

Whixall Parish Council

Chairman: Ian Mercer

Minutes of Parish Council's Monthly Meeting held on Wednesday 14th February 2018 at
Whixall Social Centre starting at 7:30pm

Present:

Chairman: I Mercer

Councillors: B Harris (Vice Chair), J Fitton, J Hardiman, M Howard.

Shropshire Councillors: P Dee

Clerk: K Hatton

Members of the community: P Ashton (North Salop Wheelers), C Weedall, A Hague, C Newey

15/18 Introduction

Cllr Mercer declared the meeting open.

16/18 Apologies for absence

D Edgerton, G Turnbull, C Mellings.

17/18 Public Participation

Chairman, Cllr Mercer invited Phoebe Ashton (North Salop Wheelers) to address the council.

Phoebe reported that their chairman had retired at Christmas and apologised that a written report had not been provided. The main issue for the Wheelers currently is a need for volunteer drivers and Phoebe urged councillors to spread the word. The Clerk agreed to put up posters asking for drivers on notice boards around the parish. Phoebe commented on the upkeep of their vehicles and the poor condition of the roads around north Shropshire.

Carole Newey was invited to address the council.

Carole is raising funds for a defibrillator (raised at last meeting). Carole provided some printed information about Sudden Cardiac Arrest and Automated External Defibrillators. So far over £870 has been raised. £1500 is needed for the AED and cabinet which is insured for 8 years. It is hoped that £2000 will cover all costs. This machine does not require a trained person to operate it. Carole told the council that the AED in Wem has been used 48 times and the nearest AED to Whixall is in Tilstock.

Cllr Mercer invited Andrew Hague and Claire Weedall if they wished to address the council. They did not.

18/18 Disclosure of Pecuniary Interests and requests for dispensation

Members were reminded of their obligation to declare any interests. None declared.

19/18 Minutes of the monthly meeting held on 10th January 2018

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

It was resolved that the minutes of 10th January 2018 be signed by the Chair as an accurate record of the meeting.

CHAIRMAN, CLLR MERCER REQUESTED A CHANGE TO THE ORDER OF THE AGENDA AND BRING FORWARD ITEM 7: CASUAL VACANCIES. ALL IN FAVOUR.

20/18 Casual Vacancies

Cllr Mercer proposed that the process of co-option should commence having interviewed candidate Andrew Hague, prior to the start of the meeting (by IM, BH, JH, JF in the presence of KH).

Cllr Mercer declared Andrew nominated. Cllr Hardiman seconded the nomination and all voted in favour of Andrew's co-option.

Andrew Hague completed and signed his Declaration of Acceptance of Office and as such was able to take an active part as a Parish Councillor for the duration of the meeting.

21/18 Clerk's Report

The Clerk provided the following information:

- a) Response from Shropshire Council re: Submission of Community Led Concern for 30mph speed limit:
The main routes will be put forward as a community led concern for speed reduction and an automatic traffic survey (ATC) can be arranged to be carried out (in the new financial year) in the Welsh End area which will provide information on traffic speeds, volumes and classification. However, in line with current DfT Government guidance on the introduction of speed limits, unfortunately it would not be possible to consider the introduction of a 30mph speed limit for these roads. We only consider the introduction of 30mph speed limits in built up urban areas with street lighting and in villages in rural areas. The DfT defines a village relating to simple criteria based on the density of frontage development and distance: The density of frontage development should be 20 or more houses with extra allowance for key buildings such as schools and churches, with a minimum of 3 houses per 100m section within the proposed 30mph limit and a preferred minimum length of 600m to avoid too many changes of speed limit along a route". The Clerk will feedback this information to Mr Bishop who raised the concern in October.
- b) Future meeting dates: meeting dates are booked and hire of hall is paid for in advance. We are paid up until March (inclusive) so a new invoice has been sent.
- c) Cllr Mercer was drawn, by SALC, to attend the Garden Party at Buckingham Palace in June.
- d) SALC AGM is on Friday 23rd February, 5:30pm – 7pm.
- e) Stark's Bridge: Correspondence has been received raising concerns about the quality of the repair to the bridge. The concerns were forwarded to the appropriate officers and a response has been received and shared with the council. The Clerk was instructed to share that information with the concerned resident.
- f) Future agenda item will be to appoint a new signatory for cheques.
- g) Reminder that we will receive invoice for election costs in April- £100.
- h) Airband have been invited to attend a future meeting- no response to date.
- i) A booklet from Canal and River Trust has been received entitled 'What your local waterway can do for your community- Planning for waterways in Neighbourhood Plans'.
- j) Confirmation from Community Enablement Officer that Neighbourhood Fund can be used towards the AED.
- k) Letter was received from Shropshire Council to confirm that there was no call for an election following the publication of recent vacancies.
- l) Future agenda item- need to appoint a new representative for the United Reformed Church Graveyard Trust.
- m) A VAT return form is ready for submission- claim is £172.16.
- n) Battle's Over A Nation's tribute- Remembrance Day 2018. Miss Brayford will propose some suitable dates for a meeting.
- o) Silent Soldier- Correspondence received re: commemorative silhouette of a WWI soldier. Clerk to forward the information to Cllrs.

22/18 Parish Matters

To consider action relating to:

- a) Flooding- Review of current situation.

A meeting is arranged for Tuesday 20th February, Manor House at 6:30pm. Representation from: residents of Moss Lane, Whixall Parish Council, Shropshire Council, Shropshire Wildlife Trust and Natural England.

- b) Parish Meeting date- Considered and agreed as Wednesday 16th May 2018 at 7:30pm.

- c) Senior Citizens' party- Review of 2017 event and planning for 2018- Considered and agreed that this year a variety of entertainment will be put on rather than a performer being booked. Suggestions were bingo and dancing.
- d) Fenn's Old Works feasibility study- Acknowledgement of consultation and open meeting, consider distribution of information and how to collate responses- Cllr Harris provided an overview of the project: The old peat works is a listed structure/ scheduled ancient monument but it is falling apart. A collaboration between the Whixall History Group, Natural England, CADW, Cadwyn Clwyd (Rural Regeneration agency based in Denbighshire delivering EU Rural Development Programme funds) and Wrexham Borough Council have secured a successful bid for funds to undertake a Feasibility Study. The study is to consider the future conservation and interpretation of the Works. Efforts are being made to engage with the community. There is a questionnaire available. There is an open meeting on 13th March at Bettisfield Village Hall to explain the project. The works houses a single piston engine thought to be the last one in the country and the group would like to preserve it. It was agreed that members would respond individually to the consultation. The Clerk has posters to display around the parish advertising the meeting. Cllr Turnbull has expressed his views (via email to the clerk) about ensuring that the information is widely distributed and it was agreed that the info would be shared on facebook and on the PC website. It was generally agreed that a presentation to the Parish Council would be beneficial. Cllr Harris agreed to pass on contact details of the person responsible for the project to the Clerk.

23/18 Planning

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

Applications received- to consider response

- a) Ref: 17/06095/FUL- Erection of Agricultural occupancy dwelling with detached garage. (re-submission) at Cumberland Farm, Cumberland Lane, Whixall, SY13 2NJ
RESOLVED: Support. No comment.
- b) Ref: 18/00371/FUL- Erection of 2 storey extension at Corner House Farm, Whixall. SY13 2RR
RESOLVED: Support. No comment.
- c) Ref:18/00377/FUL- Application under section 73a of the Town and Country Planning act 1990 for the erection of a traditional dutch barn and excavation of 4 ponds at Roving Bridge Farm House, Moss Lane, Whixall, SY13 2RT
RESOLVED: Object. COMMENT: Whixall Parish Council object to the erection of a traditional dutch barn on this site for the following reasons:
 - It is visually intrusive, exacerbated by its height and colour.
 - It is not used for agricultural purposes.
 - The land drainage comment states that the erection of a traditional dutch barn is not permitted in a flood zone 3b.
 - There appears to have been a proliferation of buildings on site since the applicant took possession.
 - The Parish Council does not believe it to be a replacement building.

Also, the Parish Council would be interested to know whether Historic England has been consulted and whether Shropshire Council's Historic Environment Dept. has commented as the nearby Roving Bridge House is a listed structure.
Whixall Parish Council does not object to the excavation of the ponds.

To receive any updates on alleged breaches of planning control:

- d) Ref: 14/00834/FUL- No further update.
- e) Ref: 17/05551/ENF- Retrospective application (18/00377/FUL) submitted.
- f) Ref: 18/05731/ENF- No further update.
- g) Ref: 18/05716/ENF- No further update.
- h) Ref: 17/05329/ENF- No further update.

To receive planning application decisions:

- i) Ref: 17/05502/FUL- Application under section 73a of the Town and Country Planning act 1990 for the creation of a new pedestrian access through garden wall, the siting of a garden shed, the erection

of fencing and adding fencing to existing wall around boundary and enclosure of existing lean-to at rear of house (part retrospective) at Higher House, Whixall, SY13 2NQ. **Decision: Grant permission.**

- j) Ref: 17/05492/FUL- Change of use and conversion of former show home bungalow to residential dwelling. : Land Adj To Browns Of Wem, Four Lane Ends Works, Pool Head, Shropshire, SY4 5UQ.
Decision: Refuse

24/18 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 Records for January 2018 were countersigned by Cllr Mercer as accurate with the bank statements.

DATE	ACCOUNT NAME	AMOUNT
29 th January 2018	Community Account	£6,209.62
	Business Saver Account	£924.10
TOTAL		£7,133.72

- b) To consider requests for financial donations: The following amounts were **RESOLVED**:
- i. St Mary's Church- £100.00
 - ii. North Salop Wheelers- £400.00
 - iii. United Reformed Graveyard Trust- £50.00
 - iv. Welsh End Chapel- £50.00
 - v. Social Centre Car park resurfacing- UNDECIDED- CONSIDER AT NEXT MEETING.
 - vi. Automated External Defibrillator- RINGFENCE NEIGHBOURHOOD FUND BALANCE OF £638.57
- c) To resolve to approve outstanding accounts.
Orders for the payment of money (listed on following page). As per the financial report of the Responsible Financial Officer (RFO)/ Clerk were proposed by Cllr Mercer, seconded by Cllr Harris and agreed by all present. **RESOLVED.**

DATE	CHEQUE NO.	DETAILS	AMOUNT	LEGAL POWER TO SPEND
14 th February 2018	101172	K Hatton- Clerk's pay for January plus additional hours	£348.90	LGA 1972 s.112(2)
	101173	M Spenser- Fuel expenses for Hollinwood Green grass cutting	£30.89	HA 1980 s.96/ CA 1899 s.5
	101174	Whixall Village Hall- Hall hire for April 2018- March 2019 (inc.)	£250.00	LGA 1972 s.134(4)
	101175	St Mary's Church- Donation towards upkeep of churchyard	£100.00	LGA 1972 s.137
	101176	Welsh End Chapel- Donation towards upkeep of churchyard	£50.00	LGA 1972 s.137
	101177	URC Graveyard Trust- Donation towards upkeep of churchyard	£50.00	LGA 1972 s.215(1)&(2)
	101178	North Salop Wheelers- Donation towards running costs	£400.00	TA 1985 s.106A
TOTAL			£1,229.89	

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.

25/18 Highways

- a) Referrals to Shropshire Council: No issues raised. There was an acknowledgement of the work kindly completed by Cllr Edgerton to resolve the flooding at the Social Centre car park and Goblin's Lane/Green Lane.
- b) Scheduled works by Shropshire Council- Planned road closures to be posted on website.

26/18 Councillors Reports

a) Parish Councillors:

-Cllr Mercer shared some information about someone who has is trialling a potential new business venture on some land in the parish which, if it goes forward, will likely require planning permission. Cllr Mercer has invited the person to attend a future meeting and speak to the Parish Council about it in the first instance.

- The clerk shared information on behalf of Cllr Turnbull who, in his role as Whixall North East Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator, has arranged some more dates for PCSO Chris Hirons to visit the Parish with his Police Information Van. Cllr Turnbull arranged for him to do this twice last year - at Hollinwood, Stanley Green, Social Centre and School. Chris provides useful information and advice regarding home and community security and more importantly he provides a community presence. A number of dates have been set and these will be advertised around the parish and via the usual networks. Cllr Turnbull has mentioned the need for more police patrols, but it is down to resources.

A contact list for Safer Neighbourhood Team will be displayed on notice boards around the parish.

b) Shropshire Councillors:

-Cllr Dee told of her work, in her role as Governor at Newtown School and an LA governor at Whixall School, to make arrangements for Cllr Bardsley to attend Whixall School to see for himself what a great environment the children have to receive their education. This is in connection with the concern about falling numbers and the issue of the provision of free school transport to Whixall. At present, because St Peters and Newtown Schools are full, children are being bussed to Grinshill/Clive school, which is not in the Wem Division.

-Cllr Mellings had distributed a written report to Cllrs prior to the meeting via email, providing updates on the following ongoing and current key issues: Flooding, Stark's Bridge, Car Parking Strategy, Fire Governance- (as previously reported the PCC submitted his Business Case to the Home Office for approval. The BC is being independently assessed by CIPFA on behalf of the Home Office and the Home Secretary will make a final decision. This decision is expected anytime now. There is an indication that if the HS approves the application there will be an application for a judicial review of the process), Cabinet and full council issues, Cllr Mellings also listed other information that he had shared since the last meeting.

27/18 Consider future agenda items

Bowling Club lease renewal, Fenn's Old works presentation, feedback from Flood Management meeting, cheque signatory arrangements, appointment of URC Graveyard Trust rep.

Scheduled date of next meeting: **Wednesday 14th March 2018 at 7.30 pm**

The meeting closed at 9.58pm