

**Minutes of Prees Parish Council Meeting held at Prees Village Hall**  
**on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> October 2016.**

**Present were:**

**Cllrs R Hirons (Chairman), J Whelan (Vice Chairman), Mrs B Finch, Mrs S Jones, P Gill, R List , P Wynn, J Smith and M Lanham; Mrs K Sieloff Clerk to the Council; and 5 members of the public.**

**106/16 Public Session.**

Mr D Hollis, owner of houses at The Square, Prees, told the Parish Council that the building activity, started in 2011, had in the last eighteen months been delayed by his illness. Progress was now being made again, rubbish being cleared, drainage going in. The Barn is almost finished and the black and white house is due to be re-roofed.

Mrs D Simmonds (in support of Planning Application 16/03973/OUT) spoke of the planned modifications to the road junction in Lower Heath to improve safety for school users.

Mrs J Druce, representing the School Lane Committee, told the Meeting that although the Committee had looked at the Amendments to Planning Application 16/03973/OUT their original objections still stood.

Cllr P Gill asked Mrs Simmonds how negotiations were progressing with the school and Mrs Simmonds replied that the School was being very supportive. Cllr P Wynn advised that the most recent indication was that Planning Application 16/03973/OUT would almost certainly be refused.

**107/16 Apologies for absence had been received from:** Cllrs B Collins (away) Mrs S Short (previous engagement) Mrs B Rainford (work) and CSO C Hirons (unwell.)

**108/16 Disclosure of Interests:** Cllr Mrs S Jones and Cllr J Whelan both declared a non-pecuniary interest in Planning Application 16/03973/OUT as the Applicant is a work colleague of each of them.

**109/16 Minutes of previous Meeting.** A small amendment was made on page 1 of the Minutes for the Meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> September 2016. (In the Public Session record the words 'Mr Andrew Hewitt of Hewitt-Owen spoke re 16/03422FUL' were inserted, and signed by the Chairman.) After this it was proposed by Cllr P Gill and seconded by Cllr J Whelan that the Minutes be signed as a true record. All agreed and the Minutes were signed.

**110/16 Shropshire Council Report.** Cllr P Wynn spoke of the current debate about clustering whereby local smaller councils such as Whitchurch Town Council take on responsibility for running and funding facilities such as libraries, swimming pools, parks etc. Whitchurch Town Council suggests that surrounding parishes contribute financially, but how is a reasonable and fair contribution to be calculated? Cllr P Gill suggested that more detail on the plans was required: how much money are we talking about and does Whitchurch Town Council have the expertise to manage these facilities? Money from Prees can only be generated through the precept and this expenditure would have to be justified to residents.

Concerns were raised about whether small parishes with small budgets are in a position to contribute. Cllr R List suggested that some facilities could perhaps be taken over by other organisations eg could Brown Moss be taken over by the National Trust?

Cllr J Whelan expressed concern that Whitchurch Town Council seem to think the issue is settled, and he reiterated that it is not: no one is in support. Cllr P Wynn assured the Meeting that he would take the views of the Parish Council to the LJC meeting at Ash the following evening. Cllr P Gill offered to represent Prees there.

**16/04040/REM** – Land to North of Station Rd Prees – proposal Reserved Matters (Appearance, Landscaping, Layout and Scale) pursuant to Outline Planning Permission 14/0187/OUT for erection of thirteen dwellings and formation of estate roads.

The Parish Council noted that three years has passed since the original application was approved and that was when SAMDEV was not in place, and at the time the Parish Council was reluctant to approve, but was constrained by the then current legal framework. All of the original concerns voiced by the Parish Council still stand: location, drainage, road and pedestrian safety. Even the Planning Officer identified it as a “sub-optimal site”. There has been no building progress.

Councillors expressed concern that this Application might reset the clock for another three years. Cllr P Gill proposed and Cllr M Lanham seconded that the Parish Council register its objection and in addition that Shropshire Council should be asked to insist on adherence to the original time scale. All were in favour.

**16/03973/OUT** – Amended Outline Application for the erection of a detached eco-dwelling with double garage. Land North of B5065, Lower Heath.

Cllr R Hirons reminded the Meeting that we currently have an objection on file and he asked if anyone wanted to change that. Cllr P Gill voiced the assurance that the Parish Council does want to keep local people in the parish, and is obviously concerned for child safety, but there is an overriding requirement for consistency in its planning recommendations, and development of that site would open the Parish Council to criticism. It was proposed by Cllr P Gill and seconded by Cllr Mrs B Finch that the Council’s opposition to the revised plans be registered. All were in favour.

**16/03940/FUL** – Erection of industrial unit to be used as teaching/training centre. New industrial building, Sandford Industrial Estate, Sandford.

Cllr J Whelan commented that with continued development this industrial estate is the focus of lots of traffic now and there are concerns for road safety. Cllr P Gill remarked that these concerns have to be balanced with the desire to support local business. Cllr Whelan proposed and Cllr M Lanham seconded that the Parish Council’s support should be registered, but with the proviso that the speed limit on the A41 should be revised. All were in favour.

**16/04124/VAR** – Variation of condition 2 (Approved Plans) attached to NS/05/00664/DET dated 19.6.02 for the erection of dwelling and formation of access. Land adjacent to The Dell, Shrewsbury St, Prees.

Cllr J Whelan voiced concerns that while a single-storey dwelling would sit in the landscape of the Dell, a two-storey one would not, but would be out of character in the context. It was proposed by Cllr P Gill and seconded by Cllr R Hirons that an objection be registered. All were in favour.

**16/04609/FUL** – Erection of rear conservatory. Whitehaven, Heathwood Rd, Higher Heath.

It was proposed by Cllr R Hirons and seconded by Cllr J Whelan that the Parish Council’s support should be registered. All were in favour.

**16/04446/FUL** – Erection of two-storey side extension (amended scheme). 2 Oak Cottages, Whitchurch Rd, Prees.

The Councillors approved the new design, noting that the reduced proportions of the proposed extension were now much more in keeping, remaining subservient to the main house. It was proposed by Cllr P Gill and seconded by Cllr J Smith that the Parish Council’s support be registered. All were in favour.

## **Planning decisions**

The Council noted the following Planning Decisions.

**16/03396/VAR** – Lower Heath CE School, Lower Heath, Prees. Variation of condition No 1 attached to planning permission CC2006/0019 dated 11.7.06 to allow for the retention of a demountable accommodation for a further temporary period of ten years. **Permission granted.**

**16/03452/FUL** – The Tumps, Lower Heath, Prees. Retrospective application for installation of three grain silos for pheasant feed. **Permission granted.**

**16/02933/FUL** – Proposed dwelling west of The Spinney, Heathwood Road, Higher Heath. Erection of detached house with integral garage and associated drainage. **Permission granted.**

## **112/16 Parish Matters**

- Site meeting with David Gradwell at Heathfields Crossroads: Cllr R Hirons reported that Shropshire Council's view is that the junction is 'safe' in that there has been no fatality and few reports of incidents there. Any modification would be expensive, and Shropshire Council has limited funds and this junction is not high priority. Mr Gradwell said he would look at new signage for the junction and recently huge bright STOP signs have been installed. Mr Gradwell also said he would ask for heavily-emphasized white lines. SC has done what it can, within the financial constraints.
- Lime trees. Tree surgeon Nathan Roberts, consulted by clerk, says trees would be best pruned when bare of leaf. Carry matter forward to November agenda.
- The Square, Prees. See earlier report.
- Manor House Lane public footpath. Cllr S Jones reported that a stile has been erected at the bottom of Highbury Poultry Farm. There has never been a stile there before, and there is barbed wire and no space for dogs to get through. Residents would prefer it removed. Clerk to investigate.
- Manor House Lane: possible imposition of weight restriction to stop heavy lorries cutting through from A49-A41. What happened to this proposal? Clerk to investigate.
- Manor Place streetlights. Currently turn off at midnight. Clerk to ask Shropshire Council if they can be alight all through the night.
- Moreton Street propensity to flood. Council's understanding was that Severn Trent had works planned here, and Shropshire Council were delaying resurfacing works because of this. Last update was that Severn Trent had postponed. Clerk to ascertain current situation.
- Broken bus shelter glass needs replacing: clerk to ask John Walker to address.

## **113/16 Parish Council Matters**

- Chairmanship board now updated and invoice received.
- Severn Trent strategic plan not forthcoming. Clerk to reapply: we need evidence of a joined-up plan to ensure developers 'add-ons' can be coped with!
- Continuing mentoring of new clerk, at current agreed rate, by Mrs Lesley Rumney: proposed by Cllr J Whelan and seconded by Cllr R List. All agreed.
- Logo to accompany new 50mph speed limit along the A49 from Prees to Prees Heath. After lively discussion it was agreed that the sign as you travel South from Whitchurch should say 'Welcome to Prees Parish. Please drive carefully' and the one at the Southern end as you enter the speed restriction should say 'Prees Parish. Please drive carefully.' The clerk was asked to relay this information and also to request an additional sign bearing the words 'Welcome to Prees Parish. Please drive carefully.'

## **114/16 Accounts**

- Quarterly bank reconciliation: Cllr J Smith agreed to peruse Bank Statements and Accounts book.
- Accounts for payment: proposed by Cllr M Lanham and seconded by Cllr Mrs S Jones that the following accounts should be paid.

Accounts for October 2016	
Mrs K Sieloff – October salary	£419.43
Jones Lighting – street light maintenance	£125.62
Mazars – Audit fee	£120.00
Technochip computers	£126.00
Central Fire Control – service fire extinguishers Pavilion H. Heath	£30.00
Prees Village Hall – hire fees 5.7.16 – 20.9.16	£95.00
Mrs L Rumney – mentoring for Sept : 8.5 hours @ £10.36 ph	£88.06
Scottish Power – Street light energy	£153.67
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	TOTAL £1157.78

### 115/16 Play Areas

Repairs in response to ROSPA reports:

- John Walker is to investigate the cause of the loose rotator pirouette at Prees by digging around it, and suggest a remedy. He will reset at correct height the incorrectly set swing seat. At Higher Heath he will reseed areas that need it and he will build up and reseed the concrete lip currently forming a trip hazard. He will also remove protruding brackets on the goal-posts.
- Cllr P Gill and Cllr M Lanham agreed to look at damage to wooden ‘steps’ up to slide at Prees playground and report back.
- It was proposed by Cllr P Gill and seconded by Cllr R Hirons that the clerk should order a replacement seat for the swing at Higher Heath playground. All agreed.
- Cllr R Hirons agreed to look at damaged posts defining car parking area at Higher Heath playground and report back.
- Future of the Pavilion. Clerk reported on findings concerning renting out Pavilion at Higher Heath playground. Had also received quote for its demolition. Clerk to research Pavilion’s current outgoings; building regulations if it is let; consultation process necessary if it is demolished.
- Suggested purchase of bench for Higher Heath playground, funded by Grocontinental’s kind donation of £500. Cllr Mrs S Jones proposed and Cllr J Smith seconded that the clerk should order a Clarendon seat to match the existing one on-site.
- Plans for a publicity event to launch new fitness equipment at Higher Heath were postponed until the installation of the new seat. Clerk to order Lottery Funding stickers for the site.

### 116/16 Remembrance Sunday

In response to an email from Mrs Marilyn Patrick, Cllr J Whelan proposed and Cllr P Gill seconded a donation of £70.00 to pay for wreaths. Cllr R Hirons to lay the wreath at Prees and Cllr J Allen the one at Fauls. Clerk to collect and distribute wreaths.

### 117/16 Correspondence

Clerk was asked to send the details received about Shropshire Council’s Community Tree Scheme to all Councillors.

### 118/16 Future Agenda items: Future of Village Hall. Christmas Social Event.

*Meeting closed at 9.45pm.*

**CHAIRMAN .....**      **DATED.....**

DRAFT