

Minutes of Prees Parish Council Meeting
held on 21st November 2017 at 7 pm in Prees Village Hall

Present were: Cllrs R Hirons; J Whelan; P Wynn; Mrs B Finch; Mrs S Jones; Mrs B Rainford; Mrs L Baer; M Lanham. Cllr D Ladd joined the meeting at 8.00 pm when his work shift ended. Also present were Mrs K Sieloff clerk to the Parish Council; Ms Belinda Doolan Community Enablement Officer and two members of the public.

133/17 Public Session

Mr Mike Barrett who owns a property adjoining the new housing development in Station Road, reiterated his concerns about the effects that one of the new buildings would have on his property's light and privacy, as well as the perceived dangers that the new development would pose for pedestrians. He asked Cllr P Wynn who is the Chair of Shropshire Council Planning Committee to carry his views to the Planning Department, which Cllr Wynn agreed to do.

134/17 Apologies

There were apologies from Cllrs Mrs S Short; Mrs D Foster; J Allen and R List. There was also an apology from PCSO Chris Hirons, who supplied a Policing Report to be read out.

135/17 Disclosure of Pecuniary/Non-Pecuniary interests

There were none.

136/17 Signing of Minutes (previously circulated.)

The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 17th October 2017 were agreed to be a true record. Cllr Mrs B Rainford proposed that they should be signed and this was seconded by Cllr Mrs B Finch. All were in favour and Cllr R Hirons duly signed the Minutes.

137/17 Matters Arising from the Minutes.

There were no matters arising from the Minutes that were not on the Agenda.

138/17 Shropshire Council Report.

Cllr Wynn spoke about the proposed development in Shrewsbury Street, behind the Housing Association flats: an area comprised of plots owned by 3 people. He advised that if piecemeal development does not go ahead, so-called 'ransom strips' will be created which will never be economical to build on. Cllr M Lanham asked why the flats could not be demolished to allow proper access to the site, which is potentially a good one. Cllr Wynn replied that the Planners can only consider the Applications that are brought before them. Cllr J Whelan suggested that the Parish Council's current stand was still that piecemeal development of the site will not work: this is a strategic development at the centre of the village and account needs to be taken of the bigger picture.

139/17 Community Policing.

PCSO Chris Hirons' report, read aloud to the meeting, advised that there had been 13 incidents that were recorded as crimes in the reporting period: 2 assaults; 1 missing person who returned home safe and well; 1 deception; 1 commercial burglary; 1 domestic burglary (items not marked with SmartWater) and 2 anti-social behaviour offences .

PCSO wished to remind the public that no official person would ask for payment using gift cards or vouchers, and indeed anyone demanding immediate payment should be highly suspect. If in doubt hang the phone up and seek advice.

The remaining incidents number 42. Eight of these were road traffic collisions, 4 of them causing serious injuries on the A41 or A49.

Two people were arrested on suspicion of being responsible for a series of van break-ins locally. This followed an early call from a suspicious neighbour who could supply the registration number of their vehicle. PCSO Hirons stresses how invaluable these calls are.

High winds are causing fallen trees: take care when driving in these conditions.

Speed checks: The Safer Roads Partnership are currently carrying out a speed survey on the road outside Lower Heath. Once this is complete, speed checks will be resumed to act as visible traffic calmers pending a decision from Highways and the SRP about what engineering works will take place. Speed checks have also been carried out on the A41 outside Higher Heath, Heathwood Road in Higher Heath and also Moreton

Street Prees during school pick up times. Councillors are invited to attend a speed-check to provide a better understanding of the procedure and its effect.

140/17 Planning Matters

Current Applications:

- 17/05127/FUL: Erection of a single storey glazed rear extension. 7 Moreton Street, Prees, Whitchurch, Shropshire SY13 2EF. Applicant: Mr A Park.
Cllr J Whelan proposed that the Parish Council's support for this application should be registered. This was seconded by Cllr R Hirons and all were in favour.
- 17/05068/FUL: Erection of a detached dwelling with garage; associated landscaping and revised access following demolition of existing dwelling. Rose Villa, 91 Twemlows Avenue, Higher Heath, Whitchurch, Shropshire. Applicants: Mr and Mrs Bartley.
Cllr J Whelan proposed that the Parish Council's support for this application should be registered. This was seconded by Cllr R Hirons and all were in favour.
- 17/04470/FUL: Erection of 13 dwellings (re-submission for planning approval of a similar scheme 16/04040/REM and 14/01877/OUT) Land to the North of Station Road, Prees, Shropshire.
The Parish Council continues to couch its opposition to this development in the strongest possible terms: it believes that what are needed in Prees are 2/3 bedroom homes, not 4 bedroom 'executive' houses. In addition the Highways conditions are still not discharged and yet the building is going ahead. No conditions have been imposed on the builder so he can work whatever hours he chooses with no consideration of neighbouring residents. Similarly, no conditions have been imposed on construction traffic, resulting in grab-trucks operating perilously close to house windows in Whitebrook Meadow. There was concern expressed by the councillors also that the pavement Works, inadequate as they are to ensure pedestrian safety, will be the last priority: will they indeed ever be completed? The succession of planning applications concerning this site has only added to the confusion surrounding it. Cllr R Hirons proposed that Shropshire County Planning be asked for a pause in the construction work for consultation and review. Cllr M Lanham seconded this and all were in favour. Clerk to register the Parish Council's continuing strong opposition and to make the suggested request.
- 17/05312/FUL: Erection of a single storey extension to an existing dwelling (resubmission to extend time-frame) Hawthorne Cottage, Steel Heath, Prees Heath, Whitchurch, Shropshire. Applicant: Mr and Mrs McVey. The Parish Council asked that its support for this application should be registered: proposed by Cllr R Hirons and seconded by Cllr Mrs B Finch. All were in favour.
- 17/05390/LBC: Replace two wooden ground floor windows affecting a grade II listed building. Prees Cottage, 9 Whitchurch Road, Prees, Whitchurch, Shropshire. Applicant: Mr James Jones. The Parish Council felt it was unable to comment on this application as it had insufficient information concerning the materials to be used and there was no comment from the Conservation Officer. Proposed by Cllr J Whelan and seconded by Cllr Mrs L Baer. All were in favour.

Planning decisions received from Shropshire Council.

17/03955/REM: Land adjacent to The Croft, Towers Drive, Higher Heath, Shropshire 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. Permission granted.

17/03639/FUL: Aychley Farm, Aychley, Market Drayton, Shropshire TF9 3SA: works to facilitate the division of 10 no. bedroom dwelling into 2 no. dwellings (3 bed and 4 bed). Permission granted.

16/05870/FUL: Land to the rear of Walford House, 24 Shrewsbury Street, Prees, Shropshire. Erection of dwelling and associated garage/workshop following demolition of garage; formation of vehicular access. Permission granted.

17/03146/FUL: Elmhurst Nursing Home, Armoury Lane, Prees, Shropshire SY13 2EN. Refurbishment of existing care home to provide enhanced care and living facilities together with extensions to provide office, kitchen, laundry and staff amenities, associated drainage and parking facilities. Permission granted.

17/04309/FUL: Former Anvil Café, Sandford, Whitchurch, Shropshire SY13 2HY. Erection of 3 detached bungalows and associated garages and access following demolition of existing buildings. Permission refused.

Additional planning matter

The Parish Council discussed the idea of holding occasional public Extraordinary Meetings to discuss planning applications whose consultation period did not allow informed and considered discussion at an ordinary Council Meeting. Cllr J Whelan proposed that this principle should be accepted. Cllr Mrs L Baer seconded the proposal and all were in favour.

141/17 Parish Matters.

- Continuing concerns about the use of the A49 for cycle races. The clerk reported she had emailed Mersey Roads Cycling Club voicing the Parish Councils disquiet about the dangerous conditions in which cyclists race on the A49 and awaits a response.
- Mobile phone tower, Mill Street. The clerk reported that a response is still awaited from the Cabinet Minister the Rt Hon Mr Sajid Javid despite her having written to him again.

142/17 Parish Council Matters

- Consultation on the Local Plan Review 2017. Cllr J Whelan reported that Prees is to become a Community Hub. This decision is based on the services and facilities that Prees is perceived to offer. Cllr Whelan expressed disquiet that the scoring method to assess the services and facilities is crude and simplistic. He also expressed concerns that Higher Heath, as a Community Cluster, will not have a development boundary. He reported that current restrictions on development in the countryside will be maintained. Cllr Whelan felt that the multiple and impenetrable documentation sent out did not help, and that it was necessary to peruse this carefully, for which a separate meeting would be necessary. It was proposed by Cllr M Lanham that all councillors able to attend such a meeting should be given the authority to craft a response to the consultation on behalf of the Parish Council and this was seconded by Cllr Mrs B Finch. All were in favour. Clerk to book the Village Hall for Tuesday December 5th at 7pm and to circulate details to all councillors.
- South Staffordshire and Shropshire Healthcare: Council of Governors. Do we want to be involved? Cllr S Short had sent her apologies so this item to be carried forward.
- Local Road Safety: date to be set for public meeting to discuss poster competition. Carried forward to December meeting for actioning in New Year.
- Updating the Prees Parish Plan: way forward? Cllr R Hirons suggested that a date for a meeting should be made at the December meeting.
- General Data Protection Regulations coming into force May 2018. Clerk attended an update, during which it was emphasized that each Parish Council would need the services of a qualified and experienced Data Protection Officer and it was suggested that £2000 per annum should be set aside in the budget for this. SALC will provide further guidance in due course.
- Playground estimates. Clerk to invite sales rep for site visit to advise on requirements.
- Installation of Prees village sign (already in the Parish Council's possession) at southern extreme of village. Councillors advised Cllr Wynn on precise required location.
- Pavilion demolition: clerk reported that Scottish Power would disconnect electrical supply to Pavilion 23 November 2017. Clerk to be on hand to unlock to allow access.
- Defibrillator for Fauls: Cllr Ladd and the clerk had both been informed that a defibrillator for Fauls would be funded by the winding-up of the Prees Social Club.
- Budget-setting for 2018-19. Parish Council awaits pre-budget information from Shropshire Council. Meeting to be set for early January to include Cllrs R Hirons; J Whelan and Mrs L Baer.
- 'Battles Over': November 2018. Centenary of the ending of First World War. Beacons are to be lighted at 7 pm on Sunday 11th November 2018. Where would be suitable in Prees for the siting of a

Beacon or a bonfire? Small party comprised of Cllrs D Ladd; Mrs L Baer; R Hirons and J Whelan will meet early in New Year to consider the matter.

143/17 Accounting Matters.

Accounts for Payment: November 2017

Mrs K Sieloff: clerk's salary October 2017	£340.39
HMRC PAYE payment October 2017	£85.10
Scottish Power : Electricity charges- street lighting (30.9.17-31.10.17)	£159.20
Jones Lighting Ltd : street light maint (Oct 2017)	£127.09
Richard Yates, monumental mason	£120.00
Garden Services (grass/hedge cutting at HH and Prees)	£2500.00
SALC training: What to do and When. Clerk's training : 20.17.17	£65.00

Total: £3396.78

Late addition:

2017 donation to RBL Poppy Appeal £100.00

(Including purchase of 2 wreaths @ £25.00 each)

Grand total £3496.78

- Internet banking. After discussion it was proposed by Cllr J Whelan that the clerk should be authorized to ask for limited on-line banking facilities to be made available to her (payments out still to be made conventionally by cheque) and this was seconded by Cllr Mrs L Baer. All were in favour.

144/17 Correspondence

- In response to an enquiry from John Walker of Gardening Services, the Parish Council agreed that he should be asked to do his usual tidy-up of the area at Wrafton Terrace. Clerk to advise.
- Mrs Jan Corbishley, from the Higher Heath Village Hall committee, had written to ask whether the committee could advertise the Hall's facilities at the Higher Heath playground. The Parish Council were happy to agree to this. Clerk to advise.
- The Parish Council received a response from Ms Rachel Norlander, Neighbourhood Management Officer for Higher Heath, concerning the Parish Council's concerns about litter in Manor Place. Ms Norlander reminded the council that there are both privately-owned and Housing Association properties in Manor Place and she assured the council that Meres and Mosses conducts checks on the condition of its tenanted properties, including gardens, but that littered public areas could possibly be addressed by a litter-pick organised by the Parish Council or alternatively reported to Shropshire Council.

145/17 Future Agenda items

- Clerk to enquire about the numbering policy for the new build homes at Manor Place. An existing resident has expressed concern that the proposed numbering will cause confusion. Cllr S Jones to lead.

The meeting closed at 9.05 pm.

Date of next meeting: 19th December 2017