

# Whixall Parish Council Newsletter

[www.whixallparish.org.uk](http://www.whixallparish.org.uk)

Autumn/Winter 2021

## Chairman's Message

As we, hopefully, move on from the covid epidemic I want to wish you all the best over the coming year. Our way of working has been affected and we may change some things as we move forward.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank councillors who have recently left and to welcome new councillors both at parish and unitary level.

Goodbye and best wishes to: Andrew Hague, John Broadhead and Graham Turnbull and welcome to Claire Weedall on the parish council.

Goodbye, best wishes and many thanks to Pauline Dee and Chris Mellings at Shropshire Council. Welcome to Edward Towers and Peter Broomhall who replace them. Both Edward and Peter have many years' experience on Wem Town council and are looking forward to working with and for the community of Whixall.


It is with regret that we have decided to cancel the senior citizens Christmas party but we felt that there is still too much uncertainty around the impact of covid. We hope to hold it again in 2022.

Recently, a number of local issues have been raised, in particular, the state of the roads and road safety problems caused by inappropriate driving and failing to take into account other road users. The parish council and the Shropshire representatives are taking up both problems on your behalf but I would like to take this opportunity to remind you all to drive carefully and respect other road users.

The council is continuing to identify and manage its assets and to provide adequate funding. Special thanks to the volunteers who look after the Marlot.

This year we are looking for people to come forward and get involved. There are currently 2 vacant seats on the Council and we have the power to co-opt local people (see page 2). I am happy to discuss the role with anyone who is interested. For those who prefer to be outdoors we're looking for volunteers to join the Marlot Conservation Group (see page 4).

Ian Mercer, Chairman



**Unfortunately the Senior Citizens' Christmas Party will not go ahead this year.**

## Parish Council Meetings

The Council meets on the 2nd Wednesday of every month except June, August and December.

The meeting agenda will be posted on our website and noticeboards at least 4 days before we meet.

[www.whixallparish.org.uk](http://www.whixallparish.org.uk)



## Have you ever thought about becoming a Parish Councillor?

Parish Councillors are ordinary people who have volunteered to use their skills, knowledge and enthusiasm to serve their local community. If you've never been to a parish council meeting, you probably know very little about what they actually do. When the Council meets it makes all kinds of decisions on issues that affect the local community, including local planning issues.

### How much time does it take up?

Meetings usually last around 2 hours, depending on the agenda. It's up to individual councillors whether or not they get involved outside of meetings.

### How long do Parish Councillors Serve for?

Parish councillors sit on the council for a maximum of four years. If they then want to stay in the post they can then stand for re-election.

### Am I eligible to be a Parish Councillor?

To be on the parish council, you must be an elector of the parish, or for the whole of the last 12 months you must have lived or worked in the parish or lived within 3 miles of the boundary.

You don't have to be connected to a political party.

Whixall Parish Council has 9 Councillors who stand for election every four years. At the moment 2 seats are vacant and we are looking for people like you to fill them. We can do this without an election.

The Council meets 10 times each year and considers planning applications and any other matters referred to it by local residents, Shropshire County Council, other agencies and central government. All meetings are open to the public and there before the start of the meeting members of the public can raise concerns and ask questions.

At any time, residents can bring to the attention of the parish council anything that concerns them, either directly or through the clerk. If matters raised are not the responsibility of the council, the clerk will make sure they are passed to the correct organisation.

**The best way to find out what it's like to be a parish councillor is to talk to someone who's doing it now. Come along to a parish council meeting, or speak to one of our councillors and find out what they think of the role.**

## Your Parish Councillors

Councillor	Telephone	Email Address
Ian Mercer	01939 235983	igmercer@outlook.com
Bob Harris	01948 880112	Harris.wpc@gmail.com
David Edgerton	01948 880271	racklanefarm@gmail.com
Margaret Howard	01948 880577	margaret.howard7@googlemail.com
Jen Spenser	01948 880818	Whixall.parish.js@gmail.com
Alan Rawlinson	01948 880135	alanjrawlinson@aol.com
Claire Weedall		Whixall.parish.cw@outlook.com
Vacant		
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## Whixall is represented by two Shropshire Councillors:

Cllr Peter Broomhall (peter.broomhall@shropshire.gov.uk) Cllr Edward Towers (edward.towers@shropshire.gov.uk)

For information about the services provided by Shropshire Council go to [www.shropshire.gov.uk](http://www.shropshire.gov.uk)

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Our Parish Clerk (Mandy Roberts) can be contacted on 01939 234830 or [clerk.whixallpc@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:clerk.whixallpc@hotmail.co.uk)

## Dates for your Diary

**Parish Council Meetings** will be held at the Social Centre at 7.30pm on the following dates:

### 2021

13 October      10 November

### 2022

2 January      9 February  
9 March      13 April  
11 May      13 July  
14 September      12 October  
9 November



## The Annual Parish Meeting 18 May 2022

This is an opportunity for everyone who lives in the Parish to join together, hear what the Council has done in the previous year, learn about local projects and raise issues of concern.

Refreshments will be provided.



## Remembrance Sunday 14 November

The nation will unite to remember and honour all those who have suffered and died in War. Please join us at **10.45 am** for a Remembrance Day Service at St. Mary's Church.

This will be followed by a short act of remembrance, the laying of a poppy wreath and the reading of the Roll of Honour at the War Memorial.

All are welcome.



## Whixall Neighbourhood Watch

**With the nights getting darker it is important that we keep our homes, property and neighbourhood safe from crime and anti-social behaviour.**



Neighbourhood Watch is based around the idea of an active community working in partnership with the police and a shared value focussed on bringing local people together.

Neighbourhood Watch exists to:

- Prevent crime and the opportunity for crime and anti-social behaviour.
- Reassure local residents and reduce the fear of crime and anti-social behaviour.
- Reduce the incidence of domestic fires and environmental damage to residential property.
- Encourage neighbourliness and community cohesion
- Improve the quality of life for local residents and tenants.

It does this by being a community-based organisation which involves residents and tenants working together. Sharing information and working in local partnership with the police, local authority, fire and rescue service and other agencies to prevent crime and disorder, anti-social behaviour and the risk of fire and environmental damage.

There are two Neighbourhood Watch Schemes in Whixall. If you are interested in joining, please contact the following scheme coordinators:

Hollinwood, Sandy Bank, Stanley Green and Welsh End scheme – Graham Turnbull (01948 880856)

Waterloo area scheme

Mrs Rita Welch (01939 234243)

### Need to contact the police?

For non emergency enquiries call 101

Only call 999 if a serious offence is in progress or has been committed, if someone is in danger or property damage is likely.

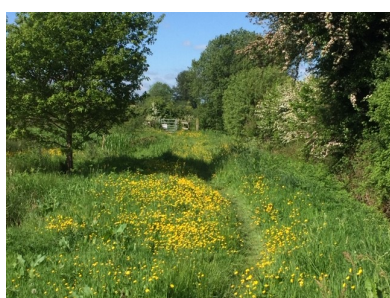
**The West Mercia Mobile Police Station will be in Whixall on 4 November. Details to be announced.**



# Whixall Marl Allotment (The Marlot)

**Can you spot a Monkeyflower, or Common Spotted Orchid or White-Legged Damselfly? At the right time of year, these are some of the hundreds of species which you might see at The Marlot.**

For the information of new readers and also as a reminder to existing residents of Whixall, The Marlot is an area of common land of about 6 acres, situated alongside the canal at Roundthorn Bridge. Under the stewardship of the Parish Council, it is managed as a wildlife site and a volunteer force is required to maintain it as such.



The site is a mosaic of habitats, with ponds, meadows and woodland, suitable for numerous species of wildlife. Visitors have remarked that it is a nice spot to enjoy the peace and quiet of the countryside.

Cattle will continue to be introduced to the site during the autumn as a conservation measure to try to keep the grass and regenerated willow growth under control.

A team of volunteers also attends from time to time, using both machinery and hand tools to tackle the dense vegetation which returns year after year and to deal with fallen or damaged trees. Ditch maintenance work and fencing is also undertaken and other projects and features are to be considered, to enhance the visitor experience.

The work is often challenging, but there is a great sense of achievement and satisfaction among the volunteers, knowing that their work helps the survival of the resident and visiting wildlife. Without the support and guidance of Natural England staff and volunteers, the current small local band would struggle to cope and so we are looking for more volunteers from the local community.



Some training can be given and we have a programme of works scheduled for this autumn and winter.



If you can spare some time to assist with the maintenance work, or you have relevant skills to offer, then please do step forward to join the Marlot Conservation Group. The Marlot has been regularly abused in the past as a tip for all kinds of rubbish. It would be a great shame and a loss to the community if it was allowed to return to a state of neglect. It is becoming increasingly important that pockets of rural tranquillity, large or small, are preserved, not just for the wildlife, but also for the well-being of human-kind.

To find out more, or to volunteer for the Marlot Conservation Group, contact Martin Spenser: [m.spenser@btinternet.com](mailto:m.spenser@btinternet.com) 01948 880818 / 07784 907523; or Graham Turnbull : 01948 880856

## Local Nature Reserve (LNR) Status

An application has been made for the Marlot to be granted LNR status. We are waiting to hear if our bid has been approved.

