

WHIXALL PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

Spring/ summer 2017

This newsletter is produced by Whixall Parish Council; it aims to keep you in touch with your parish representatives.

Hello all,
Town and parish council elections take place every four years and this year councillors were elected uncontested as eight persons stood for nine seats so it did not go to a poll. I would like to take the opportunity to thank all the councillors for their time and effort on behalf of the residents of Whixall and in particular, our longest serving councillors Dave Edgerton and Jen Spenser. It would be remiss of me not to also thank our Clerk, Katie Hatton for all her work and help. By the time you receive this newsletter the new council will be in place and include eight of the previous members, the only member not returning is Chris Platon, who will be missed, and who has stood down due to plans to move away in the near future. Chris has been Vice Chair for the last year and we are sincerely grateful to him for his work

as a councillor and for his design and management of the parish council's website since 2013.

I would also like to thank Chris Mellings and Pauline Dee, who have, for many years, served us very well as our two Shropshire Councillors, all their help, advice and guidance to the parish council is invaluable. Furthermore I am happy to congratulate them on their re-election on 4th May.

I would urge anyone interested in the current vacancy on the parish council to contact Katie for advice, ideally, before the end of May as we will appoint in June.

Over the last couple of months we have seen considerable works being carried out in Whixall to help alleviate the floods that created so

much concern last year. The Canal and River Trust has fixed a number of leaks, numerous lengths of ditch have been cleared and Shropshire Council is pursuing the owners of other ditches to force them to carry out their obligations to maintain their ditches. The Canal and River Trust has also carried out repairs to the canal and towpaths as part of their ongoing maintenance plans.

Works are proceeding on the "Scrapyard" and Natural England and their Welsh partners have been successful in attracting European funding to safeguard the mosses.

Meetings have included discussions with residents and developers to ensure that residents had an opportunity to make their views known on the various proposals. I know that some found this useful and that others were disappointed but grateful for the chance to air their views. The councillors have appreciated the number of residents who have attended meetings and would encourage all to attend when they can. I would ask, however, that we respect those that hold an alternative position and do not allow the situation to get personal.

The council holds very few assets for the community but the Marlot is one of them. We have managed to get grant funding to enable us to better manage the land and will be working with partners to better manage the site which we hope will include some seasonal grazing when appropriate in the future.

fff Financial Report fff

In line with the Transparency Code for smaller authorities the parish council's end of year accounts and supporting documents will be available to view on our website no later than 1st July 2017. All other documentation is available to inspect on application to the Clerk.

Significant variances in spending during this financial year include a project to install a drinking trough at the Marlot to enable some seasonal grazing to support the effective management of the protected species and special flora on the site. The project is being funded through a grant from Meres and Mosses Landscape Partnership Scheme that is awarded on completion of the project- this reimbursement will be shown in the next set of accounts as it will be received after 31st March 2017.

Another large spend in the year ending March 2017 is the cost of the 2015 by-election.

Local policing report

Whitchurch Safer Neighbourhood Team has made us aware of instances of cold callers in the Whitchurch area that have caused concern for our more vulnerable neighbours and also a number of scam calls resulting in people losing significant amounts of money. There does not appear to be a pattern in who received scam calls in the area, but please remember that the Police, NHS, your bank, nor any other organisation will demand immediate payment from you. For more information and tips about how to protect yourself from scams, contact:

Action Fraud via <http://www.actionfraud.police.uk/> or telephone 0300 123 2040

Thanks to Johnstone's paint and Colour Supplies, Whitchurch the old red telephone box in Welsh End which was adopted by the Parish Council back in 2011 is going to get a much needed re-paint.

Finally, I would like to thank Mr Mark Dickens for repairing the railings at the war memorial and helping to maintain this community asset. The railings will also be re-painted in the near future to further preserve them.

Chairman, Ian Mercer

Fields Multi Academy Trust

As you may be aware, Whixall and Prees Schools have joined together to form Fields Multi- Academy Trust. We believe that by forming a Multi Academy Trust we will:

- ensure the future of both schools in an ever changing education climate in order to continue to serve their community in the best way possible;
- ensure the best possible education for all of our children with the highest quality teachers and support staff delivering a child centred curriculum;
- achieve 'best value' for all services that we buy into;
- maintain our Christian Values which contribute to the uniqueness of each school;
- enable each school to maintain its own identity whilst working together to support each other.

Our Trust has had a very positive start with all staff visiting each others' schools and beginning to plan together to make our curriculum exciting as it can be for the benefit of all of our children.

If you would like to know any more about our Academy developments, then please do not hesitate to contact the school.

Nicola Brayford, Head teacher

YOUR PARISH COUNCILLORS live across the parish and all bring a variety of different skills and interests to the table.

Ian Mercer (Chair), Waterloo
David Edgerton, Rack Lane
Jen Spenser, Hollinwood
Jo Hardiman, Post Office Lane
Susie Marlow, Cumberland Lane
John Fitton, Browns Brook
Margaret Howard, Browns Brook
Bob Harris, Mossleigh Well

****Vacancy****

David Edgerton has been a parish councillor for 15 years and Jen Spenser 11 years; they give the council continuity and the benefit of experience.

Councillors contact details can be found on our web site:
www.whixallparish.org.uk

Clerk: Katie Hatton, 5 Moss Villas.
Tel: 01948 880851
Email: clerk.whixallpc@hotmail.co.uk

Whixall Neighbourhood Watch Scheme

If there is anyone in Hollinwood, Stanley Green, Sandy Bank and Welsh End interested in becoming members of the scheme please contact Graham on 01948 880856 for details.

For those in the Waterloo area contact Rita on 01939 234243.

Don't forget that the 'COMMUNITY NEWS' lists community events, contacts and local businesses.

To subscribe contact Madeline Harris on 01948 880494

North Salop Wheelers Community Bus

Affordable and accessible transport from your home to your destination. Regular services from villages to towns on market days.

Booking essential- 01948 880037

Website: www.northsalopwheelers.co.uk

A huge thank you to all those who attended and contributed to the Senior Citizen's Christmas Party early in December.

This event relies heavily on donations of all kinds so a most sincere thank you to all involved: To Val and Peter Stokes who, again, kindly donated all the salad for the supper. To the Co-op, Wem and Sainsbury's and Tesco's, Whitchurch for their contributions and very importantly to the Rotary Club of Whitchurch for a monetary donation of £100 towards the costs. Thanks also to Alan James for his provision of transport to and from the party, to the pupil's of Whixall Primary School who sang so beautifully, their families for bringing the children to sing and to Miss Brayford and her team for co-ordinating their part in the evening. As I have said before- an event like this is pretty special thing for a parish council to do and without these kind donations and the councillors' time such a party would be impossible to finance.

PLEASE NOTE THAT this year's party will be held on Friday 8th December -this is a change from the usual 1st week in December.

The very talented young, local musician and singer Aaron Evans, from Wem will be providing the entertainment. So, please continue to support this event- further details will be included in autumn/ winter newsletter. If you have any comments or questions, please don't hesitate to get in touch!

Katie