

Whixall Parish Council

Chairman: Ian Mercer

**Minutes of Parish Council's Monthly Meeting held on Wednesday 12th July 2017 at
Whixall Social Centre starting at 7:30pm**

Present:

Chairman: I Mercer

Councillors: J Fitton, S Marlow, J Spenser, M Howard, Cllr Edgerton

Shropshire Councillors: C Mellings, P Dee

Clerk: K Hatton

Members of the community: G Turnbull, N Jackson and D Jackson

86/17 Introduction

Cllr Mercer declared the meeting open.

87/17 Apologies for absence

J Hardiman, B Harris

88/17 Disclosure of Pecuniary Interests and requests for dispensation.

Cllr Howard declared an interest in her own planning application ref: 17/02804/FUL. Minute ref: 97/17ii.

89/17 Appointment of Vice Chair

Cllr Mercer asked if there was anyone prepared to take on the role of vice chair. He then explained that Cllr Harris had stated that he was willing to take on the role. Cllr Mercer proposed that Cllr Harris take the position of Vice Chair. Seconded by Cllr Spenser and agreed by all present.

90/17 Public Participation

Those present did not wish to address the council.

91/17 Vacancy

Mr G Turnbull was invited to address the council to state his suitability for the vacancy.

Following Mr Turnbull's presentation and discussion Cllr Mercer asked the council whether there was a need for further debate. As there was no request for further debate he proposed that Mr Turnbull was an appropriate candidate for a councillor and should therefore be co-opted. The proposal was seconded by Cllr Marlow and agreed by all present. Mr Turnbull signed his declaration of acceptance of office and took part in the rest of the meeting.

92/17 Minutes of the meetings held on 14th June 2017

It was proposed by Cllr Spenser 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 14 th June 2017 be signed by the Chair as an accurate record of the meeting.
--

93/17 Planning- It was resolved to bring this item forward in the agenda.

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

Applications received- to consider response

- i. Ref: 17/02603/LBC- Works in connection with repairing brickwork to existing bridge affecting a Grade II listed building; Bridge 44 Roundthorn Bridge, Canal Side, Whixall, Shropshire. Applicant Canal and River Trust.
Stance: Support (Proposer: Cllr Spenser, seconder: Cllr Howard, agreed by all)
Comment: None
- ii. Ref: 17/02804/FUL- Erection of two storey rear extension at Browns Brook House, Whixall, Shropshire, SY13 2SB. **Cllr Howard left the room and took no part in the discussion about this application.**
Stance: Support (Proposer: Cllr Marlow, seconder: Cllr Fitton, agreed by all)
Comment: None
- iii. Ref: 17/02680/FUL- Siting of a transportable timber cabin for use as a farm workers dwelling to include change of use of land at Cumberland Farm, Cumberland Lane, Whixall, Sy13 2NJ.
Stance: Support (Proposer: Cllr Mercer, seconder: Cllr Edgerton, agreed by all)
Comment: None

To receive updates on planning enforcements:

Reported breach of conditions- Ref: 14/00834/FUL- Cllr Dee reported that there has been correspondence regarding the matter, however no action has yet been taken. Expecting an update soon.

To receive planning application decisions:

No new planning decisions.

94/17 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 th June 2017	Community Account	£7,357.61
	Business Saver Account	£923.94
TOTAL		£8,281.55

- b) To receive first quarterly expenditure report.

Noted. All Cllrs had received this electronically prior to the meeting.

- 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 Spenser, seconded by Cllr Marlow and agreed by all present. RESOLVED.

DATE	CHEQUE NO.	DETAILS	AMOUNT	LEGAL POWER TO SPEND
12 th July 2017	101150	K Hatton- Clerk's pay for June 2017	£317.50	LGA 1972 s. 112(2)
	101151	C Jones- Grass cutting	£300.00	HA 1980 s.96
	101152	Post Office Ltd. (Shropshire Print services)	£128.40	LGA 1972 s.142 (1A)
TOTAL			£945.90	

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 resolve to approve transparency code funding application.

The Clerk explained that there was funding available through the transparency code to pay for extra hours needed to upload historic minutes and financial documents on to the web site. The application form had been shared prior to the meeting.

Cllr Mercer proposed that the application be approved and that the Clerk be paid the 3 hours per month extra (backdated from April 2017 for a 12 month period) at current rate of pay upon receipt of the grant funding.

Seconded by Cllr Marlow and agreed by all present.

95/17 Clerk's report

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

-Request from SWT to deliver information leaflet on septic tanks with next parish council newsletter: The Clerk asked if there were any objections to this. Cllr Fitton requested that it was made clear that it cannot be guaranteed that the leaflets will go to every household. Cllr Howard proposed that the Parish Council agree to deliver the leaflets, seconded by Cllr Mercer and agreed by a majority.

-The Clerk reported that she had attended the most recent Town and Parish Forum meeting. Due to time constraints no details were provided but the Clerk agreed to send a brief report as to the contents of the meeting.

- Stark's Bridge: Clerk has received an enquiry about when the works to repair the bridge will commence/ be completed. Ref: Cllr Mellings report- the work has started but has been delayed.

-The Whixall history group has requested that they investigate a number of grave stones in the burial ground. It is thought the grass has grown over the top of them and the group would like to record the names and dates. The group has sought acquiescence from the social centre committee who are happy for this to be done. The Clerk asked if the Parish Council had any objections to the investigation. No objections were raised.

-Special meeting to be held on 17th July re: PCC consultation on the governance of the fire service.

-Look out for consultation on proposed car parking strategy.

-Information acquired by Clerk on war memorial maintenance.

-Request for nameplate signs and community-led concern raised for extension of footpath at Whixall School- Response from David Gradwell states that signage should be progressed during this financial year but cannot give timescale yet. The footpath extension was unsuccessful but can be resubmitted if the Parish Council wish it to be. **RESOLVED** to re-submit.

-Marlot meeting: minutes from this meeting have been distributed.

-Mazars enquiry: External auditor required confirmation from internal auditor that the Parish Council does not operate a petty cash system.

-Exercise of public rights to see the accounts is advertised on notice boards and PC website.

-The Social Centre is being decorated during the first 2 weeks of August and therefore not available for hire.

-Cllrs were asked to take 2 forms of ID to the solicitors as proof of identity as the Parish Council is a client in relation to the matter of renewing the lease to the Bowling Club.

-Planning application received after the agenda was published- this will be a future agenda item.

96/17 Parish Matters

To consider ways to facilitate a community meeting and determine criteria for attendance.

A discussion took place with regard to promoting a pulling together of the community through the Annual Parish Meeting next May. The discussion centred around specifically inviting all the community groups to contribute to an inclusive and supportive exchange of information.

97/17 Councillors Reports

-Parish Councillors:

Report on Marlot meeting: Minutes of meeting have been circulated. Meeting was regarding plans to enable the temporary 'conservation grazing' at the Marlot whilst maintaining appropriate and safe public access.

Report on site meeting re: proposed improvements to marina and Forrester's haulage yard- Cllrs Mercer and Harris and Cllr Mellings attended a site meeting at the marina/ haulage yard and met with the new owners and agent to hear their plans. Cllr Mercer reported that there had been significant research done in terms of identifying a need for the proposed canal boat maintenance facilities and deep thought had gone into the proposals which include dry dock facilities, a shop/ cafe and glamping pods.

Cllr Edgerton reported that he had received a concern from a resident about material being deposited adjacent to the brook on Canal Side. **RESOLVED:** Clerk to report the matter to the Environment Agency.

-Shropshire Councillors:

Cllr Mellings had distributed his monthly report prior to the meeting, providing updates on issues that he has worked on and emails and information he has circulated. See below for overview:

Flooding issues – no further update.

Road damage – Alders Lane – the works have been completed.

Planning – land off Gilberts / Post Office Lane – a planning application has been submitted for 6 holiday cabins. Whilst in Wem Rural Parish – it is obviously very close to the boundary of Whixall. As the neighbouring parish, the Parish Council (should it wish) is able to comment on the application.

Broadband – the Council has this week announced the letting of a new contract to extend the availability of broadband across the County – with benefits for our area. I have circulated a more local plan showing the properties likely to benefit. A number of residents have raised issues related to poor connectivity and I am raising these with the Council. I will provide a further update as soon as I am able to.

Starks Bridge – in my June report I indicated I would obtain an update for the July meeting. Apparently some delays have been experienced some delays with the work due to issues with timber sizes and the availability of the large oak and Ekki timbers.

The Contractor, CBS, has provisionally programmed to erect the new structure between 28th August and 8th September. They are negotiating with the Canal and River Trust (C&RT) so as to be able to erect (at least partially) during the day. The Council is awaiting confirmation of this arrangement from C&RT which it hopes to get this week.

Police & Crime Commissioner consultation – the PCC is consulting 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 is being held on 17th July to give Town & Parish Councils the opportunity to hear a presentation from the PCC and ask questions. The closing date for responses is 11th September. If either Shropshire Council or Telford & Wrekin Council object, 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 will be submitting a response within the consultation period.

Cabinet is meeting today. The three key issues being considered which have an impact on our area are: Library Strategy, Car Parking Strategy and Economic Growth Strategy.

Cllr Dee made reference to the library and car parking strategies and advised that individuals can complete the consultations.

98/17 Fire and Rescue Services Governing Body Proposal

The council considered their responses to each of the questions in the survey. The Clerk is required to submit the responses on the council's behalf.

The Parish Council is not in support of the proposals on the basis that the current system is effective and allows accountability. Also there is currently some degree of knowledge of the local area which may be lost with the new proposals.

99/17 Policy Review

To resolve to approve re-drafted social media policy.

Cllr Spenser proposed that the tabled version of the draft policy be adopted, seconded by Cllr Turnbull and agreed by all.

RESOLVED: To adopt the SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY.

100/17 Consider future agenda items

Planning application received after agenda published: Ref: 17/03127/FUL: Erection of a first floor extension and internal alterations at New House Farm, Welsh End, Whixall, Whitchurch, Shropshire, SY13 2NT
Proposed improvements to Whixall Marina. Planning application for holiday lets on land off Gilberts/ Post Office Lane. Car Park and Library Strategy consultations. Parish Meeting plans. Marlot

Scheduled date of next meeting: **Wednesday 13th September 2017 at 7.30 pm**

The meeting closed at 9:27pm