

# **Whixall Parish Council**

**Chairman: Ian Mercer**

**Minutes of Parish Council's Monthly Meeting held on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> September 2017 at  
Whixall Social Centre starting at 7:30pm**

---

**Present:**

**Chairman:** I Mercer

**Councillors:** J Fitton, S Marlow, J Spenser, M Howard, G Turnbull, B Harris,

**Shropshire Councillors:** C Mellings, P Dee

**Clerk:** K Hatton

**Members of the community:** M Hummerston, P Ashton (North Salop Wheelers), M Spenser (Marlot Conservation Group volunteer)

**107/17 Introduction**

Cllr Mercer declared the meeting open. Cllrs introduced themselves.

**108/17 Apologies for absence**

J Hardiman, D Edgerton

**109/17 Disclosure of Pecuniary Interests and requests for dispensation.**

None.

**110/17 Public Participation**

- a) M Hummerston requested the Council's assistance regarding drainage issues at Brownsbrook. He provided some background facts relating to the matter and provided some images of a drainage inspection chamber in need of repair which he cited as the material cause of the drainage issue.

*Cllr Mercer stated that although the Parish Council has no legal powers to impel landowners to maintain drains it will take advice from the Shropshire Councillors and appropriate Shropshire Council officers to assist with a positive resolution and outcome.*

- b) P Ashton provided a verbal report on the Community Bus Service, North Salop Wheelers: She stated that the organisation is seriously short of volunteers but that they are taking on more work. PA raised the issue that the government are considering taking away permits allowing volunteers to drive vehicles without a Public Service Vehicle Licence. If this happens then the service will not be able to continue. Phoebe suggested that the Parish Council considers writing to RT Hon Owen Paterson MP about the matter.

*Cllr Mercer thanked Phoebe for her attendance and report.*

- c) M Spenser made representation on behalf of The Marlot Conservation Group to ask the Parish Council to approve the grazing agreement (to be presented later in the meeting) to allow temporary conservation grazing of the Marlot, wildlife site, as this will knock back the willow growth and save many hours of manual work by volunteers. He reported that unfortunately an interested grazer has yet to be found. Martin reported that he had checked for any tree damage following recent high winds.

*Cllr Mercer thanked Martin for his report and work on the Marlot and the grazing agreement.*

**111/17 Minutes of the monthly meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> July and extraordinary meeting held on 27<sup>th</sup> July 2017**

It was proposed by Cllr Spenser/ Cllr Mercer (respectively) that the draft minutes, of the meetings detailed above, were an accurate record. This was seconded by Cllr Howard/ Cllr Spenser (respectively) and agreed by all present.

**It was resolved** that the minutes of 13<sup>th</sup> July 2017 be signed by the Chair as an accurate record of the meeting.

**It was resolved** that the minutes of 27<sup>th</sup> July 2017 be signed by the Chair as an accurate record of the meeting.

**112/17 Financial Matters**

- a) To receive monthly bank balance record.

The Clerk advised the council of the council's bank balances. The amounts stated in the Monthly Balance Record were countersigned by Cllr Mercer as accurate with the bank statement.

DATE	ACCOUNT NAME	AMOUNT
29 <sup>th</sup> August 2017	Community Account	£8,992.80
	Business Saver Account	£923.94
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>£9,916.74</b>

- b) To resolve to approve outstanding accounts.

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

DATE	CHEQUE NO.	DETAILS	AMOUNT	LEGAL POWER TO SPEND
13 <sup>th</sup> September 2017	101153	K Hatton- Clerk's pay for July and August 2017	£635.00	LGA 1972 s. 112(2)
	101154	C Jones- Grass cutting	£240.00	HA 1980 s.96
	101155	Mazars LLP- External Audit Fee	£120.00	LGA 1972 s. 111
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>£995.00</b>	

**LGA= Local Government Act**

**HA= Highways Act**

**TA=Transport Act**

**CA=Commons Act**

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

- d) To receive remittance advice from Shropshire Wildlife Trust for Meres and Mosses grant. Noted.

**113/17 Clerk's report**

**To receive information relating to actions and correspondence since last meeting.**

- Draft Newsletter- draft will be circulated over coming weeks. Suggestions for content were made.
- Information relating to sale of Glebe land nr. St Mary's Church- the sale of land is imminent, all options to protect the land for future burial was explored.
- Renewal of Bowling Club lease- update- No further correspondence received. Cllrs again requested to present ID.
- Report on LJC meeting- Key points summarised.

- e) Shropshire Local Plan Review (2016- 2036): To receive the summary of responses to the consultation- *Noted.*
- f) To receive notification of new data protection laws- *Noted.*
- g) To receive invitation to Shropshire Council event- *Noted.*

#### **114/17 Parish Matters**

- a) To approve agreement for conservation grazing on the Marlot.
  - *Cllr Marlow proposed that that the presented document was approved as ready for use, seconded by Cllr Howard, agreed by all present.*

**RESOLVED- LICENCE AGREEMENT FOR SHORT TERM GRAZING on The Marlot is fit for purpose and ready for use.**

- b) To consider actions to address the maintenance of Community Assets:  
*War memorial: Railings need to be painted- Cllr Mercer proposed that this be co-ordinated outside of the meeting, seconded by Cllr Spenser and agreed by all. **RESOLVED***

*Hollinwood Trees: A public concern was raised about the size of the trees on Hollinwood Common. Cllr Mercer proposed that MS and GT (MCG Volunteers) can crown lift but that further advice is sought regarding reduction of height, seconded by Cllr Spenser and agreed by all. **RESOLVED***

*Phone Box: Cllr Harris stated that he hoped to paint the phone box next week, weather permitting.*

- c) Car Park Strategy Consultation: *Following a debate it was proposed by Cllr Spenser that Cllr Mercer should draft a comment from the Parish Council to be approved at the next meeting. Seconded by Cllr Marlow and agreed by all. **RESOLVED***
- d) Library Strategy: *Following a debate it was proposed by Cllr Mercer that the following comment be submitted on behalf of the Parish Council... "Whixall Parish Council is very pleased to see that libraries in Wem and Whitchurch along with the mobile service visits to Whixall will be retained. These library services are extremely valuable to our community". Seconded by Cllr Spenser and agreed by all. **RESOLVED***
- e) Broadband Strategy: *It was proposed by Cllr Mercer that no comment was necessary, seconded by Cllr Spenser and agreed by all. **RESOVLED***
- f) Planning for up-coming events: *Plans for Remembrance Day and Senior Citizens' Party were discussed. The Clerk was asked to continue to make arrangements as agreed and to draft a request for donation letter for approval at next meeting.*

#### **115/17 Councillors Reports**

##### Parish Councillors:

*-Cllr Harris gave a verbal report on the work of the Whixall History Group and Partners to apply for funding to protect and preserve the Old Peat Works on Fenns Moss.*

*-Cllr Turnbull gave a verbal report on his work as Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator. The Clerk agreed to invite PSCO Chris Hirons to the parish Council's monthly meeting and request a monthly report.*

##### Shropshire Councillors:

*-Cllr Mellings had distributed a report prior to the meeting via email, providing updates on the following key issues:*

*Flooding issues – no further update.*

*Planning – land off Gilberts / Post Office Lane – Wem Rural Parish Council has objected to the application. A number of issues have been raised with the applicant to which a response has been given. The application has yet to be determined.*

*Starks Bridge – The contractor has discovered defects to a number of the cast iron elements of the bridge which have been exposed upon removal of the paint. These elements need to be replaced with new cast iron elements, subject to approval from Historic England as the structure is a Scheduled Ancient Monument. Unfortunately this discovery has caused the previously proposed dates for the canal stoppage and re-erection of the bridge to be delayed further.*

*Highway Surface Canalside – A report has been received to state that the surface appears to be subsiding. Highways have been asked to investigate and take the appropriate action.*

*Car Parking Strategy –A separate email has been sent to all Cllrs with details of the proposals as far as they affect parking in Wem and Whitchurch.*

*Cashless car parking is also now available at car parks across Shropshire – please see below link to details: <https://new.shropshire.gov.uk/parking/cashless-pay-and-stay-parking/>*

*Police & Crime Commissioner consultation- RE: The PCC's consultation on his proposal to assume responsibility for Shropshire Fire Service replacing the currently appointed Fire Authority. A special meeting of Shropshire Association of the Local Councils was held on 17<sup>th</sup> July to give Town & Parish Councils the opportunity to hear a presentation from the PCC and ask questions. The closing date for responses is 15<sup>th</sup> September. If either Shropshire Council or Telford & Wrekin Council objects, the Home Office would commission an independent review of the proposal and make the final decision. The Fire Authority itself is not a statutory consultee but following its special meeting has submitted a response.*

*Local Joint Committees – there is currently a review taking place on the future of LJs. Those that serve on them have been asked for feedback on their role and purpose. No decisions have yet been taken. A planning meeting for the Wem area LJ took place 6<sup>th</sup> September.*

*The new Overview & Scrutiny structure will be implemented from September. The first meeting to take place is that of the Communities Overview Committee – which met last week. This meeting focussed on the Council's response to the PCC's proposals for the future governance of the fire service and the Environmental Maintenance Grant Task & Finish Group. I attended the meeting as an observer and following questioning of both the PCC and the Fire Authority, the Committee has recommended that the Council rejects the PCC's proposals. As reported above, the consultation closes on 15<sup>th</sup> September.*

*-Cllr Dee provided information on the proposed car parking strategy and the impact on local towns and their economy, she also reported on the SALC Executive Committee meeting which was held on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> September, Cllr Dee made particular reference to one of the presentations entitled 'Compassionate Communities in Rural Shropshire' which was presented by the CEO of Severn Hospice. Cllr Dee informed the meeting of the upcoming SALC conference and AGM in October which will have the theme of Health and Wellbeing.*

### **116/17 Policy Review**

*The Clerk was granted permission to bring new or amended policies to the table as considered appropriate, especially in line with any changes to the law.*

### **117/17 Planning**

*-All planning applications and decisions can be tracked on line at [www.shropshire.gov.uk](http://www.shropshire.gov.uk)*

*Applications received- to consider response*

- i. Ref: 17/03676/FUL- Erection of a two storey side extension at 1 Mossleigh Well, Whixall, Shropshire, SY13 2SA- **Consultee Deadline for consideration missed.**

- ii. Ref: 17/03033/FUL- Reconsultation due to amendment: Proposed siting of 4 Holiday cabins including change of use of land and the formation of a commercial fishing pool and formation of a vehicular access (part retrospective) on land at Gilberts Lane.  
-Cllr Mercer proposed that no response is necessary, seconded by Cllr Spenser and agreed by all.  
**RESOLVED.**

To receive updates on planning enforcements:

Reported breach of conditions- Ref: 14/00834/FUL- Cllr Dee has shared the latest correspondence relating to this matter.

Reported unauthorised development at Roving Bridge- No response has been received from Enforcement team. Concern has also been raised about ponds also being dug on the same site.

To receive planning application decisions:

- Ref: 17/02603/LBC- works in connection with repairing the brickwork to existing bridge affecting a grade II Listed Building. Bridge 44 Roundthorn Bridge, canal side, Whixall, Shropshire. **Decision: Grant permission.**
- Ref: 17/03676/FUL- Erection of a two storey side extension at 1 Mossleigh Well, Whixall, Shropshire, SY13 2SA- **Decision: Grant permission.**

**118/17 Consider future agenda items**

Newsletter, future events, comment on parking strategy...

Scheduled date of next meeting: **Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> October 2017 at 7.30 pm**

The meeting closed at 9:15pm