Minutes of Meeting of Prees Parish Council held 7.15pm on Monday July 21 2025 at Prees Village Hall.

Present: Cllrs Mrs S Short, Mrs J Catterall, Mrs B Finch, Ms N Young, Mrs J Platt, Mrs S Jones, Mrs A Allen, J Allen, Dr J Redgate, T Nield, D Pritchard and M Myles-Hook. Two members of the public and Mrs K Sieloff the clerk were also present.

**108/25 Public Session.**

There were no contributions from members of the public.

**109/25 Apologies** received from Cllr Mrs L Baer.

**110/25 For Members to disclose any personal and prejudicial interest in any items on the agenda.**

There were none.

**111/25** Minutes of the previous meeting which was held on Monday June 16 2025 had been previously circulated. These were agreed to be a true record. It was proposed by Cllr Mrs B Finch that they should be signed and this was seconded by Cllr Ms N Young. All were in favour.

The Minutes of the Extraordinary meeting of the Parish Council held on 7 July 2025, which had also been circulated previously, were agreed to be a true record apart from the fact that although Cllr Mrs J Catterall had been recorded as attending, she had in fact sent her Apologies. With this amendment, they were agreed to be a true record and Cllr J Allen proposed that they should be signed. This was seconded by Cllr Mrs J Platt. All were in favour.

**112/25** **Matters arising from the Minutes** (which are not included on the Agenda.)

There were none.

**113/25 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 beginning of July.

**114/25 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 the new administration will focus on the things that really matter to local residents and that accordingly three priorities had been identified: potholes and road repairs, making it easier for residents to transact and deal with SC and resetting the relationship with its key partners such as town and parish councils.

He also reported that the proposed Shrewsbury North/West Relief Road has been paused following a meeting with one of the schemes main funding partners.

Mention was also made of the commencement of a Call for Sites process, as part of the evidence-collection work for the new Local Plan. The Call for Sites will run until 2.10.25 and invites land-owners and other interested parties to promote sites for consideration as potential allocation for development, to meet Shropshire’s future needs. A first draft Plan for consultation is expected in Autumn 2026.

**115/25 Planning** **Matters.**

**Current Applications for consultation**:

**25/02475/FUL**: Tair Blodyn, Moreton Street, Prees, Shrewsbury, Shropshire, SY13 2FB
Proposal:  Proposed single storey rear extension (part retrospective)
Applicant: Mr And Mrs A And L Tune.

The Parish Council resolved to support this planning application. This was proposed by Cllr Mrs S Jones and seconded by Cllr T Nield. All were in favour.

**25/02482/LBC**: The Stables, Sandford Hall, Sandford, Whitchurch, Shropshire. Proposal: Minor alterations to existing dwelling including erection of a small extension to house plant and provide garden storage.

Applicant: Mr & Mrs C. Kritzinger

The Parish Council resolved to support this application, although the clerk was asked to point out in her response that there appeared to be no comment from the Conservation officer, despite this being a listed building in a Conservation area. Proposal was made by Cllr Mrs N Young and seconded by Cllr J Allen. All were in favour.

**25/02435/FUL**: The Stables, Sandford Hall, Sandford, Whitchurch, Shropshire, SY13 2AW
Proposal:  Erection of a permanent single storey outbuilding and change of use of adjacent land to formalise its inclusion within the domestic curtilage. Applicant: Mr And Mrs C Kritzinger

The Parish Council resolved to support this application, with the provisos that new materials used need to be sympathetic to the context, that the drainage plan is re-drawn to safeguard the protected tree and that a condition is imposed to ensure that no business is ever run from the premises.

**25/02408/PSPPA**: Ashford Grange Farm, Sandford, Whitchurch, Market Drayton, Shropshire, TF9 3SD. Proposal:  Application for prior approval under Part 14, Class J of the Town & Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015 for the installation of roof mounted solar panels.
Applicant: Ms Emma Ward (Ashford Grange Farm, Market Drayton, Shropshire, TF9 3FD)

The Parish Council resolved to support this application. Proposed by Cllr D Pritchard and seconded by Cllr Mrs B Finch. All were in favour.

The Parish Council noted the following Planning Application which was for INFORMATION ONLY:

**25/02223/VRA106:** Proposed Development: Variation of S106 Agreement attached to NS/09/00111/OUT. Former Grocontinental Site / Skylark Fields, Heathwood Road, Higher Heath, Whitchurch, Shropshire. APPLICANT: Grocott Developments (Higher Heath) Limited.

**Planning decisions received from Shropshire Council.**

**25/00911/FUL**: Birch Grove, Sylvan Close, Higher Heath, Whitchurch, Shropshire, SY13 2TB
Proposal:  Siting of three glamping units for overnight guest use and partially-covered external timber decking areas. Expansion of existing parking area to add 3no. additional parking bays, connection to public sewer and associated works. Decision:  Refuse
**25/01789/FUL**: Address:  Target Feeds Ltd, Brades Road, Prees, Whitchurch, Shropshire, SY13 2DX
Proposal:  Erection of a portal frame building to provide yard cover. Decision:  Grant Permission

**25/01785/FUL**: Lower Heath Farm, Lower Heath, Prees, Whitchurch, Shropshire, SY13 2BQ
Proposal:  Installation of a 556kW ground mount solar photovoltaic system and associated infrastructure
Decision:  Grant Permission

**25/01151/FUL**: Lower Heath C.E. School, Lower Heath, Prees, Whitchurch, Shropshire, SY13 2BT
Proposal:  Creation of new access and car park. Decision:  Grant Permission

**25/01693/FUL**: Building Adjoining The Firs, Higher Heath, Whitchurch, Shropshire
Proposal:  Replacement of existing office and associated works. Decision:  Grant Permission

**116/25 Parish and Parish Council Matters**

**Demolition of Youth Shelter: update**.

The clerk confirmed that the demolition of the Youth Shelter is on the contractor’s list of upcoming works. He is in direct contact with the groundsman at the Rec Club, as requested by the Rec Club Committee.

**Pinelodge Cars: excessive lighting causing hazard**.

The clerk has received no response from her email to SC about this. She will pursue it further.

**Possibility of CCTV camera at Prees Crossroads**.

Clerk reported that she is meeting with a representative from Princes TV 22.7.25.

Cllr Mrs S Short asked Cllr Malcolm Myles-Hook to enquire of SC what they would do with data collected from our CCTV data.

**On-going projects/highway priorities for review**.

Cllr Mrs Short had circulated a list of current projects to all cllrs.

* **On-going flooding/drainage problems at Fauls** were discussed. Cllrs J Allen and Dr J Redgate to supply specific details to clerk so that she can pursue the matter.
* **Cllr Mrs S Short had met with Graham Downes from Highways** at SC to talk to him about the possibility of using Higher Heath Section 106 monies to make a footway crossing the A49 between Higher Heath and Prees village. She has heard nothing from him since and will follow it up.
* **Higher Heath Village Hall is** keen to renegotiate the lease with the Diocese of Lichfield, owners of the Hall. The diocese is not easy to communicate with. There are approximately ten years left on the lease.
* **Cllr Mrs Short reported that communications about** the sewerage problems at the Pines in Higher Heath have recently gone quiet. Cllr Mrs S Jones advised that she has seen tankers pumping waste away all week.
* **The Chair reminded the meeting** that thankfully the problematic parking at Lower Heath School is about to be addressed by the provision of new parking on-site.
* **She noted that the white line to safeguard pedestrians on Station Road**, hopefully with supportive signage, still needed to be instigated. Clerk to follow up with Traffic Engineering.
* **Clerk confirmed that she had asked for new bins on Church Street and at Brades Road playground.**
* **It was noted that the development site at The Square** by the crossroads in the centre of Prees is back on the market.
* **Residents have asked** if the 60mph limit on the section of the B5065 leaving the A49 (which has a 40 mph limit at that point) and heading out toward Soulton and Wem can be reduced to 40mph. Clerk to contact SC. Proposed by Cllr J Allen and seconded by Cllr Mrs J Catterall. All were in favour.
* **It was noted that the pavements at the end of Shrewsbury Road** where it joins the A49 have been cleared by Shropshire Council.
* **The Chair reported that the Brook on Station Road** has been cleared by the PC’s ground maintenance contractor at no cost to the PC. The PC discussed the idea of erecting a No Fly-tipping sign but were generally unconvinced that it would be effective. The Chair reported that the land-owner may fence it. She expects to talk to him further.

(It was noted that the fencing along Station Road in front of the terrace of Housing Association homes needs repair. Clerk to contact Shropshire Rural HA about it.)

**Standing Orders: fine-tuning to be agreed.**

Item carried forward at clerk’s request.

**Hazardous parking around Prees War Memorial**

The Chair expressed her deep concern about the possibility of emergency vehicles having their access blocked by parked cars. She suggested that some immediate action is necessary, despite the difficulties caused by the identity of the owner of the land being unknown. Cllr Mrs Short explained that when she attended one morning at drop-off time at the School, the vehicle situation was not too bad, but she was sure that it was much worse at pick-up, when parents collecting tend to be parked for longer. She suggested that a first and immediate step would be to put up NO PARKING notices. Hopefully this could be achieved before the Autumn term begins. It was recognised that there would have to be some exceptions to the NO PARRKING rule eg funerals, weddings etc.

The clerk was asked to check with the Conservation officers at SC that erecting such signs was acceptable. Other ideas such as handing out leaflets to parents and erecting CCTV surveillance were mooted.

Cllr Mrs Short suggested that she should meet with all those involved in the situation to get everyone working together. Cllr T Nield proposed the PC’s support for this action and this was seconded by Cllr Mrs J Catterall. All were in favour.

**Parishioner’s extreme sensitivity to radiation**.

The PC had received a request for support from a parishioner who suffers symptoms that she believes are a consequence of extreme sensitivity to radiation. Hence she is very concerned about the proliferation of 5G the latest mobile service. Cllr Dr J Redgate who has an academic background had assiduously researched this matter and presented a brief PowerPoint to explain his findings to the Meeting. The full report can be read on the PC website. His conclusion was that at the current time the Parish Council was not able to state that there is a health risk associated with the ambient levels of electromagnetic radiation that Prees residents are likely to be exposed to. Dr Redgate explained that the cumulative maximum exposure to the continuous radiation of a typical 5G mast is equivalent to the use of a mobile phone held near the head for less than 2 minutes a day. He also explained that the higher frequencies at which 5G operates offers an advantage in that antennas can be designed to be more directional allowing signal power to be directed to the distance and well above the heads of local residents, and the higher frequencies are known to be less penetrative to the human body.

Cllr Redgate said he would be contacting the concerned resident with his findings. The Chair thanked him for the meticulous work he has done on this matter.

**Whitchurch Road Community-led development**.

The latest news from Wrekin reported that the new homes were handed over from Morris on 30 June and people could immediately move in. All are spoken for except two of the Shared Ownership homes are still available. **PC representative appointment to be made to Prees Cricket and Recreation Club Committee.**

Cllr Mrs J Catterall volunteered to take on this role. Cllr Mrs B Finch proposed that she should be appointed and this was seconded by Cllr Mrs A Allen. All were in favour. Clerk to advise the Rec Club.

**Whitebrook Meadow tenant criteria review**.

The PC had been contacted by Shropshire Rural Housing Association to see if it wanted any alteration or addition to the criteria for selecting tenants for their homes locally. Tenants already have to fulfil Local Connection criteria. The PC resolved to express satisfaction with the current arrangements. Proposed by Cllr Mrs J Catterall and seconded by Cllr Mrs S Jones. All were in favour. Clerk to relay decision.

**Higher Heath playing field needs further updates/enhancement?**

The PC has received communications from residents in Higher Heath requesting that consideration be given to further enhancements of the play provision at Higher Heath. This item was carried forward for discussion at the August meeting.

**PC to challenge car-parking charges at Prees Heath**?

Cllr Dr J Redgate led on this item, explaining that he believes that the parking charge at Prees Heath, imposed by Shropshire Council who owns the car park, deters use of it. Cllr Mrs N Young was able to fill in the history of the area, explaining that Whitchurch Rural Parish Council, who owned the car park, did not want to take on responsibility for managing the toilets, so SC took on the car park and imposed a charge to cover the upkeep of the toilets.

There was no general appetite for taking the matter further.

**Shropshire Council Call for Information consultation.**

The clerk reminded the cllrs that the closing date for this consultation is 18th August. She was asked to circulate the information about it again.

**117/25 SALC**. Clerk was asked to circulate details of next meeting of the North Shropshire Area Committee and to ask for a volunteer to attend as the occasion invariably clashes with the PC meeting.

**118/25 Accounting matters**

**Cheques raised between the June and July meetings**.

The clerk explained that she had had to raise a replacement cheque for Kompan Ltd as the original one raised at the June meeting had been rejected by Barclays (problem with signature.)

She had also experienced difficulty with the cheque written to pay PlayMaintainRepair for playground repairs. That company’s bank will not accept cheques for more than £500, so in the end the original cheque was returned and six cheques were raised to pay the total. Both of these matters had been discussed with the Chair prior to the clerk’s actions.

**Accounts for Payment July 2025.**

Cllr Mrs S Jones proposed that the following accounts should be paid and this was seconded by Cllr Mrs A Allen. All were in favour.

K D Sieloff clerk’s salary July 490.68

HMRC PAYE 122.67

K D Sieloff clerk’s expenditure (12.6.25-15.7.25) 37.72

Information Commissioners Office 52.00

Pimlotts Ground Maintenance Ltd: (lengthsman June) 320.00

Pimlotts Ground Maintenance Ltd (grass-cutting June) 212.00

Highline Electrical Ltd 141.60

S Pearson (re-imbursement for plants bought for War Memorial) 40.00

St Chads Church PCC (Battlefield Window Appeal donation ) 100.00

 **Total £1,516.67**

Clerk’s expenditure 12.6.25-15.7.25

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

*£20 cash payment for stall booking at Prees School Summer Fair*

*Stamps:6 x second class stamps @ 87p = £5.22*

*Total = £37.72*

**Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2024-25.**

The clerk reported that the relevant documents are currently with the external auditor. The period for public scrutiny continues until the 4 August 2025.

**Perusal of Spend against Budget for first quarter 2025-26.**

The PC looked at the actual spend compared to the Budget allowances for the first quarter of the financial year 2025-26. There were no concerns.

**Bank reconciliations for first quarter 2025-26 ready for checking.**

Cllr Mrs L Baer, who checks the bank reconciliations, had sent her Apologies for the meeting, so the clerk said she would deliver the documents to her the following day.

**Clerk asked for authorisation to attend Shropshire Together event 25.7.25 at a cost of £21.00**.

Cllr Mrs J Catterall proposed that the PC should pay for the clerk to attend and this was seconded by Cllr Mrs B Finch. All were in favour.

**119/25 Housekeeping**

It was reported that trees at The Square by the crossroads in central Prees are overhanging the pavement and causing a hazard to pedestrians who have no choice but to step into the road. Clerk to contact Berry’s, the agents who are marketing the property, to ask for this to be addressed.

**120/25 Facebook**. Nothing new currently.

**121/25 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. This matter to be on the July Agenda.

**122/25 Items for next Agenda**.

Higher Heath play provision. Standing Orders. Vehicle speed monitor for Lacon Street?

**123/25 Resolution to exclude Public and Press.**

Cllr Mrs Short proposed that under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the public and representatives of the press and broadcast media be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the following item of business as publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest because of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted. This was seconded by Cllr Mrs J Catterall and all were in favour. The meeting continued in Private Session.