

Whixall Parish Council

Chairman: Ian Mercer

Minutes of Parish Council's Monthly Meeting held on 12 June 2019 at
Whixall Social Centre starting at 7:30pm

Present:

Councillors: I Mercer (Chair); R Harris; A Hague; A Rawlinson; J Spenser; G Turnbull; M Howard;
A Rawlinson; D Farrington; D Edgerton

Shropshire Councillor: C Mellings

Clerk: A Roberts

Members of the community: Seven

Representatives of other bodies/ organisations: Two

51/19

Apologies for Absence

Cllr P Dee (Shropshire Councillors)

52/19

Public Participation

- a. Sian Mercer, Joy Mercer and Eve Simpson gave a short presentation on the Refill Project which was to be launched in Wem on Saturday 15 June. Participating businesses will refill water bottles free of charge and a number of Wem businesses have signed up so far. The presentation outlined the environmental benefits of such a scheme. If given permission, the presentation will be posted on the website.
- b. Spencer Collins outlined proposals for the rebuilding and development of the former Maltings and Wharf facility adjacent to the Prees Arm of the Llangollen Canal at Maltkin Lane. He answered questions from Councillors. These mainly related to the height of the proposed building and options for screening.
- c. Susanne Whitley talked to Councillors about to her request for confirmation of her local connection in relation to a forthcoming planning application.

53/19

Update on Work of Natural England

Mike Crawshaw talked to members about three main areas of work:

- a. the Boglife project in Cumbria which is similar to the Whixall project but started earlier so is further ahead. He showed a short film about the project.
- b. A letter he had sent to in response to an enquiry from Owen Patterson which covered a number of areas including tree harvesting, the future plans for work at the scrapyard, the wetland and pools. He emphasised the role of the bog in carbon capture.
- c. The consultation due to take place on 15 June. This covered the proposed bird hide and the Morris's Bridge flood management project.

There was also a wider discussion about the Lord hill drain and wider flooding issues.

54/19

West Mercia Police Report.

As there was no police representative at the meeting the report was sent to the Clerk on the day of the meeting and was emailed to Members.

55/19

The Refill Project

The refill project was discussed and members recognised the environmental benefits of the scheme. They were impressed by the presentation and the work carried out by the small project team to date. Members would like to do what they can to help.

56/19

Disclosure of Pecuniary Interests

Members were reminded of their obligation to declare any interests/ gifts/ hospitality:
None declared

57/19

Meeting Minutes

a. Monthly Meeting of the Parish Council: Wednesday 8 May 2019

It was proposed by Cllr Spenser that the draft minutes, of the meeting detailed above, were an accurate record. This was seconded by Cllr Turnbull and agreed by all. The minutes were signed by Cllr Mercer.

b. Annual Meeting of the Parish Council: Wednesday 15 May 2019

It was proposed by Cllr Hague that the draft minutes, of the meeting detailed above, were an accurate record. This was seconded by Cllr Rawlinson and agreed by all. The minutes were signed by Cllr Mercer.

c. Outstanding Issues in Relation to the Format of Meeting Minutes

The clerk provided an alternative, condensed version of the meeting minutes and, following discussion it was agreed that the Clerk will provide detailed minutes which would take longer to produce. Cllr Rawlinson proposed that this should be implemented and Cllr Turnbull seconded. It was resolved to increase the Clerk's hours by one hour each month.

The clerk will report back to Members on the annual financial implication of this decision.

58/19

Planning

a) Applications Considered – none received.

b) Decisions Received

19/01128/FUL	Change of use of land and conversion of a show bungalow to residential dwelling and associated works (re-submission)	Opposite Browns of Wem, Pool Head Wem	Grant Permission
19/01699/FUL	Installation of a 65kW biomass boiler	Whixall Hall, SY13 2PY	Grant Permission
16/03056/OUT	Outline application for the erection of 1No. agricultural workers dwelling (to include access)	The Farms, SY13 2SB	Withdrawn

c) Pre application enquiry

This item was moved to the end of the meeting in order to be discussed without the public present.

59/19

Place Plans

Cllr Harris gave a verbal report about his attendance at a Place Plan meeting organised by Shropshire Council (SC) on 23 May and information has subsequently been distributed to Members.

The Place Plan priorities are to be updated and Cllr Harris explained the infrastructure priorities as categorised in the Place Plan:

- County-wide or strategic issues
- Economic issues e.g. school places
- Neighbourhood projects

If issues are not on the 'c' list, they will not be considered by SC. The Council needs to update the section C list for Whixall to include things such as flooding, broadband and telephone reception. The deadline for the update has been set as 23 June and this caused concern amongst members. Cllr Harris confirmed that the Place Plan is a live document and therefore will be updated on a regular basis.

The Clerk will contact SC to find out more about the process and to confirm that the Council will provide updated information after the meeting on 10 July.

60/19

Highways

No specific issues have been raised with Shropshire Council. Short term programme information received from Shropshire Council has been forwarded to Members.

The Clerk was asked to contact Shropshire Council and request information about the long-term highways programme for the Parish.

61/19

Clerk's Report

Correspondence received from

- a) Whixall CE Primary School: Thanking the Council for the £100 donation
- b) Whixall URC Graveyard Trust: Thanking the Council for the £50 donation
- c) CPRE: Promoting 'The Green Clean'
- d) Spencer Collins: Information about the proposed development
- e) SALC: Information about the 70th birthday celebration; and forthcoming training
- f) St Chad's Church: Initiation to final WWI remembrance service
- g) Wem Town Council: Information about their Motion on Climate Change
- h) Shropshire Council: Information about forthcoming road safety campaign

Activity since the last meeting

- a) Completion of the AGAR
- b) Finalising the 19/20 budget
- c) Moss Cottages site visit with Members
- d) Attendance at the NS Clerk's meeting
- e) Attendance at 'Planning and CIL' training (with Cllr Rawlinson)
- f) Meeting with Natural England, arranged by Cllr Mellings (Shropshire Council) in relation to the proposed bird hide and flood management project (with Cllr Mercer and Cllr Harris)

62/19

Financial Matters

- a) To receive monthly bank balance record.

The Clerk advised the council of the council's bank balances.

DATE	ACCOUNT NAME	AMOUNT
29 May 2019	Community Account	£9623.63
	Business Saver Account	£926.40
TOTAL		£10,550.03

- b) To resolve to approve outstanding accounts.

Orders for the payment of outstanding invoices (under "Power to Spend" LGA1972 s.112(2) and 124(1)). As per the financial report of the Responsible Financial Officer (RFO)/ Clerk; proposed by Cllr Turnbull, seconded by Cllr Spenser and agreed by all present.

Resolved: The outstanding accounts should be paid and the cheques signed by two authorised councillors.

- c) To resolve to approve the budget for 2019-20.

Proposed by Cllr Spenser, seconded by Cllr Hague and agreed by all present.

Resolved: The budget for 2019-20 is approved.

- d) To review and approve the effectiveness of internal control (Financial Regulations Review) and sign the Annual Governance Statement (Section 1 of Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2018/19)

Proposed by Cllr Mercer, seconded by Cllr Rawlinson agreed by all present.

Resolved: The effectiveness of internal control (Financial Regulations Review) is approved.

The Annual Governance Statement was signed by the Chairman and the Clerk.

- e) To review, consider and approve Accounting Statements (Section 2 of Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2018/19)

Proposed by Cllr Rawlinson, seconded by Cllr Spenser and agreed by all present.

Resolved: Accounting Statements for 2018/19 are approved.

63/19

Parish Matters

a) Asset Management

Asset Register (verbal report from the Clerk)

The asset register has now been updated as part of the end of year return (AGAR). The following changes were made:

- The obsolete laptop, printer and lawnmower have been removed
- The new laptop and lawnmower have been added.

These changes have resulted in the value of assets reducing from £7019 to £6,450. The equipment purchased for the Marlot at the start of 2018/19 are to be added this financial year.

Moss Cottages Field (verbal report from Cllr Turnbull)

Cllr Turnbull reported that, following an interim site with Martin Spenser, it had been agreed that the trees would be cut down at the back end of the year and they had agreed an action plan.

b) The Marlot (verbal report from Cllr Turnbull):

Cllr Turnbull reported that, due to wildflowers and ground nesting birds work is currently limited and will pick up at the end of July. Pathway clearance has been carried out. The farmer is keen to continue with the grazing contract which runs until the end of September. Cllr Turnbull is liaising with Natural England to arrange a volunteer day for ditch clearance in October as well as other work. The picnic bench has arrived and will be put in the main meadow area. The creeping willow has grown and the path will be moved to accommodate it. Future plans include wood clearance.

Cllr Turnbull stressed the need for additional volunteer help.

64/19

Councillors Reports

Parish Councillors

Cllr Turnbull reported that the recent dog show went well and made £1200 for Social Centre funds. The next event will be a treasure hunt to be held on 11 August.

Shropshire Councillors:

Cllr Mellings:

A written report was provided to members prior to the meeting. Cllr Mellings also reported that Richard Cheal from Shropshire Council's Contractor had informed him that funding for the culvert inspection had finally been improved. This would be carried out by a diver once levels have dropped sufficiently.

65/19

Pre-Application Enquiry.

The public were excluded from this part of the meeting.

Susanne Whitley had approached the Council asking for them to confirm her local connection in relation to a forthcoming planning application. A short discussion took place. Proposed by Cllr Mercer. Seconded by Cllr Rawlinson. Agreed by all. Decision: **Whixall Parish Council can confirm Ms Whitley's local connection and supports, in principle, the need for an open market dwelling on land adjacent to Yew Tree Cottage.**

Scheduled date of next meeting: **10 July 2019 at 7.30 pm**

The meeting closed at 9.32pm