

# Whixall Parish Council

Chairman: Ian Mercer

Minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> July 2015 at  
Whixall Social Centre starting at 7:30pm

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**Present:**

**Chairman:** I Mercer

**Councillors:** J Spenser, S Marlow, C Platon, J Hardiman, D Edgerton, B Harris, J Fitton, P Dee, C Mellings

**Clerk:** K Hatton

**Public:** P Ashton, B Lainton, M Howard

**81/15 Introduction**

Cllr Mercer thanked all for their attendance and introduced the meeting. He highlighted a slight change to the room layout and agenda format.

**82/15 Public Participation**

Cllr Mercer invited members of the public to address the council.

P Ashton reported on the current activity of North Salop Wheelers Community Bus Service- her report covered passenger numbers (overall are going up), recent fund raising (over £1000 raised at curry night) costs (£90 per week to run), government support (hoping to get a new bus,) advertising (always looking for new drivers and passenger assistance volunteers).

**83/15 Introduction of newly elected councillors**

Cllr Mercer introduced himself and asked all Cllrs and the Clerk to do the same for the benefit of the newly elected Cllrs and members of the public.

**84/15 Apologies for absence**

None.

**85/15 Disclosure of Pecuniary Interests**

None declared.

**86/15 Minutes**

It was proposed by Cllr Spenser that the minutes of the meeting were an accurate record of the meeting. Seconded by Cllr Hardiman and agreed by all present.

<b>It was resolved</b> that the minutes be signed by the Chair as an accurate record of the meeting.
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**87/15 Planning**

a) Applications received: AFTER AGENDA WAS PUBLISHED

RE-CONSULTATION- Ref: 15/01065/FUL- erection of a livestock building for sheep and storage shed at Land adj. to Rosennedd House, Hollinwood, Whixall.

The Clerk informed the Council that the applicant had changed the design and materials used for the building and was now more clearly identified as an agricultural building and is now deemed by planning officers to suit intended purpose. The Clerk tabled the amended plan for the building.

<b>It was resolved</b> that the Parish Council's response to the re-consultation was "No comment".
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b) Decisions to note:

Reference: **14/05007/OUT** (validated: 07/11/2014)

Address: **Proposed Residential Development Land North Of Bowling Club, Church Lane, Whixall**

**Proposal: Outline application for residential development including formation of new access (all matters reserved)**

Decision: **Refuse**

Cllr Mellings provided a summary of the planning officer's report- citing that the key factor of the decision was Whixall's status as 'Open Countryside'.

**88/15 Clerk's Report**

- a) Agenda Review- Members were informed of reasons for amendments made to the agenda following a meeting on 29<sup>th</sup> June 2015 between Clerk/ Chair and Vice Chair. Cllr Mercer made reference to changes in legislation relating to the exclusion of the press and public in certain situations and the intention to make it more convenient for members of the public to speak at meetings.
- b) Correspondence- The following was noted but stated the relevance would be apparent under other agenda items: 1. Letter from Mazars (auditors)
- c) Report on recent training- The Clerk attended SLCC training on 26<sup>th</sup> June entitled 'Drivers in your Community'.
- d) Annual Return Amendment- the Clerk reported an inaccuracy had been made in the Annual Return- As a result the paperwork was returned (Mazars letter), amended and sent back. There may be a charge for this.
- e) Bank Mandate Change Forms- The mandate change forms have been approved.
- f) Ownership query re: land adj. to Social Centre- query was made in the context of insurance. The land is covered by Parish Council insurance as it is deemed responsible for the land because it maintains it.

**89/15 Financial matters**a) Monthly balance sheet

The Clerk presented the bank balances which were confirmed as accurate with the current bank statements by Cllr Mercer.

It was also confirmed that all Parish Cllrs present had received a copy of the balance sheet via email.

DATE	ACCOUNT NAME	AMOUNT
29.06.2015	Community Account	£7,540.65
	Business Saver Account	£3,921.00
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>£11,461.65</b>

b) Outstanding accounts

Orders for the payment of money (listed below) as per the financial report of the Responsible Financial Officer (RFO) were proposed by Cllr Edgerton, seconded by Cllr Marlow and agreed by all present.

DATE	CHEQUE NO.	DETAILS	AMOUNT
08/07/15	101047	K Hatton- Clerk's pay for June	£300.30
	101048	C Jones- Grass cutting	£200.00
		<b>Total</b>	<b>£500.30</b>

**It was resolved** that the outstanding accounts should be paid and cheques were signed by two authorised councillors.

**90/15 Councillor Vacancy**

Cllr Mercer explained the current status of the remaining councillor vacancy: Notice expires on 17<sup>th</sup> July. If no call for an election then proposed by Cllr Spenser to interview prior to September meeting, seconded by Cllr Hardiman and agreed by all.

**It was resolved** that co-option interviews be arranged for 9<sup>th</sup> September if no call for election.

## 91/15 Parish Matters

- a) The Marlot- Update and to consider 'no dog fouling signage'.
- On behalf of the Marlot Conservation Group Cllr Spenser presented a schedule of works to be completed between now and December. She also stated that dog fouling was becoming a bit of an issue and therefore requested permission from the Parish Council to fix a number of small signs to existing posts on the site. Cllr Spenser has purchased the signs at her own cost. Cllr Marlow proposed that the council agree to grant permission to Cllr Spenser, Cllr Hardiman seconded the proposal and it was agreed by all.

**It was resolved that** Cllr Spenser may fix the 'no dog fouling' signs as appropriate on the site.

- b) The Waggoners- update.
- Cllr Mellings reported on correspondence with Shropshire Council Planning department regarding the recent demolition of the Waggoners Inn. It is apparent that an application for the Prior Approval of the demolition should have been submitted for consideration but no application has been made. However, it is felt that given the poor state of the building and that it represented a danger to the public it is unlikely that the application would have been refused. On this basis it is considered, by planning officers, that to pursue the matter further would not be expedient.

Cllr Marlow proposed that the Parish Council raise the matter with Ian Kilby (Shropshire Council), seconded by Cllr Spenser and agreed by all.

**It was resolved that** The Clerk write to Ian Kilby regarding the matter of the building being demolished without permission. The correspondence should state support for the pub being re-built on the site.

- c) Road Safety signage- update and review.
- The Clerk reported on communication with David Gradwell (Shropshire Council) re: Road safety signage- it was inferred that new place name signs incorporating the road safety symbols may be considered under local budgets (not confirmed). David has agreed to send costing estimates (in case it is possible for the Parish Council to make a financial contribution) and the Clerk to confirm number of signs needed/ in situ and location of said signs.

## 92/15 Highways

- a) Referrals to Shropshire Council
1. The hedges on the road to Tilstock remain overgrown- believed to be the responsibility of Massey House Farm which is just outside our boundary.
  2. Poor road surface and pot holes along the road passing Abbeygreen Farm in Abbeygreen.
  3. Concerns have been reported to the Parish Council regarding the placing of wooden stakes and large stones on the boundary edge of the bend at Whixall Green- it is thought that this is to deter drivers from driving across the grass but it has raised questions as to whether this is appropriate action.
  4. There is a large pot hole on the lane towards Moss Cottages and the Manor House NNR base- on left hand side if driving in westerly direction.

- b) Scheduled works by Shropshire Council

-Brick Walls canal Bridge

-Proposed temporary road closure- Abbeygreen junction to B4576 Edstaston, Waterloo, Whixall

## 93/15 Councillors' Reports

-Cllr Mercer presented a letter of thanks to Cllr Edgerton in acknowledgement of his four years of chairmanship.

-Cllr Mercer reported on the recent training session attended by himself and Cllr Spenser on Chairmanship. As a result of the learning Cllr Mercer requested that Cllrs review the Standing Orders and asked that the Clerk re-issue copies to all Cllrs along with a code of conduct. The Clerk stated that hard copies of the Good Councillors Guide are available for £2 per copy.

**It was resolved** that 10 copies of Good Councillor's Guide (4<sup>th</sup> Edition) are ordered.

Cllr Mercer discussed the use of sub- committees: Cllr Edgerton proposed that the Parish council will not use sub-committees to look at planning applications, seconded by Cllr Spenser and agreed by all.

**It was resolved** that the standing orders be amended to reflect that planning applications will be looked at by all members present at a council meeting.

**94/15 Consider Future Agenda Items**

- Ist Quarterly Expenditure Report
- Planning permission rules relating to barn conversions
- Community Led Plan
- Assets

The meeting closed at 9:25pm

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> September at 7.30 pm**