

Minutes of Prees Parish Council Meeting  
held on April 17<sup>th</sup> 2018 at 7 pm in Prees Village Hall

Present were: Cllrs R Hirons; Mrs S Short; Mrs B Rainford; Mrs L Baer; Mrs D Foster; Mrs S Jones; M Lanham; J Allen and R List. Also present were PCSO C Hirons; Mrs K Sieloff clerk to the Parish Council and four members of the public. Cllr J Whelan and Cllr D Ladd joined the meeting part-way through.

**040/18 Public Session**

A resident from Heathwood Road reported that he believed that the initial work on the Grocott development site in Higher Heath was not in accordance with the permission given. He was of the opinion that houses were being built at an incorrect orientation; that far more trees than had been agreed were being felled and that the entrance had also been altered. Clerk to make enquiries.

A member of the public reported that sheets of ply were hanging from buildings at The Square in Prees and forming a hazard. Clerk to write to Solicitors for the Trustees and to Building Control.

A Prees resident expressed his dismay at the apparent start of work on the site of the proposed Telecommunications tower at the Old Telephone Exchange in Mill Street. He expressed the opinion that the matter has been handled very insensitively since the mistake in giving permission was made. Emails have been ignored; no bat survey; no flood report; no newt report; alternative sites passed over despite the fact that an original technical report had said the current site would not work. The Parish Council noted that the matter is on the Agenda under Parish Council matters.

**041/18 Apologies,**

There were apologies from Cllr Mrs B Finch and Cllr P Wynn.

**042/18 Disclosure of Pecuniary/Non-Pecuniary interests**

Cllr J Allen declared a pecuniary interest in the Planning Application below, as he is the Applicant.

**043/18 Signing of Minutes (previously circulated.)**

The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> March 2018 were agreed to be a true record. Cllr Mrs B Rainford proposed that they should be signed and this was seconded by Cllr Mrs D Foster. All were in favour and Cllr R Hirons duly signed the Minutes.

**044/18 Matters Arising from the Minutes.**

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

**045/18 Shropshire Council Report.**

Cllr Wynn had sent his Apologies and had asked the clerk to report that he had discussed the Parish Council's concerns about Heathgates Crossroads with Steven Davenport, Cabinet Member for Highways, who has agreed to an on-site meeting with David Gradwell to endeavour to move this matter forward. Cllr Wynn will advise the Parish Council when a date has been set.

**046/18 Community Policing.**

PCSO Chris Hirons read his report to the meeting. He advised of a survey launched by the Police and Crime Commissioner seeking feedback from the community on local policing. He reminded the meeting that the local Whitchurch team consists currently of two PCSOs (he and Graeme Baines and PC Wheeler. Another PCSO should be in post shortly. Sgt Greenaway is the sergeant who covers Prees Parish as part of a larger area she is responsible for. PCSO Hirons reported that he is running monthly tours of the Whixall parish in collaboration with their Parish Council and Neighbourhood Watch, and he would be happy to offer a similar service in Prees. In terms of incidents there were 20 recorded crimes last month, including a number of thefts from gardens, including a number of bicycles. PCSO Hirons suggested that bike-marking could be a part of any event he staged in Prees. He reminded us that the motorbike season is underway and that there will be police patrols on Thursday evenings and Sundays, as before.

**047/18 Planning Matters**

Current planning applications

(Cllr J Allen, who is the Applicant, left the room.)

18/01566/FUL: Erection of single storey retail and café area with roof-mounted solar panels. Holly Farm Garden Centre and Nursery, Whitchurch Road, Prees, Shropshire. Applicant: Holly Farm Garden Centre and Nursery.

The Parish Council saw no reason to object to this Application and therefore resolved that support for it should be registered. Proposed by Cllr R List and seconded by Cllr M Lanham. All were in favour. (Cllr Allen returned to the room.)

**Planning decisions received from Shropshire Council:**

- 18/00691/LBC Repairs to timber frame and floor following flood damage affecting a Grade II listed building. Edenhurst, 15 Moreton Street, Prees, Whitchurch, Shropshire SY13 2EG. Decision: grant permission.
- 18/00051/OHL Erection of 11KV overhead line supported by wooden poles. Land at Fernyleas, Station Road, Prees, Whitchurch, Shropshire SY13 2DW. Decision: No Objection OHL/Circular Notification.
- 17/05425/FUL Conversion of redundant church into residential dwelling; alterations to access with off-road parking and associated works. United Reform Church, Mill Street, Prees, Whitchurch, Shropshire SY13 2DL. Decision: grant permission.

**048/18 Parish Matters**

**Five Local Road Safety Priorities.** The Parish Council discussed what it believes to be the five road safety priorities in our parish. The clerk was asked to submit the list to Shropshire Council in the hope that some preventative or remedial action will be taken. The priorities agreed on were: Heathgates Crossroads (very unsafe 'hidden' junction); the stretch of the B5065 joining Lower Heath School and Mick's Mill (speeding vehicles); Station Road in Prees (unsafe for pedestrians); Whitchurch Road/Shrewsbury Street/Shrewsbury Rd (speeding vehicles through centre of village); Manor House Lane (constant use by heavy vehicles.) Clerk to draft initial letter and pass to Chairman.

**Continuing concerns about safety at Heathgates Crossroads.** A response was received from David Gradwell on 27<sup>th</sup> March advising that decisions about which schemes submitted under SC's Road Safety Policy process had been successful in securing funding from the Capital Works Programme for the new financial year were still awaited.

**Continuing concerns about speeding traffic on A49 and B5065 at Prees Green.** No proper response yet received from the Safer Roads Partnership. Clerk to follow up.

**Consideration of Traffic Speed Monitors.** Clerk to enquire of other local parishes of their experiences using this equipment.

**Continued concerns about dilapidated state of Croydon House, Shrewsbury Street.** Clerk reported that Alastair Dunning from Building Control is due to visit the site imminently.

**'Missing' streetlamps in Mill Street.** Clerk reported she is experiencing difficulty getting to the bottom of this mystery. Councillors suggested she consult the previous clerk and also Google Earth.

**Continued concerns about dilapidated state of house near corner of Turnpike Rise, Shrewsbury St.** Clerk reported that she has been in contact with Building Control about the open access to the staircase in this property. She has been advised to contact Environmental Health about this matter.

**Update on erection of Mobile Phone Tower in Mill St.** Clerk was asked to write to Shropshire Council Planning detailing continuing concerns about the lack of serious consideration of alternative sites for the tower.

**Damage to streetlamp in Station Road, Prees.** Clerk reported that Jones Lighting the streetlamp maintenance company had advised her that a streetlamp column in Station Road had been found to be live. It had subsequently been made safe. In the opinion of Jones Lighting, recent work to a BT column nearby could have caused the problem. Clerk to investigate.

**Reported hedging/tree removal along A49.** Cllr Mrs B Finch, who had been down to lead this item, was unable to be present, so this item was carried forward.

**049/18 Parish Council Matters**

**Road Safety Poster competition.** Cllr R Hirons reported that he is in communication with PCSO Hirons about plans for the competition and will report further at the next meeting.

**Boundary at rear of Prees playground.** Cllr M Lanham that a sturdy, well-made and attractive close-board fence has been erected by the resident at 4 Harvern Gardens and this will effectively prevent foot

traffic passing through that garden and into the playground. Clerk to write a letter of thanks to the resident. The boundary at 3 Harvern Gardens is currently an insubstantial bamboo barrier: it is hoped that the owner there will soon be able to complete his plans for the robust boundary that he outlined to the clerk earlier in the year.

**Influencing development through community-led planning.** Cllr R Hirons reported back from a meeting he and the clerk attended at Shirehall with Eddie West and Belinda Doolan and a representative from the Affordable Housing team. The focus of the meeting had been the launch of a new web-site to record perceptions of local housing needs: one launch event is due to take place in Prees.

At the meeting, Eddie West had suggested that a Community plan could focus narrowly on housing need; he had warned against taking on onerous responsibilities for wider planning matters and had stressed the value of getting the local community involved and heard. He had acknowledged that the sites identified for development at Shrewsbury Street and Moreton Street had proved unfruitful so far.

Cllr Hirons remarked that the concept of Affordable Housing as SC uses it, seems to be an extremely complicated one and he suggested a further meeting of Councillors to unpick the complexities further. Clerk to book Village Hall for a Tuesday evening.

**Should Prees Parish Council have a Facebook page?** Cllr D Ladd suggested that this would be a simple and effective way of connecting with parishioners, especially the younger ones. Cllr Ladd will investigate and bring more information to the next meeting. Clerk to ask SALC if there are guidelines for the use of social data and also to ask local clerks of their experiences with Facebook, if any.

**Review of Parish Council documents in preparation for Annual Parish Council Meeting.** Cllrs present expressed themselves satisfied that the documents allocated to them for review seemed acceptable: up to date and relevant.

**Battles Over Centenary celebrations November 2018.** Cllr J Whelan advised that the Cricket and Recreation Club would be happy to provide the venue. He reported that he is obtaining costings for the manufacture of the brazier. He will circulate the specification to all councillors in case any one of them knows someone who could provide a quote.

**Possible re-siting of the bench by Meres and Mosses flats in Shrewsbury St.** As the re-siting of the bench would involve considerable expense and as there is no current evidence of continuing damage to the area around the bench, the clerk was asked to write to Meres and Mosses and suggest that the situation is just kept under review for the time being.

**West Mercia PCC Survey for Town and Parish councils.** It was agreed that it would be best if interested councillors completed the survey individually.

Consideration of further funding from Awards for All? Item carried forward to next meeting.

**Helicopter Noise Liaison Group.** Report from meeting attended on 20<sup>th</sup> March 2018 by Cllr Mrs S Short. Cllr Short reported that the meeting, chaired by Simon Jones as the Station Commander was away, began with a 'pre-Royal' tour of the new facilities. Sight was had of the new Juno and Jupiter type helicopters which have been brought in for training purposes. Complete changeover to use of these machines will have happened by April. The very interesting tour continued around the new training block with its new classrooms and new simulators.

Complaints received by Shawbury over the last year stand at 184, which is a reduction on the previous year. In 2018 so far there have been 15 complaints, and none received by Shropshire Council. The next meeting will be held on 2 October 2018.

Cllr Hirons thanked Cllr Short for attending the meeting and reporting back.

## 050/18 Accounts for Payment

### Accounts for Payment: April 17<sup>th</sup> 2018

Mrs K Sieloff: clerk's salary April 2018	£421.89
HMRC PAYE payment April 2018	£3.60
Clerk's expenses detailed below	£39.78
Scottish Power: Electricity charges- street lighting 28.2.18-31.3.18	£159.20

Jones Lighting streetlight maintenance (March 2018)	£127.09
SALC: ALC Affiliation fee 1.4.18-31.3.19	£992.88
Garden Services: litter picks/safety checks/Prees p/g hedge	£770.00
Total	£2514.44

Late-arriving invoice:

Prees Village Hall hire @ £19.00 x 6: 9/1; 16/1; 30/1; 20/2; 20/3; 27/3 2018	£114.00
Grand total	£2628.44

*Clerks expenses 15.3.18 – 9.4.18 inclusive*  
 15.3.18: delivery of Mins 13 miles @ 45p per mile = £5.85  
 22.3.18: 4 x stamps @ 56p (bills) = £2.24

*Plus*  
 BT line rental for April 2018; £12.50  
 And  
 reimbursement requested for payment of one year's renewal  
 of domain name for parish council website @ £19.19 paid 2.3.18

*Total expenses = £39.78*

Cllr J Whelan proposed that the above accounts should be paid and this was seconded by Cllr Mrs S Short. All were in favour.

**051/18 Correspondence**

- Letter detailing consultation (ending 21.5.18) on changes to Environmental Maintenance Grant. Carry forward to next agenda.

**052/18 Items for next Agenda.**

- Concerns about site on Brades Road, behind old Furbers site: removal of hedges, etc. Cllr J Whelan to lead.

Meeting closed at 8.55 pm.

Next meeting May 15<sup>th</sup> 2018

Signed ..... Date .....