

Whixall Parish Council

Chairman: Ian Mercer

Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 11th January 2017 at
Whixall Social Centre starting at 7:30pm

Present:

Chairman: I Mercer

Councillors: C Platon (Vice Chair), J Hardiman, J Fitton, J Spenser, S Marlow, B Harris, D Edgerton

Shropshire Councillors: P Dee

Clerk: K Hatton

Members of the community: 15

01/17 Introduction

Cllr Mercer declared the meeting open.

02/17 Apologies for absence

C Mellings, M Howard

03/17 Public Participation

Fifteen members of the community were in attendance at the meeting with an interest in planning application Ref: 16/05514/FUL- Retrospective application for extension to slurry lagoon at Moss Lane Farm, Moss Lane, Whixall.

The applicant, Mr T Broadhead was present to address the Parish Council and provide background to this application.

Chairman Cllr Mercer explained to those present that the Parish Council had been given to understand that it will be re-consulted on this application as additional information is required by planning officers. The Parish Council will consider its response once it is re-consulted.

Cllr Mercer invited Mr Broadhead to speak who made comments on the following:

- He is aware of local gossip on the matter.
- The reason it is a retrospective application is that he had a legal agreement with someone who took the slurry away but this agreement broke down at short notice and 2 days before legislative changes.
- He sought and received advice from the Environment Agency to increase capacity of the existing lagoon.
- All work has been engineered to Environment Agency standards.
- He stated that the business was rearing high welfare animals, not factory farming.
- He bought a working farm and it will continue to be a working farm.
- He has had complaints in the past but without reproach from official investigators.
- There have been no complaints during last two years.

Several members of the community responded to Mr Broadhead's comments and asked questions about the disposal of the slurry. Mr Broadhead provided further information about his farming methods and about the waste that is washed into the lagoon.

Questions were raised about when the lagoon was built- the council heard that work had begun in 2014 and that the original lagoon was built before Mr Broadhead had bought the farm.

It was stated that there had been discussion over last 12 months with Natural England and Shropshire Wildlife Trust and it had been thought that this would have been part of a larger application.

There were further comments from members of the community about the perceived impact on the wildlife and concerns about leakage from the lagoon.

Mr Broadhead strongly denied that there is any leakage, describing the lagoon as over-engineered and tested by the Environment agency.

The subject of dates of purchase and when pigs were on site was raised. No specific dates were confirmed although Mr Broadhead did say that he rented the farm for a period before purchase.

Members of the community made comments in objection to the smell when pigs are on the site.

There was serious concern about the risk of flooding compromising the lagoon and causing contamination of the area.

Cllr Mercer thanked Mr Broadhead and the members of the community for their time and comments.

Fourteen members of the community left the meeting. One remained.

04/17 Disclosure of Pecuniary Interests and requests for dispensation.

None declared.

05/17 Minutes of the meetings held on 9th November 2016

It was proposed by Cllr Spenser that the minutes were an accurate record of the meeting. This was seconded by Cllr Platon and agreed by all present.

It was resolved that the minutes of 9th November 2016 be signed by the Chair as an accurate record of the meeting.

06/17 Clerk's report

-Correspondence to note

- Letter from Wendy Capelle, Canal and River Trust- acknowledgement of letter sent in November (minute ref: 137/16a).
- Letters from Owen Paterson MP- acknowledgement of letter sent in November (minute ref: 139/16).
- Donation request from St Mary's Church.
- Donation request from Welsh End Chapel.
- Donation request from North Salop Wheelers.
- Donation request from United Reformed Church Graveyard Trust.

-Other matters to note

- Request permission from Parish Council to apply for funding to purchase a scanner to comply with transparency code regulations- **The council granted permission.**
- Marlot Project- Orders for materials are in place subject to receipt of cheques.
- Dr Joan Daniels and Luke Neal have agreed to attend February meeting.
- War memorial railings have been repaired on three sides – Mr Dickens requires the school to clear the fence area on their side in order for him to complete the job. Clerk to liaise with school.
- Council was made aware of bus consultation.
- No extension of referendum principles.
- Clerk making good progress with digital archiving of historic minutes.
- Public Open Space Review was completed.

07/17 Parish Matters

a) Flooding- Review of current situation

Prior to this meeting the Clerk had contacted residents who had been affected by last year's flooding for their views on the current situation since work has been carried out to clear ditches and fix leaks in the canal. Also, Natural England, Shropshire Wildlife Trust and Shropshire Council were asked for their perspective on the situation.

Responses were collated and shared with Parish Councillors.

Cllr Edgerton added that water levels at Brook House Farm had reportedly dropped 18 inches following work near the Lord Hill culvert.

b) Senior Citizens' Party- Review of 2016 event and planning for 2017

Councillors were asked to think about their views, before February's meeting, on whether a change of date would be a good idea due to the fewer numbers in attendance at last year's party- the first Friday in December clashes with the Christmas lights switch-on and late night shopping in Wem. Furthermore the party requires the commitment of councillors and therefore it should be given due consideration Cllr Fitton agreed to provide contact details of a potential entertainer for 2017 event.

Cllr Mercer briefly commented on the success of the Remembrance Day Service in the context of events requiring Parish Council commitment. In particular, he acknowledged the school's involvement in this event.

c) WWI Beacons of light tribute

Following a brief explanation about this national event to commemorate the end of the First World War by lighting a beacon at 7pm on 11th November 2018, a century after the guns fell silent.

It was proposed by Cllr Harris that Whixall Parish Council get involved and explores the possibility of borrowing, from Natural England, one of the WW2 'Strategic Starfish Site' baskets in which to light a beacon. The proposal was seconded by Cllr Spenser and agreed by all. The Clerk was instructed to register interest by end of January.

08/17 Planning

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

Applications received- to consider response

--Ref: 16/05656/FUL- Erection of one stable block comprising five stables and on fodder store at 2 Garners Lane, Whixall, Shropshire

Stance: Neutral

Comment: No comment.

-Ref: 16/05485/OHL- Existing overhead service line now requiring retrospective planning for a second underground supply at Fenns Green, Whixall, Shropshire

Although an extension to consultation time had been agreed, a decision was made by Shropshire Council to approve this application during the week between publishing the agenda and the meeting taking place so no comment could be submitted.

Stance: Neutral

Comment: No comment.

-Ref: 16/05711/PMBPA- Application for prior approval under Part 3, Class Q of the Town & Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015 for the conversion of building to two residential units (resubmission) at Barns To The East Of West View, Welsh End, Whixall, Shropshire

Stance: Neutral

Comment: No comment.

Current Applications-

Awaiting Re-consultation -Ref: 16/05514/FUL- Application under Section 73a of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 for an extension to slurry lagoon (retrospective) at Moss Lane Farm, Moss lane, Whixall, Shropshire

Still current & awaiting decision- Ref: 16/04363/FUL- Erection of Affordable Single Plot Exception Bungalow at and to East of Bridge Farm, Platt Lane, Whixall, Shropshire

Decisions- to note

-Ref: 14/00151/FUL -Application under Section 73a of the Town & Country Planning Act for the conversion to outbuilding to form self contained living accommodation at Outbuilding Adj. 4 Platt Lane, Whixall, Shropshire, SY13 2NX **Decision: Refuse**

-Ref: 16/02302/FUL- Erection of Affordable Single Plot Exception Bungalow at Bridge Farm, Platt Lane
Decision: Withdrawn

09/17 Financial Matters

a) Monthly Balance Record- Noted

The November and December balance records were presented and confirmed as accurate with the current bank statements, signed by Cllr Mercer.

DATE	ACCOUNT NAME	AMOUNT
29.12.2016	Community Account	£3,169.25
	Business Saver Account	£3,923.94
TOTAL		£7,093.19

b) 3rd Quarterly Expenditure Report- Noted

c) Working Budget Updated- Noted

d) Precept Request to Shropshire Council- Consider and agree.

Following analysis of the documents provided (listed above) and discussion around the Parish Council's financial requirements along with the potential impact of the expected transfer of services from Shropshire Council to town councils and increasing reliance on voluntary groups such as North Salop Wheelers, Cllr Mercer proposed that Whixall Parish Council requests £7,500 in precept from Shropshire Council, equating to £22.75 per band D household per year, this an extra £1.26 per household per year increase on last year's council tax. (This breaks down to £1.89 per month or 44 pence per week, per band D household).

e) Marlot Grazing Project- Approve payment for materials and consider transfer of funds.

Payments for materials to be approved under 'outstanding accounts'.

The Clerk reiterated the process of how the grant funding is given: payments are reimbursed rather than provided up front.

Cllr Spenser proposed that the predicted cost of the project (£3,000) be transferred from Business Saver Account to Community Account to cover the purchase of materials in order to remove risk of becoming overdrawn. Seconded by Cllr Hardiman and agreed by all. **RESOLVED**

f) Request for donations- To consider:

- i. St Mary's Church, Whixall- Agreed £100 towards grounds maintenance.
- ii. North Salop Wheelers Community Bus Service- Agreed £400 towards running costs.
- iii. URC Graveyard Trust, Whixall- Agreed £50 towards grounds maintenance.
- iv. Welsh End Chapel, Whixall- Agreed £50 towards grounds maintenance.

g) Outstanding accounts- To approve:

Orders for the payment of money (listed below) as per the financial report of the Responsible Financial Officer (RFO)/ Clerk were proposed by Cllr Mercer, seconded by Edgerton and agreed by all present.

DATE	CHEQUE NO.	DETAILS	AMOUNT	LEGAL POWER TO SPEND
30 th November 2016	101111	Poppy Appeal- Remembrance Day Church Collection	£50.00	Processed on behalf of Welsh End Chapel
Date of meeting: 11 th January 2017	101112	J Spenser- Food reimburse (SC Party)	£246.73	LGA 1972 s. 137
	101113	K Hatton- Drink reimburse (SC Party)	£64.30	LGA 1972 s. 137
	101114	S Marlow- Cake (SC Party)	£40.00	LGA 1972 s. 137
	101115	K Hatton- Clerk's pay for November and December	£628.68	LGA 1972 s. 112(2)
	101116	Shropshire Council- Newsletter print	£136.80	LGA 1972 s.142 (1A)
	101117	C Jones- Grass cutting	£120.00	HA 1980 s. 96
	101118	St Mary's Church- Donation	£100.00	LGA 1972 s. 137

	101119	Welsh End Chapel- Donation	£50.00	LGA 1972 s. 137
	101120	North Salop Wheelers- Donation	£400.00	TA 1985 s.106A
	101121	Nigel Farr Farm Services Ltd- Payment for Water Trough and materials for Marlot Grazing Project	£392.10	CA 1899 s.5
	101122	GS & PA Reeves Ltd.- Payment for materials for Marlot Grazing Project	£457.80	CA 1899 s.5
	101123	PG Skips Ltd.- Payment for materials for Marlot Grazing Project	£125.23	CA 1899 s.5
	101124	URC Graveyard Trust- Donation	£50.00	LGA 1972 s. 215(1)&(2)
Total			£2,861.64	

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.

10/17 Highways

a) Referrals to Shropshire Council

Cllr Platon reported that he had contacted Wrexham Borough Council regarding the condition of the Fenns Bank road.

b) Scheduled works by Shropshire Council

Section of road from The Waggoners to Holly House Farm- Concerns regarding access. The Clerk has spoken to a representative at 'Streetworks' and has contact details for person responsible for consultation.

11/17 Councillors' Reports

a) Parish Councillors

No reports.

b) Shropshire Councillors

Cllr Dee reported on the following:

-Meeting on 12th January, 7pm -Results of HGVsurvey in Wem

-Local Plan Review meeting on 20th February, 7:15pm, Edinburgh House, Wem.

-Town and Parish Council forum

-Aldi supermarket proposal - Wrexham Road, Whitchurch- consultation meeting on 19th January.

-Upcoming elections: suggested contact with Penny O'Hagan, Wem Town Clerk regarding information/promotion event

*Cllr Mellings had provided all Parish Councillors with a written report prior to the meeting detailing relevant correspondence sent to councillors and actions completed on behalf of Whixall Parish Council including efforts to obtain an update on the flooding situation. Chris's report also included some background information on planning application Ref: 16/05514/FUL. * Amendment to draft document

12/17 Shropshire Council's budget cuts and transfer of services –Future role of Parish Council

Nothing further to add.

13/17 Consider future agenda items

Renewal of Bowling Club lease, presentation from Dr Daniels and Luke Neal re: LIFE project

Scheduled date of next meeting: **Wednesday 8th February 2017 at 7.30 pm**

The meeting closed at 10.10pm

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Wednesday 8th February 2017 at 7:30 pm