

Whixall Parish Council

Chairman: Ian Mercer

Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 12th October 2016 at
Whixall Social Centre starting at 7:30pm

Present:

Chairman: I Mercer

Councillors: C Platon (Vice Chair), S Marlow, B Harris, M Howard

Shropshire Councillors: C Mellings, P Dee

Clerk: K Hatton

Members of the community: 0

116/16 Introduction

Cllr Mercer declared the meeting open.

117/16 Apologies for absence

Cllrs D Edgerton, J Hardiman, J Fitton, J Spenser

118/16 Public Participation

There were no members of the community present.

119/16 Disclosure of Pecuniary Interests and requests for dispensation.

None declared.

120/16 Minutes of the meetings held on 14th September 2016

It was proposed by Cllrs Dee and Mercer that 2 amendments were made on page 4 of the draft minutes under item 112/16 – Councillors Reports, all agreed. It was then proposed that the minutes were an accurate record of the meeting. This was seconded by Cllr Platon and agreed by all present.

<p>It was resolved that the minutes of 14th September 2016 be signed by the Chair as an accurate record of the meeting.</p>

121/16 Clerk's report

-Correspondence to note

- Letter from Barclays re: interest rates.
- Letter was sent to Whitchurch Rotary club requesting small donation towards Senior's Xmas Party.
- Parishioner's offer to assist with transport to and from Senior's Xmas party.

-Other matters to note

- Road works are taking place on Church lane.
- SALC AGM- 19th November, Dawley, Telford.
- Healthwatch Shropshire event- 3rd November, Guildhall, Shrewsbury.
- NSAC next meeting- 16th January 2017, Edinburgh House, Wem.
- New recycling services information.
- Local Joint Committee planning meeting, 31st October. Cllr Harris to attend.

122/16 Parish Matters

a) Flooding- Update

Cllr Mellings reported that work is underway to clear ditches now owned by Shropshire Wildlife Trust. There continues to be water lying in the area- it appears that the water is flowing from the direction of the canal. Cllr Platon provided video evidence of water flow.

Cllr Mellings has agreed to meet with a resident on site on Monday and is continuing to press Canal and River Trust for action re: repairs to the canal.

Shropshire Council has reported that there has been a positive response from landowners to notices served and correspondence between residents affected by the flooding and Shropshire Council is, at present, effective.

b) Marlot grazing- Update on progress towards enabling grazing on the Marlot.

The Clerk updated the council with regard to the grant application to fund the installation of a water trough at the Marlot to enable future grazing of the site: The application has been reviewed but there is scope to include some chainsaw or brush cutter training for volunteers within the application so some further work is required: Cllr Mercer proposed that the council agree, in principal, the continued work on the application and that the Clerk can move forward with the work as appropriate. The proposal was seconded by Cllr Platon and agreed by all.

c) Forward planning for upcoming events:

The time of the Remembrance Sunday service was confirmed as 10:45am. It was agreed that the Clerk continues correspondence with Whixall Primary School to enable children in attendance to take part in the ceremony.

Senior Citizens' Christmas party: Amongst other details, it was agreed who should be offered the opportunity to cut the cake and who to approach for donations. Plans are in place and progressing.

d) Autumn/ Winter Newsletter approval

Some amendments were approved. The Clerk agreed to share a final draft with the view to it going to print early next week.

123/16 Planning

-All planning applications and decisions can be tracked on line at www.shropshire.gov.uk

Applications received- to consider response

-Reference: 16/04363/FUL - Erection of Affordable Single Plot Exception Bungalow at Land To East Of Bridge Farm, Platt Lane, Whixall, Shropshire, SY13 2PA

The following statement in response to the above application was proposed by Cllr Harris, seconded by Cllr Marlow and agreed by all:

Stance: Support

Comment: Whixall Parish Council seeks assurance that highways visibility has been addressed. It also notes the addition of a double garage.

Decisions- to note

- No new decisions to note.

124/16 Review of how Shropshire Council's planning department consults with town and parish councils

A discussion took place in response to proposals being reviewed by Shropshire Council. It was proposed by Cllr Howard that the following feedback should be directed to the community enablement officer, seconded by Cllr Marlow and agreed by all:

Whixall Parish Council feels that whilst it is not problematic to work with the other proposals the suggestion to *'Extend the consultation period to 31 days for Town and Parish Councils to respond to applications but not provide Councils with extensions beyond this period'* is not helpful or efficient because removing any element of flexibility will be detrimental to the process due to the fact that it will potentially create costs for parish councils who only meet on a monthly, or less than monthly, basis.

125/16 Local Government Finance Settlement Technical Consultation

The implications of proposals regarding council tax referendum principles for local parish and town councils were discussed and noted.

126/16 Financial Matters

a) Monthly Balance sheet- To note

The September balance sheet was presented and confirmed as accurate with the current bank statements by Cllr Mercer.

DATE	ACCOUNT NAME	AMOUNT
30.09.2016	Community Account	£4,021.93
	Business Saver Account	£3,923.45
TOTAL		£7,945.38

b) Outstanding accounts- To approve:

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

DATE	CHEQUE NO.	DETAILS	AMOUNT	LEGAL POWER TO SPEND
Date of meeting: 12 th October 2016	101105	K Hatton- Clerk's pay for September	£314.34	LGA 1972 s. 112(2)
	101106	C Jones- Grass cutting	£120.00	HA 1980 s.96
	101107	K Hatton- Reimburse for USB Flashdrive	£9.00	LGA 1972 s.111
	101108	Poppy Appeal- Remembrance Day Wreath (£25.00 actual cost + £10.00 donation)	£35.00	LGA 1972 s. 137
Total			£478.34	

LGA= Local Government Act

HA= Highways Act

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

127/16 Highways

a) Referrals to Shropshire Council

Cllr Harris raised a matter that had been reported to him regarding a potentially dangerous Ash tree on roadside which is in a state of decay and at risk of falling. Cllr Mellings provided appropriate contact details and Cllr Harris agreed to pass the matter on to the officer responsible for trees for further assessment.

b) Scheduled works by Shropshire Council

Moss Lane has been resurfaced.

Works taking place on Church Lane.

Resurfacing is scheduled to take place on Waterloo Bridge, past Whixall Hall to Green Lane and from Platt Lane Bridge to County boundary within this financial year.

Cllr Mellings to follow up matters at Oakfields/ Green Lane.

128/16 Councillors' Reports

a) Parish Councillors

Cllr Harris reported on the recent 'Community Engagement' training that was attended by 3 Cllrs at Edinburgh House on 7th October: Although it appeared to be a different agenda than was billed, it was good to have an informal meeting with neighbouring councils.

b) Shropshire Councillors

No reports.

Cllr Dee shared new recycling services information.

129/16 Shropshire Council's budget cuts and transfer of services –Future role of Parish Council

A comment from Cllr Harris that: from the school's point of view it will be important to know what is happening in relation to the potential closure of Whitchurch swimming pool.

130/16 Consider future agenda items

Scheduled date of next meeting: **Wednesday 9th November 2016 at 7.30 pm**

- Public Open Space Review

The meeting closed at 9.47pm

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Wednesday 9th November 2016 at 7:30 pm
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