-education and enforcement. Numbers of Killed and Seriously Injured in South Shropshire have been significantly reduced and Inspector Bailey intends to see that effected in the North of the county too, and planning for this for next year will start shortly. The A41 and A49 currently attract more accidents than any other roads in Shropshire.

Inspector Bailey advised that speeding or other dangerous driving can best be reported by dialling 101 and supplying a vehicle registration and time of incident. More general concerns can be fed through the Parish Council.

CSO Chris Hirons reported that since the last meeting there have been 7 recorded crimes in the Prees Parish area: 1 sexual offence (lewd messages); 1 criminal damage; 4 assaults; 1 burglary.

There have also been a number of reports of scam calls requesting personal information such as bank details, etc. Police advice is, if in doubt, hang up the phone or close the door.

Smart Water. During the period 1<sup>st</sup> March – 18<sup>th</sup> September 2016 there has only been one burglary within the Smart Water area, compared to five in the same period last year. If anyone is still waiting for a Smart Water pack, please contact CSO Hirons.

#### 099/16 **Planning**

**16/03452/FUL** – Mr A Grocott – The Tumps, Lower Heath, Prees – Retrospective Application for the installation of three grain silos to hold pheasant feed on existing pheasant-rearing site.

Proposed by Cllr J Whelan and seconded by Cllr P Gill that the Council supports the Application. **All agreed.**

**16/03556/FUL** – Mr R Haynes – Smithy Cottage, Sandford, Whitchurch – Application for the permanent retention of two poly-tunnels to house free-range egg-laying birds.

Cllr J Whelan read from a letter from Natural England voicing strong objections to the Application on environmental grounds, and coupled with their original reasons for objection to the Application which still stood, it was proposed by Cllr P Gill and seconded by Cllr Mrs S Jones that the Council object to the Application. **All agreed.**

*(Cllr J Whelan left the Meeting at this point in proceedings.)*

**16/03422/FUL** – Mr and Mrs J Whelan – Eastwick Farm, Whitchurch Road, Prees – Application for the creation of an equestrian ménage for private use with lighting, new stable block and extension of existing barn to provide tractor/machinery secure store.

Proposed by Cllr R Hirons and seconded by Cllr M Lanham that the Council support the Application provided that the bat report is formalised and light management guidelines are stipulated. **All agreed.**

*(Cllr J Whelan returned to the Meeting at this point in proceedings.)*

**16/02599/REM** – Mr K Carty – The Pines, Mill Lane, Higher Heath – Reconsultation due to Amendment on Application – Reserved Matters Application to include appearance, landscaping and scale in accordance with Outline Planning Permission 14/05182/OUT for residential development comprising 20 dwellings.

The Cllrs noted that the previous sewerage issue had been resolved and that acoustic fencing had been approved. Their only remaining concern was that dwellings 17, 18 and 19 should remain single-storey.

Proposed by Cllr P Gill and seconded by Cllr J Allen that the Council support the Application. **All agreed.**

**16/03973** – Mrs D Simmons – Land North of B5065, Lower Heath, Prees – Outline Application (all matters reserved) for the erection of eco-dwelling with double garage.

It was noted that this is a plan for a house to be built in open countryside, which is contrary to current Planning guidelines, although of course the offer of parking for the school local to the proposed site is attractive. Could this Application be a Special Exception because of benefit to the school through the increased safety of its users? The Applicant is prepared for the school to choose the area of land it would find most beneficial. Councillors were in agreement that a much more detailed plan was necessary to assess the precise benefit to the school. Cllr R Hirons recommended that the Applicant discuss the plan in more detail with Shropshire Council and the school. It was proposed by Cllr R Hirons and seconded by Cllr J Allen that the Council should object to the Application. **All agreed.**

**100/16 Parish Matters.**

- Meeting with David Gradwell at Heathgates crossroads has been arranged for 28<sup>th</sup> September 2016. Report to be included in next Agenda.
- Lighteach Road street lamp nuisance. Awaiting quotes for possible remedies. Clerk to pursue.
- Lime trees: Cllr J Allen reported that the trees are currently trimmed by the hedge-trimmer, but the canopies need raising or the trees could be pollarded. He also noted that the ground beneath the trees is in need of maintenance. Cllr Allen said he would be happy to meet with tree-surgeons quoting on-site. Cllr Allen and Cllr P Gill agreed to talk about a plan for this area which is, all agreed, an important entrance to the village.
- The Square, Prees. Mr Denzil Hollis has been seen, but we await further information from Cllr P. Wynn.

**101/16 Parish Council (PC) matters.**

**Chairmanship board updating:** Mr R Bickley has quoted a sum of £10.00 to update the inscriptions. Clerk to arrange for the completion of this work.

**Severn Trent:** Clerk awaiting response to her letter enquiring about Severn Trent's strategic plan for our area.

**Shropshire Council Clustering Meeting:** 11<sup>th</sup> October 2016 at 5.30 pm. The Cllrs are concerned that the impact on Parish Councils of taking on provision of these expensive facilities will be huge. Cllr R Hirons urged as many councillors as possible to attend this meeting.

**Completion of External Audit:** the Clerk reported that the External Audit has been completed successfully and that the certified Annual Return will be made available by the end of the month for members of the public to read or purchase.

**Support for new clerk from Mrs L Rumney the previous clerk:** Proposed by Councillor J Whelan and seconded by Cllr Mrs S Short that the current provision should continue until the end of October and be reviewed then. **All agreed.**

**102/16 Payment of Accounts.**

Proposed by Cllr P Gill, seconded by Cllr J Allen that the following accounts be paid

Accounts for Payment -20 September 2016	
Mrs K Sieloff - September salary	£ 419.43
Jones Lighting – maintenance and repairs	£ 1029.22
Scottish Power – street light energy	£ 158.78
	<hr/>
TOTAL	£ 1607.43

**103/16 Play Areas.**

Repairs to new equipment at Higher Heath: Cllr R Hirons reported that the orange handles have been replaced at no cost, by the suppliers. He suggested photographs and a short article concerning the new equipment be given to the local Press. Clerk to ask the Lottery grant-providers what they advise.

Estimates for possible demolition of Pavilion, Higher Heath: Clerk reported only one estimate has so far been received, and that is in excess of £8000. This led to discussion of other ideas for the future of the building: would it be possible to rent it out as an office/storage space? All agreed that the Clerk should research the legalities of the situation and that the matter should be put on the next Agenda.

ROSPA reports: Cllr R Hirons fed back from a meeting held to consider these Reports on 15<sup>th</sup> September 2016. All risks involved are low, but there is a short list of minor repairs to be made immediately and other issues will be tackled as and when they become necessary. Councillors agreed Clerk to liaise with Mr J Walker to get the minor matters dealt with and Clerk to obtain quote from suppliers Streetscape to replace broken seat.

**104/16 Correspondence.**

A letter was received from Mrs Sally Pearson on behalf of the group of volunteers who maintain the Prees War Memorial requesting a donation for the cost of replacing top-soil. Cllr J Allen said that his business would be happy to provide top-soil and he would speak to Mrs Pearson himself.

SALC course: ‘Are You Prepared for New Councillors?’ 28<sup>th</sup> October 2016. Proposed by Cllr Mrs S Jones and seconded by Cllr J Allen that the Clerk should attend this course.

Cheque for £500.00 received from Grocontinental as a donation towards Higher Heath playground equipment.

**105/16 Future Agenda Items**

Manor Place streetlights: go off at midnight.

Moreton Street: flooding.

*Meeting closed at 9.25pm.*

**CHAIRMAN** .....

**DATED** .....