Minutes of Meeting of Prees Parish Council held 7.15pm on Monday June 16 2025 at Prees Village Hall.

Present: Cllrs Mrs S Short, Mrs J Catterall, Mrs B Finch, Ms N Young, Mrs L Baer, J Allen, Dr J Redgate and M Myles-Hook. Eleven members of the public and Mrs K Sieloff the clerk were also present.

A Declaration of Acceptance of Office was signed by Cllr Ms N Young before the start of the Meeting.

**087/25 Public Session**

Several residents attended to voice their objection to planning application 25/01771/FUL from Primchurch Kennels in Primrose Lane. The main objection raised was the noise nuisance which would be increased with the number of dogs to be accommodated set to almost double. Other objections were made on the grounds of the dangerous road not being suitable for increased traffic, that drainage on site has historically been a problem, that dogs have escaped into nearby livestock fields and the proliferation of discarded bags of dog excrement in the vicinity.

The owner of the kennels attended to counter rumours circulating. He stated that his premises are not a rescue kennels and will not be. He employs 18 full-time staff and the dogs are not walked off-site. He advised that there is currently no noise insulation but that the new proposed design for acoustic panelling will stop the noise from both the old and new buildings. A specialist noise company has been employed. He also stated that the site was to have its own septic tank.

A resident from one of the houses by the War Memorial attended to say that his house was badly damaged by fire recently when three fire wagons which arrived at the scene within 16 minutes of being called could not reach his house because of cars parked in the lane around the War Memorial. For this reason his property was much more badly damaged that it needed to have been. It was only a matter of luck that no one was injured. Cllr Mrs S Short gave an assurance that this matter was on the Agenda.

**088/25 Apologies** received from Cllr Mrs S Jones.

**089/25 For Members to disclose any personal and prejudicial interest in any items on the agenda.**

Cllr J Allen disclosed an impecuniary interest in the co-option of new Parish Cllrs on the evening’s Agenda as his wife was one of the candidates. It was agreed that he would absent himself from the meeting for the duration of the whole item.

**090/25** Minutes of the previous meeting which was the Annual Parish Council Meeting held on Monday May 19 2025 had been previously circulated. These 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.

**091/25** **Matters arising from the Minutes** (which are not included on the Agenda.)

There were none.

**092/25 Community Policing Matters.**

There was no policing report and no officer available to attend. The monthly magazine ‘On The Beat’ had been received and circulated at the end of May.

**093/25** **Co-option of four Parish Councillors**.

Cllr J Allen absented himself for the duration of this item.

The clerk had previously circulated applications from 6 candidates to all existing cllrs. Five of the candidates were able to be in attendance at the meeting. Each of them introduced him or herself to the Parish Council.

The existing parish and there was a conclusive result immediately. The successful candidates signed Nominations of Acceptance of Office immediately and Cllr Mrs Jane Platt, Cllr Mrs Alison Allen, Cllr David Pritchard and Cllr Thomas Nield took their place alongside the other parish cllrs at the table.

Cllr J Allen returned to the room.

**094/25 Shropshire Council report.**

Cllr Malcolm Myles-Hook presented his report, which can be read in its entirety on the Parish Council website. He told the Meeting that he is currently engaged with familiarising himself with the current concerns of the local communities that he represents, visiting schools, arranging surgeries and participating in local community events. He is keen to garner information from the Parish Councils.

**095/25 Planning** **Matters.**

**Current Applications for consultation**:

**25/01771/FUL:** Erection of a detached, purpose designed, heated kennel block and all associated works.

Primchurch Kennels, Primrose Lane, Prees, Whitchurch, Shropshire. Applicant: Carty.

Cllr J Allen said that while he was sure that all the cllrs would agree that expansion of a local business was to be encouraged and supported, the matter all hinged on whether the noise would really be abated by the proposed new provision. Cllr Dr J Redgate had noted that there was no technical data available concerning the noise and its proposed abatement. The PC resolved to object to the application on the view that it must represent the views of its parishioners and there was considerable disquiet locally about the threat of loss of amenity because of the possible increase in noise from the site. This was proposed by Cllr J Allen and seconded by Cllr Mrs J Catterall. All were in favour.

**25/01785/FUL**: Installation of a 556 KW ground mount solar photovoltaic system and associated infrastructure. Lower Heath Farm, Lower Heath, Prees, Whitchurch, Shropshire. Applicant: Mr Charles Simpson.

The Parish Council resolved to support this Application. This was proposed by Cllr J Allen and seconded by Cllr Mrs L Baer. All were in favour. Cllr Mrs N Young suggested that the Planning Officer could ask that the construction vehicles avoid the school at the beginning and end of the school day.

**25/01789/FUL:** Erection of a portal frame building to provide yard cover. Target Feeds Ltd, Brades Road, Prees, Whitchurch, Shropshire. Applicant: Mr Ian Hollows.

The Parish Council resolved to support this Application. This was proposed by Cllr J Allen and seconded by Cllr Ms N Young. All were in favour.

**Planning decisions received from Shropshire Council.**

25/00733/FUL: Agricultural Building B At Rose Cottage, Prees Green, Whitchurch, Shropshire
Proposal:  Change of use from agricultural building to residential dwelling and internal alterations
Decision:  Refuse

**096/25 Parish and Parish Council Matters**

**Demolition of Youth Shelter**

Cllr Mrs Short confirmed that all the necessary preparatory work had been done and she proposed that the notice announcing the demolition should be published and the contractor should now be given the go-ahead to complete the demolition. This was seconded by Cllr Mrs J Catterall. All were in favour. The Chair and the clerk were asked to make the necessary decisions concerning the framing of the photographs for display and gifting to Tom’s and Adam’s parents.

**Excessive outdoor lighting at Pinelodge Cars**.

Cllr Dr J Redgate had reported that excessively bright LEDs at this site are liable to blind drivers travelling South on the A41 at night.

Clerk was asked to write to SC about the matter. Proposed by Cllr Dr J Redgate and seconded by Cllr J Allen. All were in favour.

**Possible CCTV at Prees Central Crossroads**

The clerk reported that she has received quotes for two cameras that may be suitable and hopes to obtain a third one for the July meeting.

**Soulton/Wem Road**

Cllr Mrs J Catterall reported that residents on this road were hoping that a 30mph could be imposed by SC. Cllr J Allen suggested that in the bigger picture of local highway hazards, this site is not the highest priority. He suggested that it is considered and discussed with other projects when that is on the Agenda next month. All were in agreement.

**Hazardous parking around the War Memorial**

Cllr Mrs S Short reminded the meeting that the PC has long been concerned about the parking in this area of the Parish and keeping access clear to all properties for Emergency Services is of course crucial. The Parish Council was horrified by recent events. It is hoped that land can be found for parking-space for the School and additional burial ground for the Church, but this is proving a long slow process.

A particular difficulty with the road around the War Memorial is that no-one knows who owns it. Various efforts to establish ownership have been made in the past, but to no avail. Clerk was asked to find out who controls access to a bit of land if its ownership is unknown. (NALC Legal can be consulted.)

**Community-led Build at Whitchurch Road**

The clerk reported that a very recent report from Wrekin Housing had advised that they are still

waiting for the pumping station to be signed off. This and building control approval must be received prior to handing over the properties. It is hoped this will happen next week. Unfortunately due to the retaining wall design taking so long to be agreed and signed off by Severn Trent, this work will take place, if acceptable to Building Control, after handover. This will be one week’s work and shouldn’t disrupt tenants’ access and enjoyment of their new homes.

**New playground installations complete.**

The clerk reported that the installations at both play sites are complete, barring the provision of a couple of caps on the uprights at the gate, and a finger-guard on the gate-post, which Kompan has undertaken to sort.

Local children appear to be enjoying the new provision.

Kompan had advised that their designers had been unable to consult with the manufacturers of some of the old equipment at Brades Road, as they were no longer in business. On doing his checks on completion of the installation, the independent inspector would have liked there to have been four inches more space between the new roundabout and the existing single-fixing swing. However the risk of hazard is still assessed as being extremely low.

**New appointments**

After discussion, the following appointments were resolved on.

Higher Heath Village Hall Committee: Cllrs Mrs J Catterall and Mrs A Allen.

Prees Village Hall Committee: Cllr Ms N Young

Bank signatories: current provision deemed sufficient

Clerk’s Appraisal and Review panel: Cllr D Pritchard to join Cllr J Allen.

Playgrounds Group: Cllrs Mrs J Platt and Mrs N Young to join Cllr Mrs J Catterall.

These appointments were proposed en bloc by Cllr J Allen and seconded by Cllr Dr J Redgate. All were in favour.

**097/25 SALC**. Clerk was asked to circulate details of next meeting of the North Shropshire Area Committee and to ask for a volunteer to attend.

**098/25 Accounting matters**

**Cheque raised between meetings.**

Clerk reported that as authorised at the May meeting, she had raised a cheque to pay for insurance renewal with Zurich for the year 1.6.25-1.6.26. The amount was £1346.72. The cheque was posted on 23 May.

**099/25** **Accounts to be paid June 2025**

It was resolved that the following accounts should be paid. This was proposed by Cllr Mrs J Catterall and seconded by Cllr Mrs B Finch. All were in favour.

K D Sieloff clerk’s salary June 490.68

HMRC PAYE 122.67

K D Sieloff clerks expenditure (14.5.25-11.6.25) 15.11

Kompan Ltd (new play equipment) 62,205.87

Pimlotts Ground Maintenance Ltd: Lengthsman () 320.00

Pimlotts Ground Maintenance Ltd (grass-cutting) 212.00

Post Office Ltd (SC Joint Energy to streetlamps.) May-June 2025 430.30

PlayMaintainRepair Ltd (play equipment repairs/maintenance) 2880.00

 **Total 66,676.63**

Clerk’s expenditure 14.5.25-11.6.25

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

*Stamps:3 x second class stamps @ 87p = £2.61*

Total = £15.11

**100/25** Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2024-25: Internal Auditor’s Report.

The Parish Council considered the Report and resolved to accept it. This was proposed by Cllr Mrs L Baer and seconded by Cllr Mrs J Catterall. All were in favour. (Note: the newly co-opted cllrs abstained from voting on all the AGAR matters.)

**101/25** Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2024-25: Annual Governance Statement. The Annual Governance Statement was considered by the Parish Council and the Parish Council’s responses were recorded. The PC resolved that the document should be signed by the Chair ready for submission to the external auditor. This was proposed by Cllr Mrs B Finch and seconded by Cllr Mrs L Baer. All were in favour and the document was signed.

**102/25** Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2024-25: Accounting Statements. These were considered by the Parish Council which then resolved that they should be signed by the Chair. This was proposed by Cllr J Allen and seconded by Cllr Mrs L Baer. All were in favour and the Chair duly signed.

**103/25** The dates for the period of the Exercise of Public Rights to scrutinise the Unaudited Accounts were confirmed by the clerk to be 24 June to 5 August inclusive.

**104/25 Housekeeping**

**105/25 Facebook**. Nothing new currently.

**106/25 Correspondence.** Email received from Higher Heath resident expressing appreciation of the new zipwire and asking whether it would be possible for the Higher Heath playground to receive further new enhancements to match those at Brades Road.

Matter to be on the July Agenda.

**107/25 Items for next Agenda**.

Higher Heath play provision. PC Aspirations. Brook on Station Road. Standing Orders. Training Opportunities.

Meeting closed at 9.20 pm.

Signed………………………………………………… Dated………………………………………………