

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Prees Parish Council held on Tuesday June 28<sup>th</sup> 2022  
at 7.00 pm in the Village Hall.

Present were Cllrs R Hirons; Mrs B Finch; Mrs B Rainford; Mrs S Jones; J Whelan; D Ladd and J Allen together with Mrs K Sieloff, clerk to the Parish Council. There was also one member of the Public present.

**075/22** Declarations of Acceptance of Office were signed by the Chair Cllr Ray Hirons and the Vice-Chair Cllr Joe Whelan, before the clerk. This had been delayed from the Annual Parish Council Meeting in May.

**076/22:** Public Session. There were no contributions from members of the Public.

**077/22** Apologies received from Cllrs Mrs S Short; Mrs L Baer; R List and M Lanham.

**078/22.** Declaration of Interests. None were declared.

**079/22** Minutes. The Minutes of the meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> May 2022 which had been previously circulated were agreed to be a true record. Cllr J Whelan proposed that they should be signed and this was seconded by Cllr D Ladd. All were in favour.

**080/22** Matters Arising from the Minutes (which are not included on the Agenda.

- Community-led Build in Whitchurch Road. Hawke have gone into liquidation. The build will be completed, but at an increased cost to Wrekin Housing Trust and with a delayed completion date. Further information was expected from Wrekin imminently.

**081/22** Shropshire Council Report. There was no report available.

**082/22** Community Policing Report. There was no report available.

**083/22** Planning

Current planning applications for consultation

- 22/02062/FUL: Re-configuration of internal road arrangement. Unit 2 Fomer Grain Store, Higher Heath, Whitchurch, Shropshire SY13 2HA. Applicant : Malcolm Harrison Auctions Ltd (Janette Owen, Unit 2 Former Grain Store, Higher Heath, Whitchurch, Shropshire SY13 1EE.  
With the proviso that there was a need to robustly protect the two mature oaks from the new road-way, the Parish Council resolved to support this Application. Proposed by Cllr J Whelan and seconded by Cllr R Hirons. All were in favour.  
The Parish Council resolved to object to this Application on the grounds that the revised plan still proposes an addition making the house inappropriately large on its plot. In the Parish Council's opinion the site is more than over-developed already, when compared to surrounding properties. Proposed by Cllr J Whelan and seconded by Cllr R Hirons. All were in favour.
- 22/02380/TCA: To re-pollard back to old previous points 7no. Limes (G1), to fell 1no. Elder (T3) and to fell 1no. Silver Birch sapling (T4) within Prees Conservation Area. St Chad's Church, Church Street, Prees, Shropshire. Applicant: St Chad's PCC, St Chad's Church, Church Street, Shropshire, Prees SY132ER.  
This Application was found to be already decided.
- 22/02253/FUL: Erection of conservatory to rear elevation. Knights Grange, Prees Green, Whitchurch, Shropshire. Applicant: Mr D Carissimo.  
The Parish Council resolved to support this Application. This was proposed by Cllr R Hirons and seconded by Cllr Mrs S Jones. All were in favour. Concern was also raised about apparent additional unapproved development going on at the site. Clerk to pass information to Shropshire Council.
- 22/02288/FUL: Erection of two storey rear extension, single storey side extension, elevational alteration and the addition of a porch to the front. Hatton House, Darliston, Whitchurch, Shropshire SY13 2BA. Applicant: Mr Gavin Adkins (2 Northwood Cottages, Fauls, Whitchurch SY13 2BA).  
The Parish Council resolved to support this Application. This was proposed by Cllr J Whelan and seconded by Cllr J Allen. All were in favour.

- 22/02483/TPO: Fell 1no Scots Pine protected by the North Shropshire District Council (Drumcote, Heathwood Road, Prees) TPO 1981 (Ref: NS/00055/81). The Maples, Heathwood Road, Higher Heath, Shropshire, Whitchurch SY13 2 HG. Applicant: Caldwell (The Maples, Heathwood Road, Higher Heath, Shropshire, Whitchurch SY13 2HG).  
The Parish Council resolved to object to this Application on the basis that there was no evidence provided to suggest that the felling of the tree was necessary, apart from its proximity to a building. Proposed by Cllr R Hirons and seconded by Cllr Mrs B Rainford. All were in favour.
- **FOR INFORMATION ONLY:** 22/02500/CPL: Application for a Lawful Development Certificate for the proposed erection of replacement workshop following demolition of existing prefabricated workshop. 13 Moreton Street, Prees, Whitchurch, Shropshire SY13 2EG. Applicant : Matthew Walker. This Application was noted by the Parish Council.
- 22/02453/FUL: Application under Section 73A of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 for the erection of an agricultural building for housing cattle. Lilyfields, Lighteach Road, Prees, Whitchurch, Shropshire. Applicant: Mr T Towers.  
The Parish Council resolved to support this Application. Proposed by Cllr R Hirons and seconded by Cllr Mrs B Finch. All were in favour.
- 22/02660/TPO: Fell 3no Scots Pine protected by The North Shropshire District Council (Prees Higher Heath No 6) TPO 1975 (Ref: NS/00051/75). 10 Sylvan Close, Higher Heath, Whitchurch, Shropshire SY13 2TB.  
The PC resolved to object to this Application on the basis that there was no supporting evidence of the need to fell the trees, and there was even confusion concerning whether or not the trees are protected. Proposed by Cllr J Whelan and seconded by Cllr R Hirons. All were in favour.

#### **Planning decisions received from Shropshire Council**

- 22/00505/FUL: Llewellyn House, 6 Hillside, Prees, Whitchurch, Shropshire SY13 2EB. Proposal: Erection of first floor rear extension. Decision: Grant Permission.
- 22/01862/FUL: Leyan, 6 Sylvan Close, Higher Heath, Whitchurch, Shropshire SY13 2TB. Proposal: Erection of single storey rear/side extension (description amended) Decision: Grant Permission.
- 22/00009/VAR: Proposed Residential Development Land and Care Home West of Whitchurch Road, Prees, Shropshire. Proposal: Variation of condition no.2 (approved plans) and condition no.5 (materials) pursuant of 20/04434/FUL to allow for elevational design alterations, fenestration changes, removal of porches and change to approved materials. Decision: Grant Permission.

#### **084/22 Parish and Parish Council Matters.**

- Cllr Mrs S Short requests a dispensation excusing her from the requirement to attend monthly Parish Council meetings, for a further 6 months. The Parish Council resolved to award the dispensation. This was proposed by Cllr J Allen and seconded by Cllr Mrs B Finch. All were in favour.
- A letter of resignation had been received by Cllr Hirons from Cllr Mrs D Foster. Members of the PC expressed their regret at the loss of Cllr Mrs Foster, whose breadth of experience and knowledge will be sorely missed. They wished her well in the ensuing new phase of her life. The clerk was asked to write her a letter expressing such sentiments.
- A request had been received for a bench in the bus shelter on Whitchurch Road, by Tudor House. Clerk to obtain prices for next Meeting.
- Public Engagement. The clerk had completed a simple analysis of the responses received to the quiz compiled for the PC's stall at the Platinum Jubilee event at the Prees Cricket and Recreation Club, as follows:

Total of 40 responses.

25/40 knew the PC is responsible for street-lights

5/40 thought the PC is responsible for setting speed limits

8/40 thought the PC is responsible for pot-holes

1/40 thought the PC is responsible for blocked road drains

26/40 knew that the PC has considerable funds available to spend currently (as opposed to a small or moderate amount.)

24/40 knew what a Precept is.

Approved ways of communication with the PC:

Facebook: 26/40

Public meeting: 10/40

The Venture: 9/40

PC website: 16/40

Email contact: 10/40 (although only 3 people volunteered their address.)

The PC considered again the difficulties encountered in getting residents of the Parish to communicate with it. The idea of Youth Reps on the PC to link with the younger people of the Parish was again touched on, but it was agreed the idea is fraught with difficulties.

The Chair asked cllrs to visit local groups to encourage residents to respond with their ideas of what the parish needs. It was acknowledged that the Parish Council has considerable funds available and it needs to spend them. Clerk to again put notices in local shops and on noticeboards.

- Post box in Fauls outside the Church Hall. Cllr J Allen reported that the re-siting of the post-box had made it inaccessible to the less able-bodied. It is positioned at the top of a bank, which often has a puddle at its foot, and there are no rails to assist. Clerk to ask the Post Office what they can do about it.
- Vehicle Speed Monitors. Cllr D Ladd reported that he and a helpful neighbour volunteer had installed the two new solar-powered monitors outside Lower Heath School and on Whitchurch Road. The PC extended its grateful thanks to Cllr Ladd and his assistant. There are now four vehicle speed monitors encouraging adherence to speed limits in the Parish.
- Prees Burial Capacity. Information received had identified the owner of the land adjoining the churchyard. It was unanimously agreed that a visit to talk to the land-owner was the necessary next step and that this could be with or without a representative from the Church. It was unanimously agreed that the Parochial Church Council would need to fully appreciate that although the Parish Council was investigating ways of obtaining more burial land, it had no intention of taking on any management responsibilities if such a piece of land was obtained. A communication to the Vicar, Rev Deborah Walton would need to make this clear.
- Possible electric car charging point in central Prees. The PC discussed the possibility of installing a charging point in the Village Hall car park, with the help of a grant. Clerk asked to contact Whitchurch Town Council and ask how much theirs cost and what needed to be taken into consideration.
- War Memorial re-design update. Cllr J Whelan reported that volunteers had dug out all the bulbs in the borders. The whole area is to be grassed to reduce the maintenance necessary. The local branch of the Royal British Legion will be applying shortly to the PC for a donation of £300.00 for materials to contribute to the works. In Autumn the area of shrubs at the top of the garden is to be tackled. Clerk to write a letter to Mrs Sally Pearson thanking her for her constant attention to organising volunteers to tidy the garden and keep it looking beautiful. Clerk also to contact the Medical Centre and Elmhurst Nursing Home to see if they would like any of the bulbs no longer needed, and the local Brownies and Scouts to see if they could offer to help with the planting of them.
- Dog waste causing offence locally. Clerk reported that consulting other local clerks had not come up with much: it seems that the problem is an on-going and intractable one in many parishes.

Item to be brought forward in a couple of months.

- Memorial trees for the Platinum Jubilee year. Clerk to contact Church Hall Committee at Fauls and the Village Hall Committee at Higher Heath to see if they could provide a place to plant a tree in the Autumn. Cllr Whelan to ask the same question at the Recreation Club.
- No current further action was agreed on the matter of installing local wild-flower verges.

**085/22** SALC : Cllr Mrs B Rainford advised there would be a meeting the following month.

**086/22** Accounting Matters

- Accounts for Payment June 2022

It was unanimously agreed that the following accounts should be paid:

	£
Mrs K Sieloff clerks salary June 2022	481.62
HMRC (PAYE)	8.12
Clerk's expenditure (11.5.22-15.6.22)	152.67
Donation to Prees Cricket and Rec Club	200.00
Scottish Power (streetlight energy 30.4.22-31.5.22)	490.99
Groundforce Landscape Ltd (works May 2022)	347.64
Highline Electrical Ltd (May 2022)	336.00
Information Commissioner (annual data protection fee)	40.00
Prees Village Hall Trust (hire 19/4; 26/4; 17/5;21/6 @ £20.00)	80.00
	<b>Total 2137.04</b>
<i>Additional invoices for payment</i>	
Shropshire Council Local Election costs May 2021 (cheque payable to Post Office Ltd)	<u>300.00</u>
<b>Grand total</b>	<b>2437.00</b>

Clerk's expenditure 11.5.22-15.6.22

*BT line rental contribution June 2022: £ 12.50*

*Trip to noticeboards for May Agenda etc: mileage allowance of 8 miles @ 45 ppm: £3.60*

*Stamps: 4 x 2<sup>nd</sup> class stamps @ 66p=£2.64*

*Printer cartridges full set: £52.00.*

*Vinyl banner: £35.95.*

*Sundries for PC stall (card: £12.99; balloons+pump+sticks=£20.99; sweets=£12.00)*

*= £45.98*

*Total =£152.67*

- Approval of AGAR documents prior to publication of unaudited accounts.

The clerk explained that she had discovered that it was acceptable for the Parish Council to approve the Annual Governance Statement, and the Accounting Statements, before it had received the Internal Auditors Report. This year she was recommending that course of action in order not to miss the statutory date of July 1 2022 for the publication of the unaudited accounts for the financial year 2021-22. The documents had been previously circulated.

**087/22** To that end the Parish Council considered first the Annual Governance Statement. The Chairman read out each statement and recorded the PC's responses. It was proposed by Cllr Mrs B Rainford that the Chair

should sign the document and this was seconded by Cllr Mrs B Finch. All were in favour and Cllr Hirons duly signed.

**088/22:** Secondly, the Accounting Statements were considered. There were no queries and it was proposed by Cllr J Whelan that the document should be signed and this was seconded by Cllr Mrs S Jones. All were in favour and Cllr Hirons duly signed.

**089/22** Correspondence

- The clerk had received a request from a Prees Green resident that some investment be made in improving the footpath up Church Street, which is narrow and regularly made impassable due to overgrown vegetation, thus making the walk up to the Primary School hazardous.  
The correspondent also suggested that the lack of a pavement along the A49, linking Mick’s Mill/Wem Lane/Prees Green to Prees Village could usefully be addressed to bring the Community together and reduce the reliance on cars.

The clerk was asked to do some initial research into costings and to put the matters on the next Agenda.

**090/22** Items for next Agenda (July 19 2022)

- Review of Spend against Budget
- Update on Community-led Build on Whitchurch Road.
- War Memorial gardens re-design
- Area of mown verge reduced at end of Whitchurch Road.

The Meeting was closed at 9.00 pm.

DRAFT

Signed.....

Date.....