

Whixall Parish Council

Chairman: Ian Mercer

Minutes of Parish Council's Annual Meeting held on Wednesday 10th May 2017 at
Whixall Social Centre starting at 7:00pm

Present:

Chairman: I Mercer

Councillors: J Fitton, S Marlow, B Harris

Shropshire Councillors: C Mellings, P Dee

Clerk: K Hatton

Members of the community: N Brayford and G Murphy (Fields Multi Academy Trust)

55/17 Apologies for absence

Cllr Spenser, Cllr Hardiman, Cllr Howard, Cllr Edgerton

56/17 Disclosure of Pecuniary Interests and requests for dispensation.

None declared.

57/17 Invitations for nomination of Chair

Cllr Marlow proposed Cllr Mercer for the position of Chair. This nomination was seconded by Cllr Harris and agreed by all.

58/17 Election of Chair

Cllr Mercer accepted the position of Chair and signed his 'Declaration of acceptance of office' form.

59/17 Invitation for nomination of Vice Chair

There were no nominations for vice chair.

60/17 Election of Chair

No Vice chair was elected.

61/17 Election of other officers

- All councillors present signed their 'Declaration of acceptance of office' forms.
- All councillors present agreed they had received on 09/05/17 electronic copies of relevant documentation including Code of Conduct and information re: Declaration of pecuniary interests, Standing orders and reference to policies on the Parish Council's website.

62/17 Minutes of the meetings held on 19th April 2017

It was proposed by Cllr Harris that the draft minutes were an accurate record of the meeting. This was seconded by Cllr Fitton and agreed by all present.

It was resolved that the minutes of 19 th April 2017 be signed by the Chair as an accurate record of the meeting.

63/17 Public Participation

No members of the public were present.

64/17 Financial Matters

- a) To receive monthly bank balance record

DATE	ACCOUNT NAME	AMOUNT
28 th April 2017	Community Account	£9,047.16
	Business Saver Account	£923.94
TOTAL		£9,971.10

Signed by Chair on approval of accuracy on 14/06/17

- b) To resolve to approve Annual Governance Statement and Accounting Statements (End of Year Accounts).

Cllr Harris proposed that the statements should be signed as accurate on the basis that all financial information (including expenditure report, income and receipts, bank reconciliation, explanation of variances and fixed asset register) had been sent to councillors prior to the meeting. The annual governance had been thoroughly reviewed at the last meeting (19th April minute ref:50/17b). Cllr Marlow seconded the proposal and agreed by all present. RESOLVED.

- c) 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 Mercer, seconded by Cllr Fitton and agreed by all present. RESOLVED.

DATE	CHEQUE NO.	DETAILS	AMOUNT	LEGAL POWER TO SPEND
10 th May 2017	101142	K Hatton- Clerk's pay for April 2017	£317.49	LGA 1972 s. 112(2)
	101143	C Jones- Grass cutting (March – April 2017)	£210.00	HA 1980s.96
	101144	SALC- Affiliation fee 1 st April 2017- 31 st March 2018	£326.04	LGA 1972 s.143
	101145	SALC- Social media training (Clerk)	£25.00	LGA 1972 s. 111
	101146	Came & Company- Insurance premium	£168.00	LGA 1972 s. 111
TOTAL				

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 consider insurance premium

Two quotes for insurance had been sent councillors prior to the meeting. Following a review of the schedules Cllr Mercer proposed to purchase the best value/ lowest cost quote. Seconded by Cllr Harris and agreed by all present. The payment of £168.00 was authorised and added to the list of outstanding accounts (above).

65/17 Receipt of Community Infrastructure Levy monies as Neighbourhood Fund

Cllr Mercer proposed that the form should be signed having seen the bank statement showing receipt of monies is received. Seconded by Cllr Harris and agreed by all present.

RESOLVED: To sign 'Notification of Requirements Form' and return to Shropshire Council.

66/17 Parish Matters

- a) To resolve to approve spring/ summer newsletter.

APPROVED/ RESOLVED: To order 340 copies of the newsletter.

- b) To resolve to approve grant documentation.

The Clerk explained that there is still approximately 1 day of work to be completed but thinks that the documentation will need to be submitted prior to next council meeting. Cllr Mercer proposed that the Clerk can proceed to do this with autonomy, seconded by Cllr Harris. RESOLVED: The Clerk to submit any paperwork to Meres and Mosses on completion of works.

67/17 Planning

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

Applications received- to consider response

No applications received.

Matters referred

-Reported breach of conditions to application Ref: 14/00834/FUL: Latest correspondence indicates that the applicants have been written to reminding them that they are in breach of 2 conditions and what steps they need to take to rectify this.

Decisions- to note

No decisions received.

68/17 To receive report from Fields Multi Academy trust, Head teacher and Chair of Governors

Head teacher Nicola Brayford and Chair of Governors Graham Murphy addressed the Parish Council, firstly thanking the council for the opportunity to attend the meeting to provide an update on Whixall CE Primary School becoming a Multi Academy Trust with Prees CE Primary School on 1st December 2016.

It was reported that with regard to the day to day experiences of the children and parents nothing has changed, the schools have retained their identity but for staff it has been exciting and beneficial to work and plan together more closely.

Financially they are keeping afloat but in light of Whixall's changing demographic they feel that it is essential to be forward thinking in terms of managing the school and its facilities into the future. They asked the Parish Council their thoughts on whether there were facilities that were needed in the area which could potentially be provided by the school as they would like to reach out to the wider community.

A discussion followed which touched on the Parish Council's intention to work more closely with all community groups and that it is fully supportive of the school. Also acknowledged was the fact that Whixall's status as 'Open Countryside' is unlikely to change in the near future, this, of course, limits the potential for housing development and therefore Whixall may become increasingly reliant on pupils coming to the school from outside the catchment area. Unfortunately Shropshire Council's transport policy does not appear to serve Whixall fairly as it will transport children living in Wem to Newtown and Clive before Whixall (even though there is little difference in distance) when Wem's primary school is full.

The Parish Council thanked Nicola and Graham for the update and agreed to keep thoughts in mind as to any ideas that would be helpful to the school going forward and to the wider community. It also agreed to consider sending a letter to Shropshire Council regarding its transport policy. This letter will be included on the next meeting agenda for approval.

69/17 Clerk's Report

- o The Clerk noted that a report from Cllr Mellings had been received and shared with all Parish Councillors.
- o Welsh End telephone box- the correct paint has been obtained- donated by Johnstone's through Colour Supplies, Whitchurch. This has been acknowledged in the newsletter.
- o Good Councillors Guide, newest edition is available to order.
- o There has been concern from parishioners about the moving of large amounts of clay on land at Moss lane Farm. The relevant authorities are aware of this but at this stage have no concerns that any rules are being broken nor that this poses any flood risk.

70/17 Consider future agenda items

Scheduled date of next meeting: **Wednesday 14th June 2017 at 7.30 pm**

The meeting closed at 7:59pm