

# Whixall Parish Council

Chairman: David Edgerton

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## Minutes of the Monthly Meeting held on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> April 2014 at Whixall Social Centre starting at 7.30 pm

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### **Present:**

**Chairman:** I Mercer

**Councillors:** J Spenser, S Marlow, C Platon, P Poole, D Evans, J Jarrett, C Mellings

**Clerk:** K Hatton

**Public:** No members of the public present but Mrs A Harrison brought a letter to the meeting.

### **37/14 Apologies for absence**

D Edgerton (Chairman) - Holiday

S Beer (Vice Chair) - Work commitments

P Dee – Away

### **38/14 Disclosures of Pecuniary Interests**

None

### **39/14 Minutes of the meeting of 12<sup>th</sup> March 2014**

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

<b>It was resolved</b> that the amended minutes be signed by Cllr Mercer, the (acting) Chairman as an accurate record of the meeting.
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### **40/14 Public Session**

No members of the public were present.

### **41/14 Clerk's Report**

The Clerk reported on the following:

- 5 year land supply issue- NPPF – reply from Rt. Hon. Owen Paterson MP.
- No response received to letter sent re: footpath obstruction.
  - Cllr Spenser reported that Jim Stabler will investigate.
- Auction of land behind Social Centre re: item 36/14- did not take place on 4<sup>th</sup> April.
- Fallen tree from Marlot on Mr Dulson's land- Cllr Edgerton has reported to the Clerk that he had spoken with Mr Dulson who has said he is happy for the tree to be left so that he may deal with it accordingly.
- Letter re: Little Acorn Farm: the Clerk explained that two letters were drafted as per last meeting in response to the legal issue at play due to non compliance with enforcement and submission of planning application (ref: 14/00834/FUL)- It was advised by Shropshire Council that the legal issue cannot be addressed until a decision had been made on planning application, it was agreed that comments could be submitted following this meeting so no letter was sent.
- Payscale increment from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2014, April's wages due 10<sup>th</sup> May 2014. The Clerk has contacted Barclays bank to obtain standing order form but either Cllr Beer or Cllr Edgerton must phone as they are signatories.

#### 42/14 Financial Matters

- Outstanding accounts

The Clerk confirmed that neither signatories were present. It was agreed that the outstanding accounts be approved and that the Clerk would obtain signatures when possible in order that money can be paid before next meeting.

DATE	CHEQUE NO.	DETAILS	AMOUNT
16.04.14	100990	J & E Ford- Grass cutting	£420.00
16.04.14	100991	K Hatton- expenses	£5.18
		<b>Total</b>	<b>£425.18</b>

- Orders for the payment of money as per the financial report of the Responsible Financial Officer were proposed by Cllr Jarrett, seconded by Cllr Marlow and agreed by all present.

- Balances

DATE	ACCOUNT NAME	AMOUNT
31.03.14	Community Account	£1,898.85
31.03.14	Business Saver Account	£3,918.51
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>£5,817.36</b>

- Monthly balance sheet

The Clerk asked for confirmation that all Parish Cllrs present had received a copy of the monthly balance sheet via email.

- 4<sup>th</sup> Quarterly expenditure report

The Clerk asked for confirmation that all Parish Cllrs present had received a copy of the 4<sup>th</sup> quarterly expenditure report via email.

#### Annual Return 2013/14

- Declarations of potential conflicts of interest in connection with External Auditors, Mazars:
  - No Councillors declared any conflict of interest.
- The Clerk asked for confirmation that all Parish Cllrs present had received copies of Bank reconciliation and Variances report associated with the Annual Return 2013/14 via email. The Clerk tabled the Accounting Statement. It was proposed by Cllr Poole that the Accounting Statement be formally approved, all were in favour.
  - **RESOLUTION: The Accounting Statement be signed by The Chairman of the meeting and Responsible Financial Officer (Clerk) and presented for Internal Audit by Whittingham Riddell.**
- Financial regulations review

The Clerk made Cllrs aware of the Annual Governance Statement in section 2 of the Return, which will appear on next month's agenda.

#### 43/14 Planning Issues

##### Applications to be viewed at the meeting:

- Ref: 13/03412/FUL- Application under Section 73a of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 for the rebuild and alteration to agricultural building to make structurally sound and secure at Land Opposite Greenacre Farm, Abbeygreen, Whixall.

##### **Decision/ response for submission to Online Planning Register-public access:**

Object/ Support/ **Representation**

##### **Comment:**

Whixall Parish Council has viewed and discussed this application and has no comment to make.

- Ref: 14/00834/FUL - Erection of two calf rearing sheds; siting of temporary agricultural workers dwelling; extension to access track at Little Acorn Farm, Dobsons Bridge, Whixall, SY13 2QD.

**Decision/ response for submission to Online Planning Register-public access:**

Object/ Support/ Representation

Cllr Spenser proposed to make the following comments, Cllr Evans seconded the proposal and all agreed.

**Comment:** The Parish Council feel that the application is totally unacceptable and out of keeping in the proposed location. Previously this land was sold as pasture with no agricultural buildings on site; furthermore, we are not aware this land has an agricultural holding number.

With regard to the calf rearing sheds-

- It is felt that there is inadequate provision for dealing with waste products and foul and surface water.
- It is not felt that the proposed business will be sustainable.
- The site is only accessible down a single track country lane with a ditch down one side and, in places, down both sides. The road is no more than approximately 10 feet wide approaching the gateway of the site. The Parish Council acknowledges the access considerations described in the applicants Design and Access Statement but disagree with its assertions and feel that this single carriageway cannot support the extra traffic associated with this application; feed lorries, cattle lorries and other vehicles will have a detrimental effect on the road surface and the ditches either side. It is also a no through road.

With regard to the temporary dwelling-

- As it is felt that the calf rearing sheds are an unsuitable proposal there is, therefore, no need for a temporary dwelling.
- It is strongly felt that the site is not suitable for a permanent dwelling and on that basis it is not appropriate to site a temporary dwelling.

- Ref: 14/01019/FUL- Construction of a ménage at Yew Tree House, Platt Lane, Whixall.

**Decision/ response for submission to Online Planning Register-public access:**

Object/ Support/ Representation

**Comment:** No comment.

- Ref: 14/01015/FUL- Erection of single storey extension; formation of new vehicular access at 2 Malt Kiln Lane, Whixall, SY13 2QH.

**Decision/ response for submission to Online Planning Register-public access:**

Object/ Support/ Representation

**Comment:** No comment.

- Ref: 14/00010/FUL- Conversion of existing forge and workshop to form one dwelling at The Smithy, Stanley Green, Whixall.

**Decision/ response for submission to Online Planning Register-public access:**

Object/ Support/ Representation

**Comment:** No comment.

- Ref: 14/1239/VAR- Removal of Condition No.9 (attached to 12/00649/FUL) to allow for residential conversion without business tie at The Smithy, Stanley Green, Whixall.

**Decision/ response for submission to Online Planning Register-public access:**

Object/ Support/ Representation

**Comment:** No comment.

- Ref: 14/01354/FUL- Erection of a two storey extension at Yew Tree House, Platt Lane, Whixall.

**Decision/ response for submission to Online Planning Register-public access:**

Object/ Support/ Representation

**Comment:** No comment.

**Cllr Jarrett left the meeting at 8:50pm**

#### Planning Decisions

No new decisions.

- Ref: 13/03421/FUL- Erection of agricultural barn for storage of agricultural equipment and feed for livestock. Land opposite Greenacre Farm, Abbeygreen, Whixall- **APPLICATION WITHDRAWN.**

#### **44/14** Parish Matters

a) Community Led Parish Plan Document

The Parish Council has made contact with the owners of The Waggoners Inn who have confirmed their commitment to re-open the pub and have described their plans to have accommodation above the pub and a community-run shop attached. The owners were agreeable to the Parish Council discussing this subject in the public session at the Annual Parish Meeting in May. This will be advertised accordingly.

b) Spring/ Summer Newsletter

The Clerk shared latest draft of newsletter.

c) The Marlot

Cllr Spenser provided an update on recent activity at the Marlot which includes a bird ringing, a newt survey and the erection of ten nest boxes.

Also, Cllr Spenser described recent discussions with Natural England (NE) and Shropshire Wildlife Trust (SWT) regarding the possibility of setting up a joint scheme to manage the Marlot. Cllr Spenser asked the Parish Council for their views on the matter: Cllr Poole raised a question about what the objectives of the aforementioned organisations would be, Cllr Spenser explained the advantages of a partnership would mean costs to the Parish Council would be minimised and that NE and SWT have the necessary expertise to manage the environment effectively, also the land is adjacent to the Fenn's and Whixall Mosses so there is a direct interest in the site in addition to the fact that it now has the status of 'Wildlife Site'.

Discussion ensued and it was felt by all that the prospective arrangement was potentially a positive way forward but that the Parish Council must maintain participation in any agreement regarding the site as it is common land for which it has responsibility on behalf of the parishioners. It was felt that a formal written agreement and management plan would be necessary. Cllr Spenser will attend a meeting with representatives from NE and SWT on 13<sup>th</sup> May and will report on this and any further proposals at the next Parish Council meeting.

d) Representations on SAMDev Pre-submission draft

The Clerk asked whether the council wished to make representation on the soundness of the SAMDev pre-submission plan: All were in favour of making a positive comment to say that they are happy to see that the representation of Whixall has been taken on board and to that effect Whixall is now categorised as 'open countryside'. The Clerk was asked to submit this comment as appropriate.

e) The bench at Hollinwood Green

Cllr Spenser reported that the bench by the noticeboard at Hollinwood Green is in a very poor state repair and proposed that it be removed, Cllr Mercer seconded the proposal and all agreed.

**RESOLUTION:** That the bench be removed as soon as possible.

Cllr Spenser raised the question as to whether the bench should be replaced, discussion ensued: The Clerk agreed to look into costs of a replacement bench and produce a sign to explain the removal of the bench, as it is regularly used. Cllr Spenser agreed to make arrangements to speak directly to the person (a parishioner) whom it thought provided the bench as a matter of courtesy.

#### **45/14** Highways

The question was raised as to whether road signs for WJ Furber can be removed as the scrap yard is no longer in operation: Cllr Mellings agreed to make this enquiry.

#### **46/14 Website- Comments and updates**

Cllr Platon reported on progress re: exploring the possibility of a different web site provider to allow for more freedom to improve its design.

The Clerk requested an amendment to the meeting schedule re: May meeting date- should read 14<sup>th</sup> May.

#### **47/14 Correspondence**

The Clerk read the following correspondence:

- Rt. Hon. Owen Paterson's response to letter re: 5 year land supply.
- Severn Hospice Appeal.

#### **48/14 Councillors Reports**

Cllr Mercer reported on the recent Shropshire Helicopter Noise Liaison Group meeting: The group had received one complaint from a Whixall resident about low flying helicopters in the area in relation to the noise causing disturbance to animals. Cllr Mercer made reference to the website which gives details about how to complain but which also gives the flight timetable for the Cosford airshow.

Cllr Spenser reported the fact that the Whixall History Group is now up and running: They have visited Shropshire Archives. More information will be available online, and eventually all parish records will be available on a pay per view basis online. Their next meeting is 12<sup>th</sup> May 2014.

The meeting closed at 10.05pm

<b>DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> May at 7.00 pm</b>
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