

Minutes of the Meeting of Prees Parish Council held on Tuesday 16th March 2021
at 7.00 pm via the video conferencing platform 'Zoom'.

Present were Cllrs R Hirons; Mrs S Short; Mrs B Finch; Mrs B Rainford; Mrs D Foster; Mrs L Baer; M Lanham; R List; D Ladd; PWynn together with Mrs K Sieloff clerk to the Parish Council.

032/21 Public session. There were no members of the public present.

033/21 Apologies received from Cllrs Mrs B Finch and J Whelan.

034/21 For members to disclose pecuniary or impecuniary interests. Cllrs M Lanham declared an interest in the item concerning the decision on nominating someone to attend the Lord Lieutenant's Covid Heroes Garden Party and Cllr D Ladd declared an interest in the request from the Village Hall Committee for a grant to refurbish the defibrillator. The two cllrs will sign the relevant paperwork as soon as is practicable.

035/21 Minutes of the previous Full Council Meeting held on Tuesday February 16th 2020 had been previously circulated and were agreed to be a true recording. This was proposed by Cllr Mrs B Rainford and seconded by Cllr Mrs D Foster. The Chairman duly signed.

036/21 Actions arising from the Minutes that are not on the Agenda.

- Clerk reported that she had advised the resident concerned about vehicles parking on the verge outside the burial ground that the area did not belong to the Parish Council but was owned by Shropshire Council. She had suggested that he contact the Parochial Church Council of St Chad's, in the first instance, to discuss the matter as it was presumably church officials who had erected the bollards to discourage parking.

037/21 Shropshire Council Report. Cllr P Wynn's report made the following points:

- He is supporting the idea of traffic being diverted through Hodnet when the A41 is closed, rather than through Shrewsbury.
- He has spoken to the planning officer handling the concerns raised about possibly unauthorised businesses operating in Twemlows Wood and has received assurance that these matters are being looked into.

038/21 Community Policing. PCSO David Andrew supplied a report which advised of the following incidents :

- An attempted burglary on a residential dwelling.
- An RTC Higher Heath involving an emergency vehicle, no injuries.
- 2 vehicles seized for road related offences.
- Criminal damage to play equipment.
- We are regularly patrolling Prees medical practice when Covid vaccinations are taking place. We are also checking the parking behind the Methodist Chapel, Play park and cricket club when able. Youths have been moved on from the cricket club area and details taken.

039/21 Planning

Current planning applications received for consultation

The following two applications appear to be identical, so they were considered as one.

- 21/01000/TPO: To fell 1no Scots Pine tree protected by The North Shropshire District Council (Prees Higher Heath No 6) TPO 1975. 11 Birchwood Grove, Higher Heath, Whitchurch, Shropshire SY13 2 EX) Applicant: Mr Richard Bowers.
- 21/01020/TPO: To fell 1no Scots Pine tree protected by The North Shropshire District Council (Prees Higher Heath No 6) TPO 1975. 11 Birchwood Grove, Higher Heath, Whitchurch, Shropshire SY13 2 EX) Applicant: Mr Richard Bowers.

The same decision was resolved for both. It was resolved to object to these applications as no expert opinion or report had been provided. This was proposed by Cllr R Hirons and seconded by Cllr M Lanham. The majority were in favour, with one against.

- 21/00913/FUL: Erection of a two storey side extension and a porch extension to front. 18 Woodlands Grove, Higher Heath, Whitchurch, Shropshire SY13 2JB. Applicant: Mrs Stephanie Dunn.

It was resolved to support this application. This was proposed by Cllr Mrs D Foster and seconded by Cllr Mrs L Baer. All were in favour.

Planning Decisions received from Shropshire Council:

- 20/05311/FUL: Erection of a storage and machinery maintenance building. Cheshire Games Supplies, Manor House Lane, Higher Heath, Whitchurch, Shropshire. Decision: Grant Permission.
- 20/05330/FUL: Erection of car port and garden wall. Betula, Twemlows Walk, Higher Heath, Whitchurch, Shropshire SY13 2JE. Decision: Grant Permission.
- 20/05388/FUL: Erection of two storey rear extension and internal alterations. Pastoral, Moreton Street, Prees SY13 2EF. Decision: Grant Permission.

Other planning matters

- Received for information only: 21/01047/CPL: Application for a Lawful Development Certificate for the proposed erection of a single storey rear extension. Peacehaven, 28 Mill Street, Prees, Whitchurch, Shropshire. Applicant: Mr and Mrs Duncan and Debbie Austin.
- Report of static caravan at Linford Farm, Weston-under-Redcastle allegedly being used as residence. Carried forward.

040/21 Parish and Parish Council Matters.

Hazardous footpath crossing of A49.

Report from Cllr Mrs D Foster re meeting with David Gradwell. Cllr Mrs Foster, accompanied by Cllr Mrs B Finch, met with David Gradwell and Philip Lloyd, Shropshire Council Traffic Engineers, to discuss possible ways of making crossing the A49 on foot less hazardous. David Gradwell liked Cllr Mrs Foster's ideas for making the crossing place much more visible to approaching vehicles but he regretted that due to lack of funds the best he could offer currently was additional signage or the relocation of the current signage.

- Complaint from resident that footpath gateway in Turnpike Rise is impeded by tree. Clerk to contact Shropshire Council to ask them to investigate.

Recent improvements to local footpaths.

Cllr M Lanham presented an item explaining and showing the progress made by local volunteers working in conjunction with SC Footpath Officers to open/improve the network of Rights of Way that criss-crosses our Parish. We have 152 paths adding up to 36 miles of ROW: more than 1% of all Shropshire's paths. A year ago 20 of the routes were impassable but since then 13 of them have been re-opened, and the work continues. The Prees Walking Group is very well-supported and some of the walkers are also part of the volunteer force who have helped to clear undergrowth, install kissing-gates and stiles and put up Waymark discs. Cllr Lanham also reported that for the first time Prees will take part in the Whitchurch Walking Festival, scheduled for May this year. Cllr Lanham will be leading two local walks as part of it. He said that the marvellous improvements to local footpaths have only been possible because of the sustained and dedicated efforts made by the local volunteers (he mentioned especially Tony and Shiela Eccleston; Brian Hickson; Anne Lanham and Peter Bichener) and the Outdoor Team from SC (Rob Purcell; Helen Foxall; Shona Butters and Helen Beresford.) He also thanked all the land-owners involved.

Cllr Hirons thanked Cllr Lanham for his inspiring and uplifting report and asked that the Parish Council's thanks be passed on to all those who had contributed to the hard work.

Mickley and Lostford Lane: As reported above, Cllr Wynn continues to pursue this matter.

A41 Incident Log: No new incidents to report, but Prees PC has received an email from the Chair of Hodnet Parish Council outlining that Parish Council's concerns about diversionary routes taken, lack of signage etc.

Lord Lieutenant's Garden Party for Covid Heroes.

Cllr M Lanham was asked to absent himself for this item, which he did. Cllr Hirons confirmed that the Parish Council was asked to choose two people to attend the Garden Party now scheduled for June 2022. It was Mrs Maxine Chidlow who had received the most nominations from local people and Cllr Hirons proposed that her name should be put forward, along with that of a guest of her choice. He also proposed that the other four people nominated should receive appreciative letters from the PC and a voucher for £20.00, and that the clerk

should write an item for the Venture recognising all the kindnesses, large and small, demonstrated by and for our parishioners during these difficult times. After some discussion the vote in favour of these three proposals was unanimous.

Streetlamp Maintenance: award of new contract. All Parish Councillors had had the opportunity to peruse information supplied to them by the clerk concerning three alternative providers of streetlamp maintenance, including charges. On the basis of the many recommendations received from other local councils, and the impression left by a personal meeting with the MD of the company, together with the competitive prices quoted, Cllr R Hirons proposed that Highline Electrical Ltd should be selected to provide streetlamp maintenance services from April 1st 2021. This was seconded by Cllr M Lanham and all were in favour.

Request from Prees Village Hall. Cllr D Ladd, who is also the Chair of the Village Hall Committee, had asked the PC to consider a one-off grant of £94.00 to pay for the new pads and batteries that the defibrillator located at the Village Hall would shortly need. He now explained that the Village Hall had always expected to pick up the on-going costs of servicing the defibrillator itself, but its recent income had of course been dramatically diminished by Covid-19. Cllr Ladd said he was happy to fit the new parts himself. Cllr Mrs B Rainford proposed that the grant of £94.00 should be made and this was seconded by Cllr Mrs L Baer. All were in favour.

Neighbourhood Plan seminar 15.3.21. Cllr R Hirons had attended via Zoom and now reported. He believed that a Neighbourhood Plan would give a community more control over planning and development, but the process of constructing the Plan involved a massive amount of work, requiring major input of time and money. After discussion it was agreed that there is currently no appetite for embarking on this process.

Playground Matters.

- Posts at HH playing-field. Comparative costs of timber/concrete/recycled material posts had been circulated. Clerk was asked to send round images of the concrete posts to all cllrs so they had a clear understanding of what was on offer.
- Rabbit cull at HH playing-field. Rabbit culler is keen to identify the owner of the land to the left of HH playing field in order to obtain permission to tackle the rabbit population there. Clerk has so far been unable to identify the owner.

Community-led building development: Cllr Mrs B Rainford reported from the meeting held on 9.3.21. as follows: "It is confirmed that there is no need for a Section 106 payment as people will be local, so not increasing demand on infrastructure. Legals are progressing on the land purchase. May start on site is on target. Waiting on the result of badger survey but this shouldn't delay things as badgers can be relocated. Planning permission should be straightforward, waiting for a delegated powers decision. Once we get planning permission we can apply for the council funding – part of which the Parish Council will receive."

Need for 30mph limit to be extended along Whitchurch Road. Cllr Hirons reminded the meeting that it is hoped that when planning permission is obtained for the Community-led build, it will lend weight to the call for the extension of the 30 mph limit along Whitchurch Road. Clerk to make initial enquiries.

Wrafton Terrace. Update from Cllr J Allen. Carried forward.

Buildings at The Square, Prees. Concern about potential hazards. Clerk reported that the Building Control officer from SC has not yet been able to make his promised visit for assessment of the hazards.

Housekeeping matters. Anything to report? Graffiti on sides of bridge spanning Church Street have been reported to local Police, who have said they will action.

(Cllr Mrs S Jones joined the meeting at this point, on her return from work.)

PC Facebook page: nothing new to report.

Prees Churchyard needs additional plots. The Parish Council has heard indirectly that SC has suggested that it might like to purchase additional burial space for the Church with Neighbourhood Fund monies. One Parish Cllr wondered if the Church had approached local farmers to moot the idea of a donation of a quarter-acre or so of land.

Traffic situation outside local schools: Cllr Mrs B Finch was unable to be present, but had told the clerk that she has an appointment to meet with the head-teacher at Prees Primary School.

Neighbourhood Fund spending priorities: suggested next steps. Carried forward.

Youth shelter at Prees Cricket and Recreation Club. Hazardous littering problems continue. The Chairman visited the site with Cllr Mrs B Finch and the clerk. They noted the Shelter has an internal light: would it be possible to get this operating during the hours of darkness? Clerk to investigate and also to put an item in the Venture exhorting responsible use of the building. Cllr Hirons told the meeting that Cllr Mrs Finch had, subsequent to the cllrs' visit, made another visit to do a thorough clean-up of the area, and he extended his thanks and appreciation to her.

Vehicle speed monitors: clerk awaits a quote for installation of posts at Wrafton Terrace; in Shrewsbury Street outside the Industrial Estate and outside Lower Heath School, should the PC decide to foot the bill for this work itself. Cllrs present expressed their frustration at not being able to make full use of the two monitors purchased, as the one currently on the A49 by Holly Farm Nursery does seem to be having a positive impact.

Prees Convenience Store: Pallets on pavement. The clerk reported that she has asked Shropshire Council to support the PC's request that pallets should not be stored on the pavement at the front of the shop.

2021 Census. Cllr Hirons reminded the meeting that Census Day 2021 is Sunday March 21st. The Parish Council has been told that all homes in the Parish will receive paper copies of the Census document, but the task can be completed on-line if preferred.

Elections 2021. Cllr Hirons reminded the meeting that there will be Parish Council Elections this year, on May 6th. The clerk will deliver paper nomination packs to cllrs and will provide any support needed in their completion. She will be happy to take the completed documents to Shropshire Council (closing date April 8th 2021..) Paper documents only are accepted and these must be delivered by hand.

Dog waste bin for footpath? After further discussion the unanimous decision was arrived at that what was necessary was not more bins, but a shift in attitude on the part of a few dog-walkers. Properly wrapped dog waste can be put in *any* waste bin and there are plenty of those around, so there is no excuse for dog waste not to be picked up and disposed of safely. Clerk to draft an item for the Venture.

041/21 SALC.

North Shropshire Area Committee Meeting 15th March 2021. Cllr Mrs B Rainford attended and reported as follows.

Several topics were covered

- Ann Turner, Lord Lieutenant of Shropshire gave a talk about nominating people for Royal awards – like an MBE – there is an online form on her website which makes it more simple to nominate people.
- Shropshire Council will be bidding for funding to improve public transport and rural mobility – eg there is no bus service from Market Drayton to Telford hospital – re-opening more train stations and re-organising buses to connect with train times. Whitchurch Station's lack of disabled access was also mentioned.
- Ian Kilby, Head of Planning Services at Shropshire Council gave an update on the progress of the Local Plan and CIL, several councils had used CIL funding to provide extra classrooms for schools.
- Councillor Crackett from Stanton-upon-Hine-Heath described the damage done to tiny country roads by large agricultural vehicles – the council is having to organise contractors to rectify this themselves to relieve flooding.
- Councillor Sharp from Shawbury was concerned about councils having to organise litter picking on major roads themselves – and the danger to volunteers – whereas this should be done by Shropshire Council.

042/21 Accounting Matters

Payment of Accounts March 2021

	£
Mrs K Sieloff clerks salary March 2021	465.12
HMRC (PAYE)	3.00
Clerks expenditure (detailed below)	15.14
Scottish Power (streetlight energy 31.1.21 -28.2.21)	115.79

Groundforce Landscape Ltd (works February 2021)	24.00
TEEC Ltd (website hosting+domain purchase)	151.19
TEEC Ltd (migration of existing site)	396.00
Technochip Computers Ltd (annual laptop service + Bullguard)	230.00
J S Ridgway and Son (brash-cutting at HH playing-field)	<u>93.60</u>
Total	1493.84

Clerk's expenditure 11.2.21-10.3.21:

February BT line rental contribution: £12.50

Stamps: 4 x 2nd class stamps @ 66p = £2.64

Total = £15.14

Cllr Mrs L Baer proposed that these accounts should be paid and this was seconded by Cllr Mrs S Jones. All were in favour.

043/21 Correspondence
None outstanding.

044/21 Items for next Agenda

- Parking outside schools
- Helicopter Noise Liaison Group report.

The meeting was closed at 9.00 pm.

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