

Whixall Parish Council

Chairman: Ian Mercer

Minutes of the Parish Council's Monthly Meeting held on 09 October 2019 at
Whixall Social Centre starting at 7:30pm

Present:

Councillors: I Mercer (Chair); R Harris; A Rawlinson;

Shropshire Councillors: C Mellings.

Clerk: A Roberts

Members of the community: 1

Representatives of other bodies/ organisations: Mike Crawshaw (Natural England)

100/19 Apologies for Absence

G Turnbull; D Farrington; J Spenser; A Hague;

P Dee (Shropshire Council)

The Clerk reported that Cllr Farrington had tendered his resignation with immediate effect.

101/19 Natural England Update

Mike Crawshaw (Natural England) provided an update (to be circulated with the minutes).

102/19 Disclosure of Pecuniary Interests

Members were reminded of their obligation to declare any interests/ gifts/ hospitality.

103/19 West Mercia Police Report

An email report was circulated prior to the meeting.

104/19 Minutes of Previous Meetings

Meeting of Whixall Parish Council held on 11 September 2019:

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

105/19 Planning

a) Planning Responses Received

Reference	Details	Decision
19/01768/FUL	6 Hollinwood, SY13 2NW Erection of single dwelling and detached double garage following demolition of existing dwelling.	Grant permission
19/03678/VAR	Garden Cottage, SY13 2NA Variation of condition 2 of planning permission 18/02944/FUL to provide alterations to the roof height and dormer windows to improve internal headroom.	Grant permission

106/19 Clerk's Report

Correspondence

- a) SALC are raising funds for Severn Hospice as part of their 70th birthday celebrations. The clerk has received two books of raffle tickets for a draw to take place on 15 November.

- b) Notification confirming an issue of local connectivity relevant to a potential planning application had been received from Shropshire Council.

Actions Since the Last Meeting

- a) The Council's standing orders have now been amended as agreed and are ready to be signed.
(The Orders were signed by the Chair, following the meeting).
- b) The clerk, with Cllr Mellings' assistance, has contacted Shropshire Council with a view to exploring funding sources to assist with the possible update of the Marlot Action Plan.
- c) All other actions relate to items on the agenda.

The Clerk also outlined the timetable for advertising the vacancy for a Parish Councillor. Because the Council does not meet in December, the earliest a new Councillor could be co-opted is January 2020. The Clerk will begin the process.

107/19 Financial Matters

- a) To receive monthly bank balance record.

The Clerk advised the council of the council's bank balances.

DATE	ACCOUNT NAME	AMOUNT
30 September 2019	Community Account	£7,920.59
	Business Saver Account	£927.32
TOTAL		£8,847.91

- b) To resolve to approve outstanding accounts.

Orders for the payment of outstanding invoices (under "Power to Spend" LGA1972 s.112(2) and 124(1)). As per the financial report of the Responsible Financial Officer (RFO)/ Clerk; proposed by Cllr Harris, seconded by Cllr Rawlinson and agreed by all present.

Resolved: The outstanding accounts should be paid and the cheques signed by two authorised councillors

- c) The Clerk explained the proposal to change to online banking with a new provider (Briefing Note 1). The importance of having two authorised signatories was emphasised as this reduces risk for the Council.

Proposed by Cllr Mercer, seconded by Cllr Rawlinson

Resolved: The Council will move its banking to Unity Trust Bank but this will only be done when updated Financial Regulations and an appropriate approvals procedure have been approved by the Council.

108/19 Whixall Bowling Club Lease

The Clerk had received an updated lease along with clarification that the use of the term 'Executive Officers' refers only to officers of the Bowling Club.

Proposed Cllr Rawlinson, seconded by Cllr Mercer.

Resolved: The revised lease is approved and will be signed on behalf of the Council.

Cllrs Mercer and Harris signed the lease following the meeting.

109/19 Highways

The Clerk reported that she and Cllr Spenser met on site with Dave Gradwell, Shropshire Council's Traffic Engineer to discuss the request for a traffic mirror at Waggoners Crossroads. Mr Gradwell will now pursue the matter of land ownership as the only suitable location is on the grass verge adjacent to the Waggoners site. If a location can be agreed the mirror will be funded by Shropshire Council.

110/19 Parish Matters

a. The Marlot – Asset Management

Martin Spenser provided a report that was circulated to members in advance of the meeting. The report detailed the work that had been carried out, mainly by two volunteers. Cllr Mercer expressed concern at the level of work required and the lack of volunteers willing to come forward. It was agreed that, because the Council has no money to pay for work to be carried out, it is reliant on Natural England. Cllr Rawlinson urged members to look pragmatically at what can and can't be done. Cllr Mercer suggested that the site had potential as a university project.

It was agreed that the most immediate priority for the Council was updating the management plan. A meeting will be set up with Pete Bowyer, Steve Dobbin, Shropshire Wildlife Trust, the Chair, Vice Chair and the Clerk in order to pursue a way forward with the plan.

b. Autumn/Winter Newsletter

The draft newsletter will be amended and recirculated to include information about the Casual Vacancy that has now arisen.

The newsletters will need to be delivered by Members following the November meeting.

c. Remembrance Sunday (10 November)

This year's service is at St Mary's. It was suggested that the running order could be changed so that the service at the War Memorial took place first. Members decided that it was unwise to change a longstanding arrangement.

Proposed Cllr Mercer, seconded Cllr Rawlinson

Resolved: The Clerk will arrange for a wreath to be supplied and the Council will make a £50 donation to the Poppy Appeal.

d. Senior Citizens Christmas Party (13 December)

The Clerk went through the action plan. This will be circulated to members.

111/19 Councillor Reports

a. Parish Councillors

Cllr Mercer will be attending the Helicopter Liaison Group on 16 October.

b. Shropshire Councillors

Councillor Mellings provided a report to members in advance of the meeting. He also outlined the main points in relation to flooding and culverts. He is to arrange a meeting with the Parish Council, Natural England and local residents.

Scheduled date of next meeting: **13 November 2019 at 7.30 pm**

The meeting closed at 8.50pm.