

Whixall Parish Council

Chairman: David Edgerton

**Minutes of the Monthly Meeting held on
Wednesday 12th November 2014 at
Whixall Social Centre starting at 7.30 pm**

Present:

Chairman: D Edgerton

Councillors: Vice Chair- S Beer, D Evans, J Spenser, I Mercer, S Marlow, C Platon, P Poole

Clerk: K Hatton

Public: Phoebe Ashton of North Salop Wheelers, John Clorley, Muriel Godfrey, Karen Marcroft, Med Evans

115/14 Apologies for absence

P Dee, C Mellings

116/14 Disclosures of Pecuniary Interests

Cllr Susie Marlow declared an interest in planning application Ref: 14/04399/FUL.

117/14 Minutes of the meeting of 8th October 2014

Cllr Platon raised an error on page 3, item 110/14 d)- should read "despite" rather than "due to"
It was proposed by Cllr Spenser that the amended minutes were an accurate record of the meeting. Seconded by Cllr Evans and agreed by all present.

It was resolved that the minutes be signed by the Chairman as an accurate record of the meeting.

118/14 Public Session

Phoebe Ashton was invited to address the Parish Council:

PA provided a report on behalf of North Salop Wheelers Community Bus Service. She reported that the organisation was doing OK; they continue to be short of money and need volunteers. PA shared a leaflet that they have had produced to raise awareness and encourage support and also informed the council that NSW will appear on a new website for volunteers called "Do it". The Parish Council offered to deliver NSW leaflets along with the next Parish Council Newsletter which will be due in spring. Also it was suggested that a direct link is set up between the Parish Council website and NSW website page that asks for volunteers. PA provided some further information about the current buses in use and said that she intends to come to the Parish Council's March meeting.

PA left the meeting.

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Med Evans was invited to address the Parish Council:

ME provided some background information about his outline planning application for 5 dwellings in Waterloo; ref: 14/04643/OUT- Outline Application for the erection of 5No dwellings to include access at Pool Bank Farm, Whixall, Shropshire, SY13 2PX.

ME shared information about the history of the site. In direct reference to the application ME stated that it complied with planning policies and he made reference to the Community Led Parish Plan

2013; in particular the statement that "50% of respondents thought that there should be new housing in the parish" (p.6).

ME cited the close proximity of Brown's of Wem, Whixall's biggest employer as a beneficial reason for housing. ME spoke about the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) monies that would be generated as a result of the development. He said that the land needs to be put into better economic use and stated that he is currently paying business rates on the buildings that are on the site.

ME also stated that the development was supported by its closest neighbours.

Cllr Poole made reference to the Community Led Parish Plan document and stated that parishioners did not want expensive housing, that affordable homes was what was needed in the parish. Cllr Poole asked ME what size of housing did he intend to build.

ME used the words 'family homes' to describe the type of development, i.e. 4-5 bedrooms. He did state that he was open to thoughts and discussion on this detail.

KM made the point that through doing some research it had been identified that, often young people cannot afford to live in rural areas because a 4 bedroom house costs in the region of £350,000- £400,000 and this is not 'affordable'.

Cllr Mercer echoed this point about affordability and whilst acknowledging that this is an outline application raised a further point about drainage and road access being the falling points on many applications.

Cllr Mercer asked if ME had had any preliminary discussions with Shropshire Council planning officers and Cllr Beer asked if Wem Rural Parish Council had been consulted as it is close to the border. In response ME said that 'yes' he had spoken to Shropshire Council and no, had not approached Wem Rural formally although had spoken to one of its members.

There was debate relating to parishioners not being made aware of the application and the lack of a site notice.

The Chairman asked if any other members of the public wished to contribute further; JC questioned the number of temporary buildings on site and the matter of paying business rates. KM made the point that there are only 14 houses in Waterloo and 5 x four bedroom houses could potentially double the size of the community.

KM stated that in principle, she was not vehemently opposed to development on the site but that she has "serious reservations" and would like to ensure that process and procedure relating to this application was followed stringently. Other members of the public present (JC and MG) echoed this view.

The Chairman thanked all present and ME thanked the council.
ME, JC, KM and MG all left the meeting.

119/14 Clerk's Report

The Clerk reported on the following:

- Letter to Mr C Jones -delivered.
- All other actions from previous meeting complete.
- The Clerk announced that she had been contacted by Mr Williams of Whitchurch Rotary Club to ask if we were holding a Christmas Party for Senior Citizens again this year. It was inferred that the Parish Council may receive a contribution as last year.

- The Clerk confirmed that four people had applied for the councillor vacancy. The Clerk tabled a schedule for interviews. The Council agreed an amendment and it was confirmed that the Clerk should contact applicants with their interview time and date.

120/14 Financial Matters

- Outstanding accounts and balances

The Clerk confirmed for the purpose of the minutes that two cheques had been obtained between meetings with authorisation from the Chairman- highlighted in table below.

DATE	CHEQUE NO.	DETAILS	AMOUNT
16.10.14	101006	Poppy Appeal	£35.00
16.10.14	101007	Shropshire Council print services - Spring newsletter	£132.00
		Total	£167.00

- The Clerk presented the following invoices for authorisation.

DATE	CHEQUE NO.	DETAILS	AMOUNT
12.11.14	101008	K Hatton- Clerk's pay for October	£193.25
	101009	Shropshire Council print services - Autumn newsletter	£135.60
	101010	Land Registry- FR1 application (Marlot)	£30.00
	101011	J Spenser- Reimburse for fuel for grass cutting at Hollinwood Green	£45.94
	101012	J Spenser- Reimburse for materials notice board repairs	£14.40
	101013	C Platon- Reimburse for replacement tarpaulin	£8.99
	101014	K Hatton- Reimburse for Printer ink	£31.15
		Total	£459.33

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

It was resolved that the outstanding accounts should be paid and cheques were signed by the Chairman, Cllr Edgerton and Vice Chair, Cllr Beer.

- The Clerk requested that the following cheques be authorised in advance for payments associated with the Senior citizens Christmas party.

DATE	CHEQUE NO.	DETAILS	AMOUNT (Maximum)
05.12.14	10101..	D Morris- Party entertainment	£250.00
	10101..	S Marlow- reimbursed cake ingredients	£40.00
	10101..	S Beer- reimbursed party food	£300.00
	10101..	I Mercer- reimbursed party drinks	£150.00
		Total	£740.00

It was resolved that the maximum amounts listed above were agreed in advance in order that invoices can be paid on time.

- Balances

DATE	ACCOUNT NAME	AMOUNT
29.07.14	Community Account	£4,484.81
30.09.14	Business Saver Account <i>(quarterly statement)</i>	£3,919.53
TOTAL		£8,404.34

All Cllrs present confirmed their receipt of the balance sheet via email. Cllr Edgerton acknowledged that these balances were accurate and in line with the bank statements.

- Draft Budget

All Cllrs present confirmed their receipt of the draft budget via email.

Cllr Poole proposed that The Clerk's salary be discussed and therefore The Clerk was asked to leave the room whilst this discussion took place.

On the Clerk's return to the meeting Cllr Poole explained that she had proposed that the Clerk receive an increment of 2 points on the pay scale and an increase in the number of hours paid. Cllr Poole also highlighted that the pay scale amounts may be out of date and that some back pay may be entitled.

The finer details of this proposal need to be confirmed in light of new pay scales and finalised 2015/16 budget.

The Clerk answered questions arising from the draft budget. In particular the increase to the grass cutting budget which had been calculated based on a maximum number of cuts in light of the contract going out to tender.

121/14 Planning Issues

Applications to be viewed at meeting

- Ref: 14/04399/FUL- Erection of detached double garage and workshop to include the change of use of land from agriculture to domestic; detached implement storage shed; extension of existing access track and erection of two storey extension to south elevation at Cumberland Cottage, Whixall, Shropshire, SY13 2NJ

Cllr Marlow declared an interest in this application and left the room during the discussion.

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

Object/ **Support**/ Representation

Comment: Subject to drainage issues being correctly addressed.

- Ref: 14/04643/OUT- Outline Application for the erection of 5No dwellings to include access at Pool Bank Farm, Whixall, Shropshire, SY13 2PX

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

Object/ Support/ Representation

Comment: Whixall Parish Council object to this application on the basis that Whixall is classed as 'Open Countryside'/ 'Rural Hinterland' and as such: "New development is strictly controlled in

accordance with national planning policies protecting the countryside and Green Belt". (Core Strategy Policy 5).

Planning Decisions:

No new planning decisions to date.

Planning Enforcement matters:

- Little Acorn Farm

The Clerk shared the latest update with the council which was that planning officers expect to be in receipt of information in support of the farming enterprise and a report from the habitat survey along with full drainage details in the near future.

122/14 Parish Matters

a) Place Plan Review

All Cllrs present confirmed their receipt of last year's submission for Place Plan Review. Further to the Clerk's suggestion, Cllr Beer proposed that the recently updated action plan for the Community Led Plan document was sent as an attachment to the Place Plan Review. The Chairman signed the Town and Parish Council Return document.

b) Community Led Plan

All Cllrs present confirmed their receipt of the response letter from Mr G Candler on the subject of the poor communication re: 'Community Right to Bid' application.

All Cllrs present confirmed their receipt of the updated CLP action Plan. Cllr Spenser proposed one amendment on page 1/ objective 3- to include the words 'Open Countryside' as well as Rural Hinterland. All agreed.

c) The Marlot

The Clerk updated the council on her progress with the first registration application. As per item 120/14 the Clerk will send fee and application as soon as practicable.

Cllr Spenser reported that three quarters of the brash piles from the recent clear up have now been moved (Cllr Platon's tarpaulin was damaged in the process hence reimbursement item 120/14).

Cllr Platon has repaired the damaged bench- Natural England provided the wood.

d) Senior Citizens' Christmas Party

The Clerk confirmed timings for the children singing- 7pm.

Discussion ensued with regards to arrangements e.g. preparation, raffle prizes, food provision.

e) Grass Cutting Contract

There was a brief discussion regarding the proposal for putting the grass cutting contract out for tender in the New Year based on cost calculations highlighted in the draft budget.

Details to be discussed at next meeting.

f) Flooding/ water management

Cllrs Edgerton, Beer and Platon reported on the meeting and site inspection on 28th October with RSPB's Matt Jones and Shropshire Council Land Drainage officer) at Canal Side in relation to flooding.

Cllr Beer showed slides of photographs taken on site. Mr Fitton has carried out some work to clear ditches and the water level has dropped. Discussion indicates that further work will be carried out.

123/14 Highways

The Clerk reported that she had made an enquiry to Highways regarding the overgrown state of Alders Lane (unclassified road) - but has not yet had a response. The Clerk was asked to chase up the enquiry.

124/14 Website- Comments and updates

Cllr Platon reported that if a new website is launched then there would be a £30 charge for the host.

125/14 Correspondence

Cllrs had confirmed their receipt of Mr George Candler's response to their letter dated 20th October relating to the 'Community Right to Bid' application under item 122/14 b).

Cllr Edgerton stated that it had been suggested via the Whixall Community Facebook page that the Parish Council should consider installing CCTV cameras on the roads in/out of Whixall following the recent spate of galvanised gate theft.

The Clerk shared the recent police report from the Safer Neighbourhood Team relating to crimes in the Whixall area.

126/14 Councillors Reports

Cllr Mercer reported on the recent Helicopter Noise Liaison group meeting.

The meeting closed at 10.30pm

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Wednesday 14th January at 7.30 pm
