

Whixall Parish Council

Chairman: David Edgerton

**Minutes of the Monthly Meeting held on
Wednesday 9th July 2014 at
Whixall Social Centre starting at 7.30 pm**

Present:

Chairman: D Edgerton

Councillors: Vice Chair- S Beer, J Spenser, I Mercer, S Marlow, C Platon, P Poole, C Mellings

Clerk: K Hatton

Public: P Ashton (North Salop Wheelers), M Spenser, L Neal (Shropshire Wildlife Trust),

79/14 Apologies for absence

D Evans- holiday

P Dee- conference

(J Jarrett- not in attendance)

80/14 Disclosures of Pecuniary Interests

None

81/14 Minutes of the meeting of 11th June 2014

Cllr Beer proposed a small amendment to the minutes: page 3 of 4, minute number 73/14 – Planning Enforcement matters/ Land at Green Lane: Cllr Beer reported that there were 2 caravans on the site, not one. Cllr Spenser seconded the amendment to be made. It was proposed by Cllr Spenser that the amended minutes were an accurate record of the meeting. Seconded by Cllr Beer and agreed by all present. The Clerk initialled the amendment.

It was resolved that the minutes be signed by the Chairman as an accurate record of the meeting.

82/14 Public Session

Mrs Phoebe Ashton of North Salop Wheelers attended to provide a report.

Phoebe began by making reference to an article in the Shropshire Star newspaper which featured John Harrison stating his opinion against 'fracking' (drilling for coal bed methane) following a recent public meeting in Duddleston Heath about said subject. John Harrison is one of the main volunteers for NSW and he vows to leave the country if the 'fracking' goes ahead: the significance of this is that it is felt that NSW cannot continue without Mr Harrison. Furthermore Phoebe stated that she will only be likely to continue driving for them for another 12 months as she is unlikely to reapply for her licence due to her age.

Phoebe explained that their yellow bus is no longer road worthy. They still do the regular trips and routes but it is always a challenge financially.

- L Neal suggested that there may be funding available via LEADER.
- The Clerk informed Phoebe that she had received a comment from a parishioner about being quoted a high cost for a trip to hospital.

Phoebe said that she would look into both of the above. In conclusion she feels that the future of the organisation is in doubt and may not be in existence in 12 months time.

Phoebe thanked the Parish Council for their support over the years.
The Chairman thanked Phoebe for attending. Phoebe left the meeting.

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Luke Neal – Community Officer, Meres and Mosses Landscape Partnership Scheme c/o Shropshire Wildlife Trust had been invited to attend the meeting to speak to the Council about the potential management of The Marl Allotment (Marlot)

Luke began by providing a little bit of background information about the Marlot: It is an ecological site, just one step down from a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). If the site is not managed then the natural interest will diminish.

Luke went on to explain that Natural England (NE) and Shropshire Wildlife Trust (SWT) have an interest in the site, the Parish Council have limited resources. One of the ways to best manage the Marlot is to graze cattle on it to stop it becoming overgrown.

Currently the site is common land but is not registered with an owner, therefore under section 9 of the Commons Registration Act 1965 it is subject to protection by the local authority as per the Commons Commissioner's decision dated 15th April 1975.

In order to graze the area it needs to be fenced, in order to fence a common you have to apply to the Secretary of State; this is more straight-forward if the owner can apply.

The Parish Council is effectively responsible for the Marlot but not registered with the land registry. The proposal is that the Parish Council registers their ownership of the site in order that a multi-body partnership between the Parish Council, Natural England and Shropshire Wildlife Trust can protect and preserve the land as a nature site rather than let it revert to scrub land.

Luke confirmed that a boundary fence is required but interior fencing is not allowed on common land. He clearly stated that they would encourage public access to the site and manage any grazing with temporary electric fencing which is permitted so as not to interfere with public access.

Luke confirmed that there is a possible dispute over the boundary line of the site.

Luke agreed to put together a written proposal so that there would be clear understanding of arrangements and responsibilities for those who follow in future should a decision be made to pursue such an arrangement.

The Chairman thanked Luke for attending and explained that further discussion would ensue as per the agenda.

M Spenser thanked Luke for his terrific drive and passion for the site, Cllr Spenser seconded this.

M Spenser and L Neal left the meeting @ 8:20pm

83/14 Clerk's Report

The Clerk reported on the following:

- All actions from previous meeting complete.
- Next North Shropshire Area Committee (NSAC) of Shropshire Association of Local Councils (SALC) meeting (AGM) will be held on Monday 7th July at Wem Town Hall at 7:15pm has been postponed.
- Phone call received from Mazars Auditors- just to confirm correlation of signatures as Cllr Mercer chaired the meeting in which we confirmed the accounting statements as Cllr Edgerton was not in attendance. There was no problem with this and it was verbally stated that the accounts were in good order.

84/14 Financial Matters

- Outstanding accounts and balances

The Clerk listed the invoices received: see table below.

DATE	CHEQUE NO.	DETAILS	AMOUNT
09.07.14	100999	K Hatton- Clerk's pay for June	£193.25
09.07.14	101000	SALC- Planning training session	£10.00
09.07.14	101001	J & E Ford- Grass cutting	£252.00
		Total	£ 455.25

- Orders for the payment of money as per the financial report of the Responsible Financial Officer were proposed by Cllr Edgerton, seconded by Cllr Poole and agreed by all present.

It was resolved that the outstanding accounts should be paid and cheques were signed by the Chairman Cllr Edgerton and Vice Chair, Cllr Beer.

- Balances

DATE	ACCOUNT NAME	AMOUNT
30.06.14	Community Account	£5,805.81
31.06.14	Business Saver Account (<i>quarterly statement</i>)	£3,919.00
TOTAL		£9,724.81

The Clerk confirmed that all Parish Cllrs present had received a copy of the balance sheet via email. Cllr Edgerton signed the bank statements to acknowledge that these balances were accurate.

- 1st Quarterly Expenditure Report

The Clerk confirmed that all Cllrs present had received a copy of the expenditure report. The Clerk highlighted the increased spend on Grounds Maintenance/ grass cutting which has almost reached budget. There is a significant increase to costs compared to previous years due to the frequency of cuts. It was proposed by Cllr Edgerton that the number of cuts were reduced and that from now, until season end the grass at the Social Centre is to be cut once a fortnight and the playing field at Moss Cottages be cut once every three weeks.

Cllr Beer seconded the proposal.

RESOLUTION: J & E Ford is to be informed that future grass cutting is as follows (unless otherwise requested):

Once every two weeks at Social Centre.

Once every 3 weeks at Moss Cottages, until end of season.

85/14 Planning Issues**Applications to be viewed at meeting**

(None)

****The following application was received too late to appear on the agenda****

Ref: 14/02876/VAR- Removal of condition 3 (Agricultural Occupancy) attached to planning permission 72/3839/WX/255 dated 03/01/1973 at Lord Hill View, Dobson's Bridge, Whixall, SY13 2QQ

- A debate took place with regard to whether, or not, the condition 3 should be removed. As a result the council was taken to vote: the majority voted to support the removal, two cllrs abstained from casting a vote.

Decision/ response for submission to Online Planning Register-public access:

Object/ **Support**/ Representation

Comment: No comment

Planning Decisions:

Reference: 14/00922/VAR (validated: 03/03/2014)

Address: Avalon, Hollinwood, Whixall, Whitchurch, Shropshire, SY13 2NL

Proposal: Variation of condition no.2 attached to 13/00778/VAR to allow for reduction in height of infill boarding to the first floor doors

Decision: Grant Permission

Reference: 14/01354/FUL (validated: 27/03/2014)

Address: Yew Tree House, Platt Lane, Whixall, Whitchurch, Shropshire, SY13 2PA

Proposal: Erection of a two storey extension

Decision: Grant Permission

Planning Enforcement matters:

- **Little Acorn Farm**

No further update.

- **Land at Green Lane**

Still being investigated- Owner has been contacted.

86/14 Parish Matters

a) Community Led Plan

- Communication via Community News: The Clerk shared a draft notice for inclusion in The Community News in response to a suggestion that it may be more appropriate than publishing the meeting agenda retrospectively- the notice confirms the next meeting date and standard agenda items.
Following a discussion Cllr Beer proposed that it be sent for inclusion in next edition of Community News, Cllr Mercer seconded the proposal.

RESOLUTION: Drafted notice to be sent as seen.

b) Notice Boards

- Cllr Spenser stated that she had not had time to look at the possibility of re-vamping the notice boards although Cllr Platon had observed that the wood could be replaced. No further discussion took place on the subject.

c) The Marlot

- The Council discussed the matter of registering their ownership of the Marl Allotment (Marlot). It was agreed that in principle it would be a positive move. The Clerk was asked to look into the aspect of insurance and liability and the effects of registration. Cllr Beer raised the question of whether the Bowling Club was a 'registered asset' in light of the peppercorn rent. The Clerk agreed to investigate all aspects of the issue and report back at next meeting on September 10th.

87/14 Highways

Cllr Beer reported that she had received correspondence from a parishioner asking "why did the resurfacing stop short of the Braynes Hall turning". Cllr Mellings has made enquiries.

Cllr Mellings reported that he had made enquiries with regard to the removal of the WJ Furber signs: He relayed that he could propose two options as Roving Bridge is named on the sign in question.

1. Strikethrough WJ Furber and leave sign in situ or
2. Replace with new sign.

The Council agreed that they would prefer the sign to be removed and not replaced so that there is less street furniture.

The Clerk was requested to follow up on previously reported matters and report that Green Lane to Gilberts Lane requires resurfacing.

88/14 Website- Comments and updates

Cllr Platon reported that the website was up to date; latest agenda was uploaded.

89/14 Correspondence

The Clerk tabled the following correspondence:

- Poster re: Meres and Mosses project consultation
- Shropshire Housing Group – Board member vacancies
- Notice of review of Polling Districts, Polling Places and Polling Stations
- Letter from Mr and Mrs J Huxley re: Comments relating to the Parish Council meeting of 14th May 2014.
 - The Parish Council acknowledged this letter which had been previously seen by all as it was published in the July edition of the Community News magazine. Cllr Poole tabled and proposed a draft response to the letter. The letter was discussed. One slight amendment was made. Cllr Beer seconded the proposal and all agreed that the Clerk should send the response as soon as possible.

90/14 Councillors Reports

Cllr Marlow reported that she had been made aware of a possible contravention to approved plans in relation to planning application ref: 14/00825/FUL at Cumberland Lane. The Clerk was asked to make enquiries to see if plans were being adhered to.

Cllr Platon reported that he had repaired the vandalised sign at World's end carpark.

The meeting closed at 9:55pm

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Wednesday 10th September at 7.30 pm
