

# **Whixall Parish Council**

**Chairman: Ian Mercer**

**Minutes of Parish Council's Monthly Meeting held on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> March 2018 at  
Whixall Social Centre starting at 7:30pm**

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**Present:**

**Chairman:** I Mercer

**Councillors:** B Harris (Vice Chair), G Turnbull, A Hague.

**Shropshire Councillors:** C Mellings

**Clerk:** K Hatton

**Members of the community:** 0

**Representatives of other bodies/ organisations:** Andre Berry- Natural England/ Fenn's Old Works project

**28/18 Introduction**

Cllr Mercer declared the meeting open at 7:30pm.

**29/18 Apologies for absence**

D Edgerton, J Fitton, J Hardiman, M Howard, P Dee

**30/18 Fenn's Old Works feasibility study- Andre Berry**

Andre was involved in the book that was published in 1996 entitled 'Fenn's and Whixall Mosses' and has since wanted to revisit the conservation of the old peat works on the Moss. So, with the support of the stakeholders Andre leads on this project to study the feasibility of a vision to conserve the works "in situ, providing an unmanned, integrated interpretive facility and viewing platform for the Fenn's, Whixall & Bettisfield Mosses, accessible to all, and with the local community actively engaged in its conservation and use. Maintenance and operation of the facility is low burden and self- sustaining."

Andre shared the details of the peat balers and the engine that are on the site. The Works is legally protected as a Scheduled Ancient Monument and a Grade \*II listed structure. The Works are believed to be unique and therefore of international significance.

This small Study is to see if there is "in principle" support for a project to realise the vision outlined above. It has included community consultation (Open meeting took place at Bettisfield on 13<sup>th</sup> March), 3D survey using aerial photogrammetry using drones and laser scanning and a full structural survey. The structural survey was postponed due to bad weather.

The open meeting at Bettisfield was very positive and those present appeared to be in agreement with the site being preserved but concerns about the security, access and footfall were raised.

There is no funding secured for the project at present but the intention is to assess potential cost and apply for funding. It will have to go through the formal planning process if taken forward.

There was discussion about the practicalities of the vision and its need to be largely 'self-sufficient'.

It was asked that if it is internationally important then might it be re-listed as grade 1?

**31/18 Public Participation**

There were no members of the community present.

### **32/18 Disclosure of Pecuniary Interests and requests for dispensation**

Members were reminded of their obligation to declare any interests.

**Cllr Turnbull declared an interest in item 10ci on the agenda: To consider requests for financial donation towards the re-surfacing of the Social Centre car park. This was due to possible bias and predetermination as Cllr Turnbull is a member of the Social Centre Committee. There was no request for dispensation.**

### **33/18 Minutes of the monthly meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> February 2018**

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

### **34/18 Clerk's Report**

The Clerk provided the following information:

- a) **Fenn's Old Work's meeting** at Bettisfield Village Hall on 13<sup>th</sup> March 2018. This was covered by Andre's presentation. The Clerk and Cllrs Harris and Hague also attended the meeting.
- b) **Work commencing on former Furber's Scrap yard site:** It was reported at the 'Moss Lane Flood Management meeting' that works are to take place to build the road up either side of the lift bridge (Morris's Bridge) to enable HGV's to access the site to remove the tyres from the scrap yard. It is expected that the tyres will have been removed by end of March. The road works were not entirely completed as a leak from the canal into the car park was discovered but the lorries are accessing the site. Gary Grantham, remediation officer is liaising directly with any affected residents and information is available on the Parish Council website.
- c) **Spring/ summer newsletter:** The Clerk shared a list of intended information for the newsletter. Cllr Turnbull offered to provide/ facilitate articles on behalf of the Social Centre, Neighbourhood Watch, The Marlot and defibrillator. The Clerk will share draft for approval at next meeting.
- d) **Parish meeting:** The Clerk shared list of invitees to the Parish meeting and a draft poster, both were approved. The Clerk agreed to share a draft letter prior to sending but the general gist was agreed. It was suggested that the Social Centre Committee provide refreshments for the meeting and are reimbursed by the Parish Council.
- e) **Stark's Bridge:** The Clerk referred to correspondence on the matter of the concern about the quality of the bridge repair. Shropshire Council has provided a response to concerns, which has been shared.
- f) **Remembrance Day 2018- Silent (bench) soldiers, plans and update:** Information was shared about the availability of silhouettes of soldiers to commemorate the fallen. Date for meeting to discuss plans for 11<sup>th</sup> November to be confirmed.

### **35/18 Parish Matters**

To consider action relating to:

- a) **Flooding- Review of current situation:** Minutes of 'Moss Lane flood management meeting' have been shared with Cllrs and those present at the meeting.  
Resident's at Moss Lane still have concerns about the water not getting away, especially in light of forecasted rainfall. There was discussion about the ongoing situation and a reiteration of the key points about the need for all landowners to maintain their ditches, the poor fall of the land etc. It was suggested that a wind powered pump might be a solution to a difficult engineering problem but the canal causes an obstacle. It was acknowledged that a strategy for now and the future needs to be agreed. It was also said that there was certainly a lot of willingness and good will at the 'Moss Lane flood management meeting' last month and co-ordinated action is taking place. It is hoped that the water levels recede sufficiently for Shropshire Council to survey the system and the culverts.
- b) **Renewal of Bowling Club lease:** The Clerk shared information about the latest correspondence on the matter. It was agreed that at the next meeting a resolution will be sought to register the Parish Council's ownership of the land on which the club sits. The Clerk was asked to invite the Chairman of the Bowling Club to attend the next Parish Council meeting.
- c) **Purchase of Automated External Defibrillator:** In the process of co-ordinating a discussion between project leader and Community Enablement Officer to enable purchase.

- d) **Approval for Cllr Harris to become signatory for cheques:** Following the resignation of Cllr with authority to sign cheques a new authorised signatory needs to be appointed. Cllr Harris, as Vice Chair was proposed by Cllr Mercer, seconded by Cllr Hague and agreed by all- **RESOLVED.**
- e) **Election of Parish Councillor Representative on URC Graveyard Trust:** Moved to next agenda.

### 36/18 Planning

**-All planning applications and decisions can be tracked on line at [www.shropshire.gov.uk](http://www.shropshire.gov.uk)**

Applications received- to consider response

- a) Ref: 18/00718/FUL- Formation of horse arena, fencing with gate to match existing and demountable arena lighting at West View, Welsh End, Whixall, SY13 2SE  
**RESOLVED:** Support. No comment.
- b) Ref: 18/00610/FUL- Erection of 2 stables and feed store at The Willows, 4 Sandy Bank, Whixall, SY13 2NS  
**RESOLVED:** Support. No comment.

To receive any updates on alleged breaches of planning control:

- c) No further update.

To receive planning application decisions:

- d) Ref: 17/03418/FUL- Erection of extension and alterations to facilitate change of use to canal marina and adjacent haulage yard to waterside cafe, erection of 3No. glamping units, formation of track, additional car parking and improvements/extension of workshop building to facilitate narrow boat maintenance at Whixall Marina, Alders Lane, Whixall, SY13 2QS. Decision: **Grant Permission**

### 37/18 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 Records for February 2018 were countersigned by Cllr Mercer as accurate with the bank statements.

| DATE                           | ACCOUNT NAME           | AMOUNT           |
|--------------------------------|------------------------|------------------|
| 27 <sup>th</sup> February 2018 | Community Account      | £5,769.28        |
|                                | Business Saver Account | £924.10          |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                   |                        | <b>£6,693.38</b> |

- b) To consider requests for financial donations: The following amounts were **RESOLVED:**  
**N.B. Cllr Turnbull took no part in the decision regarding the amount donated to Whixall Social Centre.**
- Social Centre Car park resurfacing- £200.00
  - Shropshire Playing Field Association- Nil. No donation.
- c) To resolve to approve outstanding accounts.  
Orders for the payment of money (listed on following page). As per the financial report of the Responsible Financial Officer (RFO)/ Clerk were proposed by Cllr Mercer, seconded by Cllr Harris and agreed by all present. **RESOLVED.**

| DATE                        | CHEQUE NO. | DETAILS                                                   | AMOUNT         | LEGAL POWER TO SPEND |
|-----------------------------|------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|----------------|----------------------|
| 14 <sup>th</sup> March 2018 | 101179     | K Hatton- Clerk's pay for February plus additional hours  | £348.90        | LGA 1972 s.112(2)    |
|                             | 101180     | Whixall Village Hall- Donation towards car park resurface | £200.00        | LG(MP)A 1976 s.19(3) |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                |            |                                                           | <b>£548.90</b> |                      |

**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.

**38/18 Highways**

- a) Referrals to Shropshire Council: Several potholes were noted.
- b) Scheduled works by Shropshire Council: No scheduled works. Planned road closures to be posted on website.

**39/18 Councillors Reports**

- a) Parish Councillors:

**Cllr Mercer** shared information about a recent meeting he had with Mike Crawshaw, Engagement Officer (seconded to Marches Mosses BogLIFE Project) re: proposed works at World's End as part of the BogLIFE project. Mike provided Cllr Mercer with a summary of the works, which will be subject to the planning process, to share with the Parish Council. Mike was unable to attend this meeting but plans to attend in April and potentially again in July and October to keep the Parish Council informed.

**Cllr Turnbull** reported on:

- PCSO Chris Hirons' community visits on 4<sup>th</sup> March and future planned visits with themes such as bike security. It is hoped that these 'community engagement' efforts are supported.

-The Marlot: Grazing was successful albeit late in the season. It is not likely that there will be sufficient re-growth for spring grazing so will likely be repeated in autumn. In future the Marlot Conservation Group (MCG) would like the Parish Council to address the fence line on eastern boundary as cows did get through.

There have been two work parties comprising of Natural England (NE) volunteers and Marlot Conservation Group volunteers to clear the meadow and pond sides. The importance of the NE volunteers was recognised and Cllr Mercer asked that the Clerk express thanks to NE for their volunteer support in writing. The three picnic tables are no longer fit for purpose and the MCG would like the Parish Council to consider the purchase of benches to replace them.

Future works at the Marlot will include further 'tidying up' and cutting of willow stumps.

Two members of the MCG are going to do a course that qualifies them to undertake chemical spraying. It was also said that the Information boards on site require updating.

-Whixall Dog Show will take place on 9<sup>th</sup> June. It aspires to be the premier dog show in Shropshire. This year it will include the 'Good Citizen Scheme'.

- b) Shropshire Councillors:

-**Cllr Mellings** had distributed a written report to Cllrs prior to the meeting via email, providing updates on the following ongoing and current key issues including: Flooding, Stark's Bridge, Car Parking Strategy, Highways, County Council and Fire Governance- Cllr Mellings also listed other information that he had shared since the last meeting.

**40/18 Consider future agenda items**

Bowling Club lease renewal, appointment of URC Graveyard Trust rep. Marlot management/ budget and community engagement.

Scheduled date of next meeting: **Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> April 2018 at 7.30 pm**

The meeting closed at 10:30pm