

Minutes of Prees Parish Council Meeting
held on 19th September 2017 at 7 pm in Prees Village Hall

Present were: Cllrs R Hirons (Chair); Mrs S Short; Mrs L Baer; Mrs D Foster; Mrs B Finch; J Whelan; M Lanham; Also present were Ms Nicola Fisher Senior Community Enablement Officer and Ms Belinda Doolan our area Community Enablement Officer from SC; Mr John Hughes Development Manager from Shropshire Wildlife Trust; Mrs K Sieloff clerk to the Council and one member of the public.

105/17 Public Session : There were no matters brought before the Parish Council by members of the public.

106/17 Apologies

Apologies received from Cllrs Mrs S Jones; Mrs B Rainford; R List; J Allen; D Ladd; P Wynn.

107/17 Disclosure of Pecuniary/Non-Pecuniary interests

There were none.

108/17 Signing of Minutes (previously circulated.) The Minutes were agreed to be a true record of the meeting held on 15th August 2017. Cllr J Whelan proposed that they should be signed and this was seconded by Cllr Mrs S Short. All were in favour and the Chairman duly signed the Minutes.

109/17 Ms Nicola Fisher, Senior Community Enablement Officer from Shropshire Council, spoke about the Community Infrastructure Levy and the associated Neighbourhood Fund. She explained that the CIL is a tax on development which aims to facilitate development or ameliorate the effects of it. For every £100.00 collected, 5% goes on administration costs to SC and 15% is contributed to the Neighbourhood Fund. Of the remaining 80%, 10% goes into the bigger strategic pot for large projects, while most of the remainder goes into CIL Local to be spent in the local area. The spending of the Neighbourhood Fund is under the control of the Parish Council (with approval from SC) but if the PC wants funds from the larger pool of resource it must submit an 'expression of interest.' Ms Fisher emphasised that the spending of the Neighbourhood Fund must be linked to development or its consequences, but that the area of benefit is assumed to be wide, so that the money does not have to be spent in the direct vicinity of the development attracting the Neighbourhood Fund. Ms Fisher also assured the Parish Council that SC would not 'claw back' unspent Neighbourhood Fund monies as long as it can be demonstrated that the monies are being accrued with a purpose in mind. She also reiterated that an up-to-date Place Plan is an important stepping stone for gaining approval of spending as it clearly prioritizes prevailing need. Cllr R Hirons thanked Ms Fisher for her informative input and said he looked forward to the forthcoming presentation at Shirehall on 'Neighbourhood and Other Plans' which he hoped would lend additional clarity to the process ahead. Ms Belinda Doolan, our local Community Enablement Officer, spoke to introduce herself and to offer her support and assistance. Cllr Hirons thanked both officers for attending and they left.

110/17 Mr John Hughes from Shropshire Wildlife Trust spoke to the Parish Council about the possibility of Prees Parish Council applying for a grant from The Heritage Lottery Fund for activities organised by the Wildlife Trust to commemorate the part that Prees Heath played in World War One. Several of the councillors expressed disquiet about the fact that Prees Heath does not lie within the boundaries of Prees Parish, but falls under the auspices of Whitchurch Rural Parish Council. Some councillors also expressed the opinion that Prees Parish Council should be putting all its energy and resource into endeavours within the parish boundary, not outside it. Cllr R Hirons thanked Mr Hughes for attending the meeting and Mr Hughes left. After further discussion, Cllr Hirons proposed that Prees Parish Council should not apply for the suggested funding on the grounds that the area to benefit was outside the parish boundary and that there were concerns around the funding mechanism. This was seconded by Cllr Mrs D Foster. All were in favour. Clerk to advise Mr Hughes of the decision.

111/17 Actions arising from the Minutes.

- Cllr J Whelan reported that he had logged Prees Parish Council's decision not to support the mergence of the governance, strategic and operational management of Hereford and Worcester's Fire and Rescue Service with Shropshire Fire and Rescue Service under the jurisdiction of the West Mercia Police and Crime Commissioner.
- Leak in main street in Faults. Clerk heard from Highways that they have already sent two emails to Severn Trent about this, as they do not think it is a Highways issue. Clerk will pursue response to her email to ST.
- Speeding vehicles on B5065 at Lower Heath. David Gradwell from Highways responded that he will forward the request for traffic-calming measures for consideration for funding as part of next year's Capital Programme.
- Safety of pedestrians crossing A49. David Gradwell will have distance plates added to the existing warning signs, now, and there will be a possibility of additional 'pedestrians crossing' signs in the new financial year.

112/17 Shropshire Council report. Cllr R Hirons reported that Cllr P Wynn was away. No report was forthcoming.

113/17 Community Policing Report. PCSO Chris Hirons was in attendance to deliver his report. He advised that in the reporting period there had been 7 crimes recorded: two cases of harassment; two commercial burglaries; one vehicle theft; one domestic incident and one road traffic collision. There were a further 48 incidents reported to the Police and requiring some sort of Police action or input. Of these, PCSO Hirons sought to bring the following to our attention:

- Cold callers/suspicious strangers. Do not open the door to unexpected callers and check the ID of those who claim to be on official business.
- Incidents involving motorbikes are more common on days other than Thursdays and Sundays. Traffic calming measures and speed checks are being undertaken. Safer Roads Partnership's speed van is also in regular attendance.

In the lead up to Halloween and Bonfire Night there will be various events providing advice to residents:

- 1.10.17 at Prees Village Hall car park 12-2pm.
- 8.10.17 at Sainsburys Whitchurch 10am-2pm
- 25.10.17 at Holly Farm Nursery 2-5pm.

Forthcoming PACT surgeries

- 28.9.17 at 2.30pm; 16.10.17 at 11am; 2.11.17 at 11am.

114/17 17Planning. Current Applications.

- 17/03848/FUL: Erection of agricultural portal frame building to house dairy cows. Fernyleas, Station Road, Prees SY13 2DW. The Parish Council resolved to support this Application as long as conditions imposed by statutory consultees were adhered to. Proposed by Cllr J Whelan and seconded by Cllr M Lanham. All were in favour.
- 17/03639/FUL: works to facilitate the division of a ten-bedroom dwelling into two dwellings (three-bed and four-bed.) Aychley Farm, Aychley, Market Drayton TF9 3SA. It was resolved to support this Application as long as the Conservation stipulations were adhered to. Proposed by Cllr M Lanham and seconded by Cllr Mrs B Finch. All were in favour.
- 17/03959/FUL: Erection of two-storey extension to side-elevation. Laurel Bank, Painters Lane, Fauls, Whitchurch SY13 2AT. Councillors noted that this appeared to propose a substantial extension upon a substantial extension, which would enlarge the property so much as to make it out of character with the surrounding properties and impact on the historical character of the original building. There were also concerns about issues of flooding and parking. It was resolved that the Parish Council's objection should be registered. Proposed by Cllr R Hirons and seconded by Cllr Mrs D Foster. All were in favour.
- 17/03955/REM: Land adjacent to The Croft, Towers Drive, Higher Heath, Whitchurch SY13 2HQ. Approval of reserved matters (appearance, landscaping, layout, scale) pursuant of 14/00513/OUT for the erection of one dwelling with detached double garage. Comments were made on the substantial scale of this proposed build, but it was resolved to support the Application with the proviso that it supersedes pre-existing plans for a larger number of buildings. Proposed by Cllr J Whelan and seconded by Cllr R Hirons. All were in favour.
- 17/04185/HHE: Erection of a single storey rear extension to semi-detached dwelling, dimensions 6 metres beyond the rear wall, 3.5 metres maximum height, 2.4 metres high to eaves. 2 Oak Cottages, Whitchurch Road, Prees SY13 2DD. It was resolved that the Parish Council's support for this Application should be registered. Proposed by Cllr R Hirons and seconded by Cllr Mrs D Foster. All were in favour.
- 17/04323/TCA: Various works to trees (see schedule) within Prees Conservation Area. The Vicarage, Church Street, Prees SY13 2EE. It was resolved that the Parish Council's support for this Application should be registered with the proviso that it has the support of the Tree Officer. Proposed by Cllr J Whelan and seconded by Cllr Mrs S Short. All were in favour.

(At this point, 8.20 pm, Cllr D Ladd was able to join the Meeting and was welcomed.)

- 17/04236/REM: Approval of Reserved Matters (layout; scale; appearance and landscaping) pursuant to 14/01571/OUT Outline Planning Application for up to ten dwellings including means of access. Land adjacent to Berwick, Heathwood Road, Higher Heath, Shropshire SY13 2HF. Concerns were expressed about the density of the proposed development on this site: it was thought that there are too many houses, making the site cramped. Continuing concerns about road safety were also voiced. It was resolved to object to the Application. This was proposed by Cllr R Hirons and seconded by Cllr J Whelan. All were in favour.

Planning decisions received.

- 17/03206/FUL; Erection of four horticultural polytunnels and associated landscaping. Holly Farm Garden Centre, Whitchurch Road, Prees SY13 2DD. Permission granted.
- 17/03343/FUL: Erection of single-storey front extension. 22 Turnpike Rise, Prees, Whitchurch SY13 2FD. Permission granted.
- 17/03469/OUT: Outline application for the erection of one detached dwelling to include access, layout and scale. Land to the rear of 11 Moreton St, Prees SY13 2EG. Permission refused
- 17/03646/TCA: Reduce by up to 50% mixed species hedge of hawthorn and hazel and remove two branches of one Cherry tree within Prees Conservation Area. Decision: no objection.
- 17/03491/FUL: Proposed treatment plan to serve new workshop. The Birches, Nook Lane, Weston-under-Redcastle, Shrewsbury. Permission granted.
- 17/01252/FUL: Erection of building comprising ground-floor office and first-floor living accommodation in connection with existing business, formation of vehicular access. Land at Mickley Stud, Mickley, Tern Hill, Market Drayton TF9 3QW. Permission refused
- 17/03406/FUL: Proposed replacement of windows to front elevation. 4 Shrewsbury Street, Prees, SY13 2DH. Permission refused.

Other planning matters:

Cllr R Hirons asked Council not to discuss planning applications via email, *unless* a Councillor anticipated being absent from a meeting, when his or her comments should be addressed to the clerk alone, or when advised that an urgent response to a consultation had to be made under some unusual time restraint.

115/17 Parish Matters

- Mobile Phone Tower update. Cllr R Hirons reported that a reply to the Parish Council's letter had been received from the Rt Hon Owen Paterson MP but no response so far from the Rt Hon Sajid Javid MP, Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government.
- Defibrillators. It was resolved that the Parish Council would make an offer to match any funding raised in Fauls to provide a defibrillator for residents there. Clerk to write to Fauls Village Hall Committee to make this offer. Proposed by Cllr R Hirons and seconded by Cllr D Ladd. All were in favour.
- The Square, Prees. Cllr R Hirons reported that the Solicitors dealing with the administration of Denzil Hollis's estate have been traced. They have assured the Parish Council that they understand the need to ensure the safety of the site. To that end there are plans for the site to be assessed with a view to making it safe and deciding its immediate future, very shortly.
- Use of A49 by cycling groups: in Cllr J Allen's absence, this item was carried forward to the next agenda.

- Unkempt and untidy appearance of Manor Place, Higher Heath. Clerk was instructed to write to Meres and Mosses Housing Association and ask them to remind their local tenants of their responsibilities to maintain a clean and tidy environment.
- Dilapidated house on Shrewsbury Street, near Turnpike Rise. Clerk to write to SC and advise that some intervention is required as a matter of urgency: unsupported window is in danger of falling onto footpath. The owner of this house is also responsible for the damson trees obstructing the footpath: clerk to report to SC.

116/17 Parish Council matters;

- Proposed diversion of FP46. Cllr M Lanham reported that he had met with the land-owners involved and with Footpath Officers from SC, on-site. The present route, though not the original designated one, has been in use for very many years. Cllr M Lanham felt that some degree of compromise was the way forward and having had extensive discussions with all parties was now happy to leave final negotiations in the hands of the Footpath Officer. Cllr R Hirons thanked Cllr Lanham for his meticulous work on this matter.
- Parish Plan. It was agreed that this does need updating but further consideration would be left until after the forthcoming training.
- South Staffordshire and Shropshire Healthcare: Council of Governors. Cllr Short offered to investigate and report back. Offer accepted with thanks.
- Shropshire Council Parking Consultation. Cllr R Hirons had recently attended a meeting which he found illuminating: he suggested interested persons should have a look on-line.
- Proposed Road Safety Poster competition. Clerk was asked to book Prees Village Hall for a meeting to discuss, and to invite representatives from Police, Highways and the two local Schools.
- Steel Heath Common: request for grant. A request from Country Parks and Heritage Sites Management was received for an annual grant towards its upkeep of £1000.00 commencing in 2018. After discussion the Parish Council decided that it must decline with regret, being of the opinion that there are higher priorities for its limited resources. Clerk to write.
- Discussion: possible employment of a handyman: Cllr M Lanham withdrew this item.
- Prees War Memorial in need of restorative work to lettering. Clerk has asked Mr R Yates, who has carried out this work for the Parish Council before, to quote for the work.
- Higher Heath Pavilion demolition – clerk reported that SP Manweb plc require payment before undertaking the disconnection of electrical supply. Cheque has been raised for signing today.
- Clerk seeks approval to attend training course: For Clerks: What to do and When: 20th October 2017. Cost £65.00.

Clerk seeks approval to attend briefing on Key Changes under General Data Protection Regulations. 11th November 2017. No charge.

Cllrs R Hirons; D Ladd; Mrs S Short; Mrs B Finch; Mrs D Foster and also the clerk seek approval to attend Neighbourhood and Other Plans presentation: 28th September 2017 5.30-7.30 pm at Shirehall. No charge.

Attendance at all of the above-mentioned training/events was authorised. Proposed by Cllr Mrs D Foster and seconded by Cllr Mrs S Short. All in favour.

117/17 Accounting matters.

- Payment of accounts. Cllr Mrs D Foster proposed that the following invoices should be paid and this was seconded by Cllr Mrs L Baer. All were in favour. Cheque signatories were Cllrs R Hirons and J Whelan.

Accounts for Payment: September 2017

Mrs K Sieloff: clerk's salary September 2017

£340.39

HMRC PAYE payment September 2017	£85.10
Clerk's expenses: 1.9.16 – 31.8.17 (see attached details)	£350.82
Scottish Power : Electricity charges- street lighting 31.7.17-31.8.17	£ 159.20
Jones Lighting Ltd : street light maint (August 2017) + repairs	£327.49
Mazars Ltd; fee for external audit 2017	£240.00
SP Manweb plc: disconnection of electricity supply to Pavilion	£1197.91

Total: £2700.91

Late-arriving invoices

Prees Village Hall hire: 3x hirings @£19.00 16/7; 15/8; 19/9 2017	£57.00
SALC Be a Better Councillor training: Cllr D Foster 7.9.17	£65.00

New Total : £2822.91

- Quarterly Bank Reconciliations: Clerk was authorised to take bank records to Mr Jonathan Smith for checking of second quarter. Proposed by Cllr Mrs D Finch and seconded by Cllr Mrs L Baer. AIF.
- Report received from Mazars, external auditor. Audit for 2016-17 is completed and Annual Return is certified. No issues for concern were raised. Annual Return is now available for public scrutiny.

118/17 Correspondence

- Email from Leander McLellan Secretary of Prees VH Committee asking if the Committee could advertise on Parish Council noticeboards. Regretfully the Parish Council feels it is unable to help in this way as the PC council boards are usually completely filled by papers pertaining to PC business. Clerk to reply to Ms McLellan.
- Clerk was contacted by resident concerned about overgrown state of footpath bordering Church Street. Clerk emailed SC and has been told that the matter has been passed to a local area technician.
- Congregationalist Church building, Mill Street. Clerk was contacted by resident concerned about the manner in which the church-yard was being cleared. The resident said that grave-stones were being 'ripped out', some of them being damaged in the process, and that a trench presumably for some sort of service pipe was being dug. Clerk contacted SC who advised that it was not a planning issue. Coincidentally a few days later Clerk was contacted by Nigel Billingham, from Assets and Estates at SC who advised that the buyer of the Church building was keen to purchase the land to the left of the Church as he was keen to make a garden and that he undertook to leave the headstones there in place. Mr Billingham asked for the Parish Council's comments. On the Chairman's advice the clerk replied that the plot of land did not belong to the Parish Council and she also told him of the concerns expressed to the PC about the clearing of the land the other side of the building.

Cllr Mrs D Foster was able to contribute to this item as she had spoken to the new owners while they were working in the churchyard. She reported that they had told her of their endeavours to dispose of the headstones appropriately and respectfully but had not been able to either sell or give them away. Only one of the stones has a living relative and this stone will be moved into the Memorial garden.

119/17 Future Agenda Items.

- Remembrance Sunday November 12th. Arrangements to be agreed.

Meeting closed at 9.35 pm.

Next meeting: October 17th 2017.

Signed

Date