

Minutes of Prees Parish Council Meeting  
held on 21<sup>st</sup> February 2017 at 7 pm in Prees Village Hall

Present were: Cllrs R Hirons (Chairman); J Whelan (Vice-Chairman); Mrs B Finch; Mrs S Short and Mrs B Rainford. Also present were Mrs K Sieloff, clerk to the Council and two members of the Public.  
Apologies: Cllrs P Gill; R List; B Collins; J Smith; J Allen; Mrs S Jones; M Lanham; P Wynn.  
Declarations: Cllr J Whelan declared non-pecuniary interest in Planning Application 16/05870/FUL as the Applicants are friends of his.

**013/17 Public Session**

Mr Roberts attended to support his Planning Application which had come before the Parish Council. He explained that he had taken into consideration the views of his neighbours and they had no objection. He assured the Parish Council that although his business had outgrown the current provision, the proposed buildings would not mean more traffic visiting the site.

**014/17 Minutes of the previous meeting**

Proposed by Cllr Mrs B Rainford and seconded by Cllr Mrs B Finch that the Minutes of the last meeting be signed as a true record. The Minutes were duly signed.

**015/17 Matters Arising from the Minutes**

The clerk reported that

- Mr Shipton is tackling the mole problem at Higher Heath playground.
- The new bench generously donated by Grocontinental and the new swing-seat have both been installed by Mr Walker at Higher Heath playground.
- Buckingham Palace Garden Party May 23<sup>rd</sup> 2017: the Chairman Cllr R Hirons was unluckily not among those to be invited this round.
- Croydon House, Shrewsbury Street: Mr Alastair Dunning, Building Control at Shropshire Council, has advised that the building is not imminently dangerous to the public, but could become so if the situation is not addressed. The owner of the property has indicated to Mr Dunning that he intends to take action to improve the situation, and Mr Dunning will review in six months time, unless notified that the state of the building has worsened. Clerk to put on August agenda.
- Mr John Plumridge has confirmed that all the road signs requested, with the specific changes to the wording as suggested by the Parish Council, will be supplied to accompany the new 50 mph limits on the stretch of A49 going through parts of the parish.

**016/17 Shropshire Council Report**

Cllr P Wynn sent his apologies and was unfortunately unable to attend this evening. He sent assurance that he was keeping an eye on the development of the Severn Trent works in Moreton Street.

**017/17 Community Policing.**

No officer available this evening.

**018/17 Planning**

**Current Planning Applications.**

**17/00660/FUL: Erection of two-storey office, storage, workshop and garage following demolition of existing single-storey office, storage and workshop. Store and premises at 2 St Chad's Cottages, Primrose Lane, Prees. Mr and Mrs Roberts.**

Members of the Parish Council had visited the site, and reported that the proposed building is big and close to neighbour's bungalow. However the neighbour had not raised concerns, and this is a commercial site. Cllr J Whelan proposed that the Council support the Application, with the proviso that all the relevant ecological (for example bat and bird) and lighting conditions are adhered to. Cllr R Hirons seconded this proposal and all were in favour.

**16/03556/FUL: Application under Section 73a of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 for the permanent retention of two poly-tunnels to house free-range egg-laying birds. Smithy Cottage, Sandford, Whitchurch, Shropshire. Mr R Haynes.**

Concern was expressed by the Council about the assurances given by the Applicant in his letter. What would happen if his arrangement to have all waste removed by a neighbouring farmer, breaks down? It was felt that this is not an ideal site for this kind of business and certainly seven day a week operation will be a nuisance to neighbours. It has proved difficult to sort the truth out among the claims and counter-claims, and it was felt by the Council that increasing the size of the operation can only increase problems and opposition. Cllr R Hirons proposed that the Council's objection to the Application should again be registered, due to the Council's severe reservations and Cllr J Whelan seconded this. All were in favour.

**17/00311/FUL : Erection of conservatory to side elevation : Woodside, Lacon St, Prees, Shropshire. Mr L Owen.**

The Council saw no reason to object to this Application. Cllr J Whelan proposed that the Council's support should be registered and this was seconded by Cllr Mrs S Short. All were in favour.

**16/05870/FUL : Erection of dwelling and associated garage/workshop following demolition of modern lean-to garage: formation of vehicular access. Land to rear of Walford House, 24 Shrewsbury Street, Prees, Shropshire. Dr and Mrs G Carter.**

The Council was of the view that the proposed dwelling is of an appropriate size and design for its site, and that access is the only concern. Cllr R Hirons proposed that the Council's support for the Application be registered, with the conditions that Highways look at visibility between road and site to check suitability; that the Tree Officer oversees the management of trees on site and that archaeological features of the site are taken into account during the build. Cllr Mrs S Short seconded this and all were in favour. Cllr J Whelan abstained.

**17/00667/FUL : Conversion of stable/garage block to form one residential unit to include insertion of doors/windows/rooflights. Proposed barn conversion at Aychley Farm, Aychley, Market Drayton, Shropshire. Mr N Anderson.**

The Council saw no reason to object to this proposal: the plans maintain the original size of the building and preserve it. Cllr Mrs B Rainford proposed that the Council's support be registered and Cllr J Whelan seconded this. All were in favour.

Planning decisions received:

**16/05657/OUT :** Outline application for the erection of up to five dwellings to include access off Shrewsbury Street with formation of visibility splay. Proposed residential development to the west of Shrewsbury Street, Prees, Shropshire. **Withdrawn.**

**16/04846/FUL :** Erection of five dwellings and associated access. Proposed development land at former garage site, Manor Place, Higher Heath, Nr Whitchurch, Shropshire. **Permission granted**

**019/17 Parish Matters.**

- **Moreton Street: Severn Trent drainage works.** These works are nearly finished. Clerk to email Cllr P Wynn to enquire about plans for resurfacing by Shropshire Council.
- **Prees Village Hall Meeting.** Cllr Mrs S Short reported that fifteen interested people attended and there were half a dozen who were willing to be on a management committee. Mr Ian Henderson was willing to take on the role of Chairman on the Board of Trustees. Parish Council representation on both management committee and board of trustees was discussed and approved. These individuals could be nominated each year at the Parish Council's AGM. It is hoped that two members of the current management committee will agree to stay on as trustees on the new board. (Maureen Owen has already agreed to be one of them.) Clerk to find out if there is a document that everyone needs to sign when the new management committee and board of trustees are formed.
- **Future of Higher Heath Pavilion.** A public meeting has been arranged for the discussion of the future of the Pavilion on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> March 2017 at 7 pm in Higher Heath Village Hall. The meeting is advertised on Parish Council noticeboards in Prees, Fauls and Higher Heath; at the Pavilion itself and in the Venture. Cllrs Mrs S Jones and J Allen also had posters to display locally.

- **Maintenance of churchyard and gardens at United Reform Church, Mill Street, Prees.**  
Cllrs expressed themselves confused here: surely the church in Mill Street is Congregationalist?  
Clerk to check the facts and matter to be carried forward to next agenda.
- **Changes to arrangements for waste collection.** It was decided to carry this matter forward to next agenda.

#### 020/17 Parish Council Matters

- **Training opportunities:** Clerk sought approval to attend
  1. Clerk's Time Management training: 27th February 2017 2-5 pm at Shirehall, and
  2. Year-end/Audit training: 17th March 2017 2-5 pm at Shirehall.
 Cllr R Hirons proposed that the clerk should attend these two courses at the Council's expense. Cllr Mrs S Short seconded this and all were in favour.
- **Lime trees, Whitchurch Road.** Three estimates had been received for the work of raising the canopies of the twenty trees and clearing the area on which they stand. These ranged from £460.00 to £1050.00. Cllr Mrs S Short proposed that Mr John Walker of Gardening Services be asked to do the work. Cllr Mrs B Rainford seconded this and all were in favour.
- **Wrafton Terrace, Whitchurch Road.** Mr John Walker of Gardening Services prunes the shrubs and tidies this area every year. His quote for the work this year is £275.00 which shows a small increase in cost to the Council reflecting only his own increased costs. Cllr Mrs S Short proposed that Mr Walker should be asked to do the work and this was seconded by Cllr Mrs B Rainford. All were in favour.
- **Whitchurch Road streetlamps nos 3 and 5: replacement of lanterns will cost £209.16 each.** The Council advised the clerk that their policy was to replace old uneconomic lanterns with new 36w PL lanterns as they became due. Cllr R Hirons proposed the expenditure and Cllr J Whelan seconded it. All were in favour.
- **New laptop for clerk.** Quote received from Technochip Computers for business grade Fujitsu i5 laptop with Windows 10 Pro and Microsoft Office software. £993.01 including VAT, with an optional £45.00 trade-in for old laptop. (Hard-drive to be wiped and then destroyed.) The price includes setting up of new computer; transfer of data and any follow-up support required. Cllr Mrs B Rainford proposed that Technochip's quote be accepted and this was seconded by Cllr Mrs S Short. All were in favour.
- **Equipment launch at Higher Heath Playground:** the Council regrets that the publicity event planned will have to be postponed until after the local elections to avoid contravening guidance concerning self-promotion. Cllr J Whelan offered to convey this decision to Ms Hazel Ruscoe at Grocontinental.
- **Lighteach Road; streetlamp nuisance.** Cllr M Lanham had sent a report detailing the continuing distress of the residents having to tolerate the nuisance of the intrusive streetlight. The latest attempt to resolve the situation, the application of a specialist paint, is not working. Clerk to follow up and to enquire of Jones Streetlighting why a guard, originally suggested by that Company as the solution, was subsequently deemed not suitable.

#### 021/17 Accounting matters.

##### Payment of Accounts:

Cllr Mrs S Short proposed and Cllr Mrs B Rainford seconded that the following invoices should be paid:  
Accounts for Payment: February 21<sup>st</sup> 2017.

Mrs K Sieloff: clerk's salary February 2017	£419.43
Scottish Power : Electricity charges- street lighting : 31.12.16 – 31.1.17	£159.10
Jones Lighting Ltd monthly maintenance charge (31.1.17)	£125.62
Streetmaster (Clarendon Seat)	£697.20

	Total	£1401.35
Late arriving invoice		
Garden Services: installation of bench; replacing post		£240.00
	<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>£1641.35</b>

### **Quarterly Bank Reconciliation**

Clerk to ask Cllr J Smith if he would kindly be prepared to scrutinise the books as usual and report back.

### **022/17 Correspondence**

- **Partial Review of Shropshire Local Plan: issues and strategic options consultation.**  
Cllr J Whelan explained to Council that we have to make a choice about where we want development. Do we want more development in rural areas, or would we rather keep the current balance? If development boundaries are removed, will that have a harmful effect? Cllr Whelan reminded the meeting that if a village does not grow, it stagnates, but development has to be controlled. Cllr R Hirons suggested that the Parish Plan needs refreshing and that three or four members of the new Parish Council could perhaps take on this task after the elections. In the meantime, Cllrs Hirons and Whelan agreed to peruse the Consultation and decide if a workable response could be issued in the time-frame. (Response required by 13 March 2017.)
- Letter received from Mrs Jan Corbishley, Secretary to the Higher Heath Village Hall Committee, detailing the improvements that are being made to the Hall, and asking the Parish Council to give consideration to the making of a grant to the charity.  
Clerk to reply to Mrs Corbishley advising her that a grant of £1000.00 is earmarked for Higher Heath Village Hall in the budget for the new financial year, and that a cheque will be issued in due course.

### **023/17 Future Agenda items**

- End of clerk's probationary period.
- Changes to waste collection.
- Maintenance of churchyard and associated gardens in Mill Street, Prees.

Meeting closed at 8.30 pm.

Date of next meeting: 21<sup>st</sup> March 2017.