

Whixall Parish Council

Chairman: David Edgerton

Minutes of the Monthly Meeting held on Wednesday 14th January 2015 at
Whixall Social Centre starting at 7.30 pm

Present:

Chairman: D Edgerton

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

Clerk: K Hatton

Public: Mr and Mrs Garside, PC Stuart Le Clere

01/15 Apologies for absence

P Dee

02/15 Disclosures of Pecuniary Interests

None

03/15 Minutes of the meeting of 12th November 2014 and minutes of extraordinary meeting on 15th December 2014

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

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

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

04/15 Public Session

Cllr Edgerton invited Mr and Mrs Garside to address the council.

Mr Garside stated that he wanted to reiterate their objection to the application for development at Little Acorn Farm.

The main concerns stated were as follows: The proposed buildings are in very close proximity to the Garside's house which is a listed building, the development is also very close to Whixall (Fenn's) Moss which is a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), the enforcement notice served on the static caravan is not being dealt with due to the lack of a decision on this application, the land that is 'Little Acorn Farm' is classed as permanent pasture which raises the question 'should it be allowed to be developed', it is felt that the application for a business is just a means to acquire permission for a permanent dwelling.

Cllr Beer raised the point about the enforcement notice and asked whether the applicants are in contempt of court - Cllr Mellings confirmed the process to date; the enforcement notice was issued by Shropshire Council, the applicants objected therefore it went to the planning inspectorate, the Inspector upheld the notice on the side of Shropshire Council. The notice cannot be enforced until the current planning application is decided.

The Garsides left the meeting following the discussion.

Cllr Edgerton invited PC Stuart Le Clere to address the council.

PC Le Clere provided a crime report for the Whixall area, the main topic being the theft of galvanised metal gates; gates have been taken at the beginning of October and again at the beginning of November and a cattle feed ring at the beginning of December.

PC Le Clere reported on an increase in theft and burglary in the Higher Heath and Prees area; arrests have been made but suspects released on bail. Local residents have been alerted via a leaflet drop.

PC Le Clere stated their reliance on members of the public being vigilant and reporting incidents.

Cllr Edgerton stated his strong disappointment relating to his report to the police that local residents had CCTV images of a suspicious vehicle at a time just after his gates were stolen; there was no follow up whatsoever to this report. Cllr Edgerton said that whilst he appreciated the quality of the image was not brilliant this was not known by the officers and some information could have been obtained by viewing it. The main complaint is that no effort at all has been made to follow up the potential evidence.

Cllr Edgerton proposed that a letter of complaint be sent to Superintendent McWilliam.

Cllr Mercer asked PC Le Clere about the monitoring of safety systems at school drop off/ collection time- particularly people parking on yellow hatched area and obscuring visibility. PC Le Clere confirmed that it is a nationwide problem and that he will arrange for marked a police car to monitor from time to time- they do try to go round all the schools to do this. The Clerk confirmed that there is a police poster on the road side at the school advising about this issue.

05/15 **Clerk's Report**

The Clerk reported on the following:

- o £50 has been received from Whitchurch Rotary towards cost of Senior Citizen's party.
- o Enquiry from planning officer re: land north of bowling club re: burials on the land. Jane Preece has been in touch with the agent for Lichfield diocese who may have further information. The Clerk has informed Jane Preece that the land behind the Social Centre was deconsecrated over 10 years ago.
- o Confirmation of Land Registry's receipt of FR1 application has been received and the cheque (£30) has been cashed.
- o Place Plan review has been sent but no acknowledgement.
- o Council Tax Support Grant – non payment issue- Will have an impact of a 6% rise of precept.
- o Alders Lane- Highways have agreed to clear it. Cllr Beer reported that it had been done.
- o Fenn's Bank road- acknowledgement of Cllr Platon's correspondence with Wrexham Borough Council on the issue.
- o Poppy Appeal cheque listed in Monthly Balance sheet is the church collection cash from Remembrance Sunday service.

06/15 **Financial Matters**

- Outstanding accounts

DATE	CHEQUE NO.	DETAILS	AMOUNT
14.01.2015	101020	K Hatton- Clerk's pay for December	£386.50
14.01.2015	101021	K Hatton- Expenses	£12.92
		Total	399.42

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

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

- Balances

DATE	ACCOUNT NAME	AMOUNT
29.12.14	Community Account	£3,456.02
30.12.14	Business Saver Account	£3,920.02
TOTAL		£7,376.04

The Clerk confirmed that all Parish Cllrs present had received a copy of the balance sheet via email.

- 3rd Quarterly Expenditure Report

The Clerk confirmed that all Parish Cllrs present had received and understood the Expenditure Report.

- Budget and Precept 2015/16

The Clerk shared the key information as follows:

- Overview of previous precept requests and percentage increases.
- Impact of percentage increase in monetary terms to residents.
- Where savings can be made in budget to ensure the least percentage increase to precept request.
- Impact of non-payment of Council Tax Support Grant and resulting shortfall in funding.

Resolution: To request precept of £6,500.

The precept request form was completed and signed by the Clerk/ RFO and the Chairman, Cllr Edgerton.

- Grass cutting tender

The Clerk shared a draft advert.

It was resolved that the advert was amended as agreed and placed in local newspaper (Whitchurch Herald), the Community News, the Parish Council website and on community facebook sites.

07/14 Planning Issues

Applications to be viewed at the meeting

- Ref: 14/05349/FUL- Erection of garage and formation of new access at Green Lane Farm, Goblins Lane, Abbeygreen, Whixall, Shropshire (Wem Rural were consulted as on border and have not objected).

It was resolved that the case officer be contacted directly with the following statement: Whixall Parish Council have no additional issues to add to the concerns you outlined regarding the domestic curtilage and do not object to the principle of the erection of a new garage and formation of a new access providing Highways approve the access in terms of visibility etc.

- Ref: 14/00834/FUL- Erection of two agricultural sheds; siting of temporary agricultural workers dwelling; extension to access track at Little Acorn Farm, Dobson's Bridge, Whixall, Shropshire- RECONSULTATION

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

Object/ Support/ Representation

Comment: The Parish Council's previous comments in objection to this application still stand. The Parish Council have considered the additional/ new information associated with the application and wish to state their concern that the high yield operations proposed will have a serious impact on the level and type of traffic and feel that this has been understated in the application. The council also has serious concern about the waste disposal and drainage outfall from the domestic septic tank, due to the high water table and the close proximity to The Moss this could cause potential contamination of this SSSI site.

- Ref: 14/0533/VAR- Removal of condition (agricultural tie) to allow for house to be sold off separately from farm units at Grasmillees, Alders Lane, Whixall, Shropshire

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

Object/ Support/ Representation

Comment: No comment.

Planning Decisions

- **Ref: 14/04643/OUT- Outline Application for the erection of 5No dwellings to include access at Pool Bank Farm, Whixall, Shropshire, SY13 2PX-** Application Withdrawn
- **Ref: 14/05195/FUL- Erection of replacement front porch at 5 Whixall, Whitchurch, Shropshire, SY13 2NW** -Grant Permission

08/15 Parish Matters

a) Co-option of new councillor

- Number of councillors voting- 8
- Number of votes each- 1 (1 vacancy)
- Method – show of hands tallied and recorded by the Clerk
- Result of vote - Mrs J Hardiman received a majority of the votes.
- The Clerk was tasked with contacting the candidates, as appropriate, to inform them of the outcome of the vote.

b) Community Led Plan

Cllr Marlow presented her views to the council regarding the current situation with The Waggoners Inn. (Unsuccessful application in May 2014 to register as a Community Asset giving a Community Right To Bid – Application was refused on the grounds that “in the recent past the property was derelict and therefore could not be deemed to further the social well-being or interest of the community”.)

Cllr Marlow requested the support and backing of the Parish Council to correspond/ meet with Owen Paterson MP on the matter as she feels; 1. That it is unfair not to have the right to appeal against the asset application decision. 2. The community's strength of feeling about The Waggoners has been demonstrated and therefore it is an important issue to the community and worth being pursued. 3. The property is an eyesore.

RESOLUTION: Cllr Edgerton proposed that Cllr Marlow be supported/ backed by the Parish Council to try to facilitate a positive outcome with regard to the derelict property. The proposal was seconded by Cllr Evans and agreed by all.

c) SAMDev

Cllr Beer requested an update from Cllr Mellings re: the adoption of SAMDev.

Cllr Mellings explained that there was a public enquiry before Christmas. The Plan is currently with the inspector. There have been lots of issues with the 5 year land supply claim (rebuttal by a collective of agents and developers) this has meant that there has been a delay in the plan being adopted. It is likely to be adopted in June/ July after the general election

d) Senior Citizens' Party Entertainer

Cllr Evans provided the Clerk with details to contact a potential performer/ entertainer for the 2015 Senior citizens' Christmas party. The Clerk agreed to research the possibilities.

e) Flooding

Cllr Mercer raised the issue of flooding on the road between Abbey Green and Edstaston (actually in Wem Rural Parish). He raised the issue with Shropshire Council in 2013 but no-one has been back to him.

09/15 Highways

The Clerk was asked to contact highways with the following issues:

- The planned resurfacing of Rack Lane- The worst part is not included in plan: need to do from Bostock Hall crossroads to Social Centre.
- Drainage pipe is blocked at top of Ossage Lane- water is damaging recent resurface.
- Road outside Whixall Hall is in serious need of attention.

It was reported that Canal side is due to be closed on 3rd March presumably to address the dip in the road.

10/15 Website- Comments and updates

Up to date- Cllr Platon will upload grass cutting tender advert.

11/15 Correspondence

The Clerk shared with the council the following correspondence:

- Whitchurch Rotary re: Donation to Senior Citizens' party
- N Brayford (Whixall School) re: Thank you for inviting children to sing at Senior Citizens' party
- Citizens Advice Bureau re: Donation request
- NSW letter

12/15 Councillors Reports

None

The meeting closed at 10.20pm

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Wednesday 11th February at 7.30 pm