

Whixall Parish Council



Chairman: Ian Mercer

Minutes of WHIXALL'S PARISH MEETING held on Wednesday 18 May 2022 at Whixall Social Centre starting at 7:30pm

Present:

Chairman: I Mercer

Councillors: B Harris; J. Spenser; and M Evans

Marlot Conservation Group: G Turnbull; A Lomas; M Spenser; and Tim Lamb

Whixall Social Centre Committee: S Beer and W Edge

Clerk to Whixall Parish Council: A Roberts

1. Minutes of Annual Parish Meeting held on 28 April 2021 to be approved and signed

The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed all present. He asked that the minutes of last year's meeting be approved as an accurate record. Proposed Cllr Mercer, seconded Cllr Harris agreed by all present. The Chairman signed the minutes.

2. Annual Report of the Parish Council

Cllr Mercer reported on behalf of the Parish Council.

1. Changes on the Council:

We have welcomed Claire Weedall, Philip Rodenhurst and Med Evans onto the council this year. We even had more candidates than vacancies

2. Shropshire Councillors

Edward Towers and Peter Broomhall are the current Shropshire Councillors and have attended most meetings and been very supportive and able to use their own experience of being Town councillors at Wem

3. Spending summary

	2020/21	2021/22
Opening Balance	£5,153	£7,774
Income	£9,589	£11,852
Expenditure	£6,968	£7,728
Closing Balance	£7,774	£11,898

4. Website

The parish website is kept updated by Mandy Roberts, the Clerk

5. Assets and reserves:

We have continued to improve the funding, information on and the maintenance of the council's assets. Purchase of tools and maintaining the Marlot. Arranging grass cutting at the social centre, Moss cottages playing field and the green at Hollinwood. I would like to thank Martin Spenser, Graham Turnbull, Tim Lamb and Mark Louth for their hard work on the Marlot and Hollinwood green. We have managed to provide modest funding to local facilities: North Shropshire Wheelers and the trust that looks after the chapel cemetery.

6. Boglife:

Work is in progress supported by a substantial grant from EU and we are starting to see changes on the ground. Unfortunately, the community liaison post has been discontinued but there is expected to be an alternative put in place by Natural England, in the meantime councillor Alan Rawlings has been designated the council point of contact for issues around the project and flooding in particular

7. Airband:
An alternative form of broadband: more residents have taken up the offer but there continue to be technical problems and poor broadband and mobile coverage continue to be an important issue in parts of the parish.
8. Flood management:
There is ongoing work in conjunction with NE, SC and landowners to try and find sustainable solutions
9. Crime Prevention
We are getting regular updates from the police and thanks to Graham Turnbull who is the Neighbourhood watch coordinator for pushing this.
10. Keeping residents involved and informed i
This is important and a number of parishioners have attended meetings, which is welcomed; please feel free to attend any council meeting. We will continue to publish a newsletter but it will be once per year. We intend to continue with the Older peoples Christmas meal and to run, with the churches, the Armistice Sunday event.
11. The Marlot
The Marlot has been designated a Local Nature Reserve, the council continues to fund the maintenance and up keep and has spent over £4,000 on the Marlot over the last five years.

Financial Year	Spending £	Set aside (EM Reserve) £
17-18	260	0
18-19	240	0
19-20	2018	160
20-21	233	176
21-22	491*	180
22-23	366 (budget)	198
Total	£4,321	

I would like to thank all the councillors who have been involved over the last year with special thanks to Bob Harris who has been Vice chair and Mandy Roberts, the clerk, who has managed to steer us through the last year in very trying circumstances.

3. **Launch of the Marlot Local Nature Reserve** Presentation by Graham Turnbull and the MCG

The presentation will be uploaded to the Parish Council Website.

Main points include:

- There is a misconception that the Marlot is the same as the Moss and is managed by Natural England, when in fact it is neither – it is Whixall. It can be seen as a gentle introduction before tackling the Moss itself.
- Information about the history of the Moss can be found on the Parish Council Website
- The Moss comprises three distinct areas – pond, meadow and woodland. The features and attractions of each were described.
- The MCG is supported by expertise from Natural England, Shropshire Wildlife Trust and individuals such as Bob Harris and Sian Mercer who focus on the bird boxes.
- The Marlot has achieved LNR status and there is now a desire to see more ownership from the people of Whixall and to see wider use of the site by individuals and organisations, particularly local schools.
- The MCG and the Parish Council would like to see the profile of the Marlot raised and are exploring how this can be done. Road signage, interpretation panels and leaflets have been considered.
- A number of activities have been organised recently including the planting of a Jubilee Hedgerow featuring nine native varieties and Newt Trapping
- The MCG meets every Tuesday morning at 10am

4. Parish Debate

- It was suggested that the Annual Parish Meeting could be advertised on Facebook in future.
 - On 29 May the Social Centre is officially unveiling Commemorative benches to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee and the 50th anniversary of the Social Centre.
 - On 10 June the Social Centre is Hosting a dog show
- The Whixall Treasure hunt will take place on 21 August

The meeting closed at 7:37pm

5. Scheduled date of next Annual Parish Meeting

17 May 2022 (to be confirmed)