Minutes of a Meeting of Prees Parish Council

held on Monday April 15 2024 at 7.15pm in Prees Village Hall.

Present: Cllrs Mrs S Short; Mrs S Jones; Mrs L Baer; Mrs J Catterall; R Hirons; M Lanham; J Redgate; J Whelan and P Wynn. Mrs K Sieloff clerk to the PC and one member of the public were also present.

**048/24 Public Session**. There were no contributions from members of the public.

**049/24 Apologies:** Apologies had been received from Cllrs Mrs B Finch; Mrs R Clutton; D Ladd and J Allen.

**050/24 Disclosures of Pecuniary or Non-Pecuniary Interest.** There were none.

**051/24 Signing of Minutes of Previous Meeting.**

The Minutes of the previous meeting held on 18.3.24 which had been previously circulated, were agreed to be a true record. It was proposed by Cllr Mrs M Lanham that they should be signed and this was seconded by Cllr R Hirons. All were in favour.

**052/24 Actions Arising from the Minutes not included on the Agenda.**

There were none.

**053/24 Community Policing.** PCSOs Graeme Baines and Dave Andrews attended to provide a report for March**.** Cllr R Hirons asked if a little more detail could be provided in future reports, where this was possible, in the hope that the PC could take some action to prevent similar crimes occurring.

The PCSOs assured the PC that they are undertaking reassurance patrols locally and posting helpful advice on social media. They also reported that their work is sometimes hampered by people sharing information about new crimes on social media but not actually reporting them direct to the Police.

The PCSOs also told the PC that they believed that some of the caravans in Twemlow’s Wood were being used as residences.

**054/24 Shropshire Council report.**

Cllr P Wynn’s report made the following points:

* The Nook Lane planning application 23/04624/FUL will now go to the Planning Committee on the later date of 14 May 2024.
* Shropshire Council needs to save £64m in the new financial year. One idea is to close two out of the five recycling centres. Cllr Wynn has suggested that a more acceptable option might be to keep them all open, but on reduced days/hours. This is under consideration. In the meantime, there is a public consultation concerning green bins and the recycling centres and Cllr Wynn encouraged all cllrs to respond and to ask others to.
* The future of the Whitchurch Civic Centre is not yet decided. Currently only the Market Hall is open. A complete re-build would cost £7.5m. Cllr Wynn reported that there was huge interest at the public meeting and there will be a public consultation.

**055/24 Planning Matters**

**Current planning applications for consultation**

**24/01223/FUL:** Erection of garage with store over and erection of log stove. Cornerwood, Higher Heath, Whitchurch, Shropshire SY13 2HZ. Applicant: Mr Tom Matthews.

The Parish Council resolved to support this Application. Proposed by Cllr R Hirons and seconded by Cllr J Whelan. All were in favour.

**24/01172/FUL**: Erection of replacement farm building for housing of stock and storage. The Hawthorns Farm, Prees Green, Whitchurch, Shropshire SY13 2BP. Applicant: Mr and Mrs Watson.

The Parish Council resolved to support this Application. Proposed by Cllr J Whelan and seconded by Cllr Mrs L Baer. All were in favour.

**24/00574/FUL**: Residential development of 14 buildings including 2 Affordable Homes and provision of public open space. Land at Prees Industrial Estate, Shrewsbury Street, Prees, Shropshire SY13 2DJ. Applicant: S Price.

The Parish Council resolved to support this Application, although the clerk was asked to convey the PC’s courteous insistence that there must be a very firm agreement that the maintenance of the open space would be the responsibility of the residents in perpetuity. The Parish Council also wished to make the point that as there is only one street lamp on Shrewsbury Street anywhere near the proposed site, additional lighting for safety of pedestrians entering and exiting the site will need to be considered.

**24/01029/FUL:** Change of Use of Commercial Building (B2/B8) to Heritage Centre (F1) and Café (Retrospective.) Grocott Heritage Centre, Brookdale, Prees, Whitchurch, Shropshire. Applicant: Grocott Developments Ltd.

The Parish Council resolved to support this Application. Proposed byCllr M Lanham and seconded by Cllr Mrs S Jones. All were in favour.

**24/01031/FUL**:Demolition of existing Dutch Barn, Change of Use of part of ground floor of Out Building to living accommodation with new single storey extension to form living accommodation.
Use of existing septic tank and utilities. Oaklea Cottage , Wem Lane, Prees Green, Whitchurch, Shropshire, SY13 2BW. Applicant: Mr Paul Kay.

The Parish Council resolved to support this Application. Proposed by Cllr M Lanham and seconded by Cllr Mrs J Catterall. All were in favour.
**The following application was for information only**:

**24/01227/AGR**: Proposed building for storage of farmed produce. Steele Farm, Steele Heath, Whitchurch, Shropshire SY13 3LB. Applicant: Martyn Lea.

The Application was noted by the Parish Council.

**Planning Decisions received from Shropshire Counci**l.

**23/03891/FUL** : Land North Of Game Bird Rearing Units, Manor House Lane, Higher Heath, Whitchurch, Shropshire. Proposal:  Application under Section 73a of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 for the change of use of land for the siting of  8No. caravans (1No. part time residential and 7No. welfare units), use of existing building for out of season caravan storage,, erection of welfare facilities with Bio-Disc, improved entrance and new agricultural building in conjunction with the management of rearing of game birds
Decision:  Grant Permission

**24/00262/VAR**: Green Lane Caravan and Camping Park, Green Lane, Prees, Whitchurch SY13 2AH. Proposal: Variation of condition 4 attached to planning permission 23/05475/FUL for revisions to the site lay-out including the provision of 15 additional touring pitches.

Decision: Grant Permission.

**23/05275/FUL**: The Nook Farm, Whitchurch Road, Prees, Shropshire SY13 3JZ. Proposal: Demolition of existing farm buildings and rebuild new purpose-designed buildings to accommodate general agricultural and equestrian uses.

Decision: Grant Permission.
**056/24 Parish and Parish Council Matters**

* Solar lamps x 2. Cllr Mrs S Short to lead.

Cllr Mrs Short reminded the cllrs that at the previous meeting it had been agreed that the PC would move forward with lighting the bus-stops on Shrewsbury Street with solar lamps. However, on making a site visit, the PC’s lighting contractor had advised that this particular site was not suitable as the road is relatively narrow with the effect that the lamps would constantly be being switched on by passing cars, and this would cause the batteries to drain too quickly. Various options were discussed, but no satisfactory solution was discovered. It was decided to wait and see whether lighting provision from the new development at the industrial estate (assuming the planning application was successful) would address the problem. Clerk was asked to check the planning application to see what lighting provision was proposed and to flag up the the lack of streetlighting in the response to the planning application consultation.

* Improvements to playground facilities.

Cllr R Hirons reported that quotes for equipment had been obtained from Ray Parry Playgrounds. Tim Simmonds from Shropshire Council’s own Playgrounds team had also offered to meet with the representatives from the PC. Cllr Hirons suggested that the bare patch of ground, resulting from the removal of the slide, needed re-surfacing without delay. The clerk had obtained quotes for having the area turfed, ranging between £1800 and £3400. Cllr Mrs Short advised that the Parish Council’s grounds-maintenance team had offered to seed the area for £641.00. With time against us, this was agreed to be the most economic and pragmatic option. Cllr M Lanham proposed that this offer should be accepted and this was seconded by Cllr Mrs L Baer. All were in favour.

* PC aspirations. Cllr J Whelan led the consideration of the document recording the PC’s aspirations. It was agreed that the reference to a child’s playground at Manor Place, and allotments, could be removed. Clerk reminded the PC that these aspirations needed to be put on the Whitchurch Place Plan, with an analysis of how and when they could be achieved. Item for next Agenda.
* Parish Map obtained. Housing to be agreed. Clerk reported that Steve Oliver a skilled local joiner had offered to make a robust, weather-proof housing for the map, at a maximum cost of £350.00. Cllr R Hirons proposed that this should be accepted and this was seconded by Cllr M Lanham. All were in favour.
* Fauls post-box and notice-board is difficult to access. Cllr Dr J Redgate presented a plan to improve the access to the post-box and notice-board by installing two steps and some slabs. Clerk confirmed that the Royal Mail was willing to consider moving the post-box. Other discussion centred around the possible risks associated with steps and slabs in icy weather. Cllr Redgate was asked to speak to the Fauls Parochial Church Council to see what their favoured approach would be.
* **North Shropshire Project Gigabit Progress: report from webinar 2024.**

Cllr Dr J Redgate delivered a comprehensive report.

Freedom Fibre are currently 10 months into the 40 month contract to deliver Project Gigabit across North Shropshire. Project Gigabit is a £5 billion government infrastructure project to enable fast and reliable digital connectivity particularly to areas of the country that would be financially unviable without public funding.

67,000 sites in total are to be connected including 12,000 hard to reach/unprofitable sites. Stage 1 of the project, survey and design, has been completed. The stage of installing the new infrastructure is now being undertaken. As much use as possible is to be made of existing infrastructure such as poles and ducts but some new will be necessary.

An availability checker to enable Freedom Fibre’s progress in relation to individual properties was expected to be available mid-April from their website.

The Pendant emergency call system for individual users will be a government enforced responsibility of the service provider.

Cllr Mrs Short thanked Cllr Redgate for his report and also the understanding that he would be happy to provide further updates as they became available.

* Whitchurch Road Community-led building project. Clerk confirmed that an update had been put on the PC website and Facebook page to settle local speculation about what was happening.
* Parishioner requests permission to place memorial tree on PC land to commemorate the recent passing of his son. Cllr Mrs S Short led the item. Discussion threw up some reservations about the matter. Cllr Mrs Short offered to go back and have further discussion with the resident.
* Defibrillators housed at local Halls. Matter carried forward to next Agenda.
* Annual Review of Parish Council documents: documents will need to be reviewed by Annual Parish Council Meeting in May. Clerk reminded the PC of the necessity of this task. She said she would allocate documents to pairs of cllrs and email them out.
* Clerk reported that Scottish Power want the PC to find an alternative supplier of electricity. The clerk is intending, once she has got the information she needs for the application, to approach Shropshire Council for a quote for supply.
* Grants and Donations.
1. Lower Heath School has approached the PC asking for a donation of £100 to purchase a Buddy Bench for their new Sensory Garden. Cllr Mrs J Catterall proposed that the PC should make the donation and this was seconded by Cllr S Jones. All were in favour. Clerk to raise cheque for May meeting.
2. Update from Prees Primary School. Cllr Mrs Short reported that progress is still slow in obtaining funds for the Daily Mile track. Most funding applications have met with a disappointing response. Currently the fund is standing at £6,000, but £19,000 is needed. The cllrs discussed the idea of pledging to donate the final £2,000 when that point in the endeavour is reached. Cllr J Whelan proposed that the PC should do this. This was seconded by Cllr Mrs L Baer. A majority were in favour so the resolution was carried.
3. An application for a donation had been received from Crane Quality Counselling Services. The PC unanimously agreed that it did not feel it could contribute currently.

**057/24** **Housekeeping** matters to report or potential hazards/risks

Clerk reported that one of the big gates at the entrance to Higher Heath playing-field had been found to be badly damaged. The stability of the gate was compromised and the clerk had consulted the Chair who had agreed it should be immediately repaired. This had been done at the cost of £150.00.

**058/24** **Facebook**: Sofa has been dumped in Prees playground. Clerk has reported the fly-tipping to Shropshire Council.

**059/24 SALC.** Nothing to report currently.

**060/24** **Accounting Matters**

**Accounts for Payment April 2024**

 £

K D Sieloff salary April 2024 540.14

HMRC 43.60

K D Sieloff (clerk’s expenditure 12.3.24-9.4.24) 35.90

Scottish Power (streetlight energy 1.3.24-1.4.24) 408.58

Pimlotts Grounds Maintenance Ltd (March visits x 2) 320.00

TEEC Ltd (website hosting 2024) 194.39

SALC (training 20.3.24 x 1 delegate) 35.00

 Total 1577.61

Clerk’s expenditure 12.3.24-9.4.24

*BT line rental contribution April 2024: £ 12.50*

*Petrol:1 x trip to noticeboards (March Agenda etc) 8 miles @ 45p per mile =£3.60*

*Return trip to Bluprint, Atcham Business Park 34 miles @ 45p per mile=£15.30*

*Stamps:6 x second class stamps @ 75p = £4.50*

Total = £35.90

**061/24** **Correspondence**. Nothing to report.

**062/24** **Items for next Agenda**. June 6 2024 Commemoration of D-Day.

The meeting was closed at 9.25 pm.

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