Minutes of the meeting of Prees Parish Council held on Monday 15 September 2025

in Prees Village Hall at 7.15pm.

Present: Cllrs Mrs S Short, Mrs J Catterall, Mrs S Jones, Mrs B Finch, Mrs L Baer, Ms N Young, Mrs J Platt, D Pritchard, Dr J Redgate, T Nield and M Myles-Hook. Also present was Mrs K Sieloff, clerk to the PC and 13 members of the public.

**139/25 Public Session**.

A member of the public voiced his concerns about the possible potential for flooding affecting the proposed development site featured in planning application 25/03435/OUT.

**140/25 Apologies**

Apologies had been received from Cllrs Mrs A Allen and J Allen.

**141/25 Declarations of interest** **in items on the Agenda.**

Cllr D Pritchard declared an impecuniary interest in the planning application 25/03435/OUT. He agreed not to take part in the discussion of the application or to participate in voting.

**142/25** Signing of the Minutes.

The minutes of the meeting held on August 18 2025 and previously circulated, were agreed to be a true record. It was proposed by Cllr Mrs J Catterall that they should be signed and this was seconded by Cllr Mrs B Finch. All were in favour.

**143/25 Actions Arising from the Minutes not on the Agenda**

There were none.

**144/25 Community Policing Matters**

There was no officer in attendance. ‘On the Beat’ the monthly community policing on-line magazine had been circulated to all cllrs.

**145/25 Shropshire Council Report**

Cllr M Myles-Hook’s reported that Shropshire Council has a predicted overspend of £900,000 by the end of the financial year. A financial emergency has been announced and all non-mandatory spending has been suspended. It is hoped that a Section 114 Notice, when the central Government takes over the running of the Council, can be avoided. Cllr Myles-Hook’s report can be found in its entirety on the Parish Council website.

**146/25 Planning Matters**

**Current planning applications for consultation**

**25/02949/OUT**. 25/02949/OUT: Proposed Residential Development On Land Adjacent Tudor House, Whitchurch Road, Prees, Whitchurch, Shropshire. Proposal:  Outline application for residential development to include access. Applicant: Mr & Mrs Henderson (C/o Watton, 22 Kingsland Road, Shrewsbury, SY3 7LD)

The Chair of the PC reported that a site visit had been held when all perceived problems had been discussed in a meeting between 8 of the Parish Councillors and the land-owner, planning agent and architect.

At the PC meeting the scheme was discussed again. Concerns about the ability of existing infrastructure (doctors, schools) to cope, were raised, to which the response was that Community Infrastructure Levy paid by the developers will address increased infrastructure needs. Regarding the worries about flooding, reassurance was reiterated, stating that all the proposed development is outside the flood zone according to the Environment Agency. The meeting was reminded that this Application does not represent the finished scheme: it is an Outline application only, with details to be confirmed. Cllr Mrs N Young proposed that the PC support the Application while raising its concerns about infrastructure needs (schools, GP provision and drainage system) and asking for extension of 30mph speed limit along the length of Whitchurch Road. This was seconded by Cllr Mrs J Platt. All were in favour.

Cllr M Myles-Hook offered to ask for the Application to be promoted to the Northern Planning Committee for decision, but the PC while appreciative of the offer unanimously agreed that this was not necessary for the Outline application.

**Planning decisions received from Shropshire Council.**

25/02627/FUL: Hivu, Fauls, Whitchurch, Shropshire, SY13 2AS
Proposal:  Single storey wrap around extension.
Decision:  Grant Permission.

**147/25** **Parish and Parish Council Matters.**

**Hazardous parking at War Memorial**.

Cllr Mrs S Short reported that efforts are continuing to identify the owners of the land. The surrounding residents are being kept informed of actions. No Parking signs have been erected around the War Memorial. The School has sent letters out to parents asking them not to park in the area. Cllr Mrs Short intends the PC to organise a public meeting in due course.

Cllr Mrs J Platt reported that when she drove past the School at 3pm the War Memorial triangle was full of parked cars, while further down the hill the car park behind the Village Hall was empty. Cllr D Pritchard volunteered to walk up each week-day to assess the situation at school pick-up time and report back.

**Demolition of Youth Shelter**.

Cllr Mrs S Short confirmed that the commemorative photographs had been delivered to the parents of Adam Childs and Tom Nixon. There is a large copy which will be hung in the Village Hall.

**Update on roll-out of Full Fibre broadband locally**.

Cllr Dr J Redgate advised that Freedom Fibre are not responding to his emails and he therefore has little to report. Freedom Fibre have definitely withdrawn from the contract. Cllr Redgate is of the opinion that Openreach will probably step in.

**Local roads issues.**

**Vehicle-speed monitor on Lacon Street**?

Clerk has asked local police if they can help with collection of vehicle-speed data on Lacon Street on the approach to the School.

**Zigzags at Prees Primary School**.

Clerk has researched the history of the zigzags outside Prees School. They are currently advisable only and not enforceable. SC would only embark on the lengthy and expensive process of making them enforceable if the site was an accident hot-spot, which it currently is not.

**Proposed 20mph limit still to be imposed around the Primary Schools?**

Clerk has obtained confirmation from SC that a 20mph limit will be imposed around Lower Heath School first. The funding for this has been approved for spending in the current financial year. SC hopes that Prees School will have funding confirmed for the following financial year.

**Playground matters**

1. Possible enhancements to Higher Heath playing-field. Cllrs Mrs B Finch, Mrs J Catterall and Mrs S Jones have made a date to visit and assess the current provision.
2. RoSPA report review. Carried forward.

**Remembrance Sunday November 9 2025.**

It was unanimously agreed that Cllr Mrs J Catterall would lay the Wreath at Prees and that Cllr J Allen would be asked by the clerk to lay the one at Fauls. Clerk to deliver wreaths to cllrs’ homes in due course.

**Invitation from Shropshire Council to sign a Memorandum of Understanding**. Carried forward to next Agenda.

**Working groups within the Parish Council**.

Cllr Mrs S Short proposed that the following roles should be confirmed:

Bank signatories: Cllrs Mrs S Short, Mrs J Catterall and J Allen.

Clerk’s assessment and review: Cllrs J Allen and D Pritchard.

Playground Group: Cllrs Mrs J Catterall, Mrs B Finch, Mrs S Jones and Mrs J Platt.

PC representative on Prees Village Hall committee: Cllr Dr J Redgate.

PC representatives on Higher Heath Hall committee: Cllrs Mrs J Catterall and Mrs A Allen.

This was seconded by Cllr Mrs J Catterall. All were in favour.

**Consideration of quote for repairs and enhanced security to boundary to Prees Playground at Station Road.**

It was unanimously resolved that the quote (previously circulated) of £836.06 received from Steve Oliver for this vital work should be accepted.

**148/25 SALC news.**

Cllr Mrs J Catterall said that she intended to attend the next meeting of the North Shropshire Area Committee which unfortunately usually coincides with the PC meeting.

**149/25 Accounting Matters**

Accounts for Payment September 2025

Cllr Ms N Young proposed that the following accounts should be paid and this was seconded by Cllr Mrs L Baer. All were in favour.

 £

K D Sieloff clerk’s salary September 490.68

HMRC PAYE 122.67

K D Sieloff clerk’s expenditure (13.8.25-9.9.25) 228.45

Pimlotts Ground Maintenance Ltd: (lengthsman August) 320.00

Pimlotts Ground Maintenance Ltd (grass-cutting ) 212.00

Post Office Ltd (SC Joint Energy costs July-Sept 2025) 645.44

Whitchurch Photography 118.00

Prees Village Hall (bookings 16/6, 21/7, 18/8, 15/9) 100.00

Signs of the Times 129.60

 Total 2,366.84

Additional invoice

PKF Littlejohn LLP external audit 252.00

 GRAND TOTAL 2,618.84

Clerk’s expenditure 13.8.25-9.9.25

*BT line rental contribution September 2025: £ 12.50.*

*Stamps:5 x second class stamps @ 87p = £4.35*

*Trip to noticeboards for August Agenda etc: 8 miles @ 45 ppm= £3.60.*

*Annual payment to clerk for use of home as office @ £4.00 per week = £208.00*

*Total = £228.45*

**Conclusion of Audit 2025-26**.

The clerk confirmed that she had received notification of the conclusion of the Audit for the year 2025-26 from the external auditor, together with the External Auditor’s Report and Certificate. The Report highlighted one concern, which reads as follows:

“Information has come to our attention highlighting the fact that the smaller authority does not have an email management system in place whereby it has an email account that belongs to the smaller authority and to which the smaller authority has access.”

This matter is to be addressed.

The audited accounts now have to go on public display before 30 September and remain on display for a reasonable time as determined by the Parish Council.

**150/25 Housekeeping**.

1. A branch had fallen on to Church Street from the site at The Square. Cllr N Young had reported it to Highways and the Police, and a passing parishioner had sorted the situation temporarily. Clerk to contact Berry’s and request a permanent solution to the self-seeded tree growing in too close proximity to the fence and the building.
2. Clerk to report accumulating rubbish at the Travellers site in Higher Heath.
3. Clerk to enquire about progress on the repair of the listed bridge at Sandford.
4. Clerk to check safety of small gate at Brades Road playground.

**151/25 Facebook.** Some comments opposing the No Parking signs at the War Memorial.

**152/25 Correspondence.**

Nothing outstanding.

**153/25 Items for next Agenda**

Policy for Social Media. Parish Council Christmas Social. Memorandum of Understanding.

The meeting was closed at 8.55pm.

**Next meeting** is Monday October 20 2025.

Signed……………………………………… Date…………………………………………….

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